

## **COASTAL CLEANUP DAY- ORIENTATION INTRODUCTION, MARINE DEBRIS & SAFETY TALK**

Welcome to California Coastal Cleanup Day! Thank you for being part the largest volunteer event in the state! You are the most important part of this effort. You're going to be spending the next few hours cleaning up the trash that has accumulated over the past summer – stuff that has washed off our city streets or down from inland creeks, trash left by beachgoers, and debris washed up from the ocean. All of it poses a threat to marine wildlife, so do your best to pick up everything you find that's man-made.

- **No one should ever go in the water (unless you are running a dive cleanup), turn their back on the ocean, or leave children unsupervised.**
  - **All participants should wear gloves, sunscreen, and most importantly, shoes.** Glass and metal pieces are common debris items and are not easily seen.
  - **All sites should be equipped with a well-stocked first aid kit at the least,** and preferably with a first aid station/person as well. Point out the first aid person and notify the volunteers that aid is available.
- The areas being cleaned - as already mentioned - should be scouted at least two weeks prior to determine if there are any areas that should be off-limits the day of the cleanup. Clearly post signs in any hazardous areas and tell all your Captains and walk-in participants about places to avoid. Rip rap, beneath piers, and similar areas are dangerous areas but often tend to collect trash. Use your discretion and experience to determine safety of cleanup in those areas.
  - Dunes and other ecologically sensitive areas can't always take the stress of human activity. The small organisms that inhabit a sand dune and its vegetation are easily killed by footsteps alone. Precautions should therefore be instituted for such areas.
  - To protect all of the organizations involved in the cleanup as well as our sponsors, all volunteers, including the Cleanup Captains and County Coordinators, must sign the liability waiver forms. In the case of minors, the parents or guardians must sign the liability waiver form. Stress the importance of signing this form to everyone involved in Coastal Cleanup Day

**Everyone should have filled out a waiver form already.** Has anyone not filled out a waiver?

WAIT FOR RESPONSE – IF ANYONE HAS NOT SIGNED A WAIVER, SEND THEM BACK TO THE CHECKIN TABLE.

**Here are some safety rules for you to follow as you take part in the Cleanup:**

1. Wear a glove on the hand you're picking up trash with and closed toe shoes at all times, and have clothing and sun-block to protect you from the sun.
2. Don't touch or pick up dead animals, or attempt to move injured animals. Make your cleanup Captains aware of the animals and where they are.
3. Don't pick up syringes, needles, or any sharp objects. Mark the area and notify the cleanup Captain or local official of their location.
4. Always stay in teams of at least two.
5. Be cautious and aware of sensitive habitat areas (i.e. sand dunes).
6. Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. When in doubt, come in early.
7. All children need to be supervised by an adult at all times.
8. Don't lift anything too heavy; when in doubt, don't try!
9. Do not go near any hazardous materials (large drums, etc.)

**WHAT TO PICK UP** We pick up only human-created matter (plastics, metal, glass, Styrofoam, etc.). Natural debris (algae, kelp, driftwood, etc.) is part of the natural system we are working to restore and should be left alone. Avoid disturbing plants and animals. Much of the trash you will find is small, so keep your eyes out for smaller pieces of trash. The smaller pieces can be mistaken for food by marine animals.

A word about the recycling bags – the recycling bags are for cans and bottles only. Nothing else you find on the beach today can be recycled, so please only deposit cans and bottles in the recycling bag.

**DATA CARDS** The information volunteers collect on data cards is used to revise national maritime disposal policies, and is used to advance environment-protecting legislation.

- Although there is not a space to list every single piece or type of trash we expect to see during the cleanup, volunteers should still pick up every piece of debris they find.
- When filling out cards, count items in groups of five (as shown in the example on the card), and record the total in the box.
- Do not write the words "lots" or "many." Count every piece and be specific! Only actual numbers of items can be used. If you get tired of counting, even an estimate with a real number is better than nothing.

THANK YOU and BE SAFE!

Source: California Coastal Commission, 2016 CCD Coordinator Handbook