



Dear Beach Clean-up Participant,

Thank you for helping to keep our beaches clean! Every year, thousands of wonderful people, just like you, pick up trash at Bolsa Chica & Huntington State Beach and it is because of people like you that our beaches are premier destinations not only for people from all over the world, but for wildlife from all over the world as well.

In order to process your beach clean-up request, please make sure you send it in to us at least 2 weeks prior to your proposed date. We do this to ensure availability and to make sure that we have adequate supplies for you. After we have received your beach clean-up request, we will approve it and email it back to you. If you do not turn in a request or do not receive an approved request back from us, this means that we are not able to provide you and your group with free parking or supplies. If you have not heard back from us regarding a request, please call: 714-377-9073.

All beach clean-up participants will receive free parking provided that they help clean-up the beach for a minimum of 2 hours. After your clean up, you are welcome to enjoy the beautiful, clean beach – many of our groups host celebratory BBQs or bonfires.

On the beach clean-up form you can indicate if you would like to receive clean-up supplies from us – consisting of bags and gloves. We give one glove per person and one bag per every 3-4 people. We do encourage participants to bring their own reusable supplies, if possible. Potential reusable supplies are: buckets, plastic grocery bags, gardening gloves, reusable bags, etc.

We also offer a 15 – 20 minute Marine Debris Awareness Talk. This talk takes place at our Lifeguard Headquarters building at either beach. During the talk, participants will learn about the various trash items found on our beach, how long it takes those items to degrade, and what we can do to limit the amount of trash found on the beach and in our communities. If you are interested in this talk, please indicate on the Beach Clean-up Reservation Request form.

Attached to this page you will find our Beach Clean-up Safety & Ecological Talk. This is a helpful tool to read or disperse to your group to ensure that your participants are well informed the difference they are making and how to be safe while making this difference.

Once again, thank you for helping to keep our beaches clean. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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## **Beach Clean-Up Safety & Ecological Talk**

### **Ecological Facts**

- The ocean is the largest life-sustaining resource on our planet.
- Plastic marine debris affects at least 267 species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all sea bird species, and 43% of marine mammal species.
- Plastic marine debris takes hundreds of years to break down and may never fully biodegrade.
- Birds, fish, and mammals often mistake plastic and other debris for food, which can lead to fatal consequences.
- Many animals have difficulty digesting plastic, so the plastic remains in the animal's stomach, which makes the animal feel full and can lead to the animal starving to death.
- Each man, woman and child in the U.S. produces 3-7 lbs of trash each day.
- During a recent summer, Orange County collected enough garbage from 6 miles of beach to fill 10 garbage trucks full of trash every week.
- For every item we recycle or reuse, that's one less piece of trash that can become a part of the marine debris cycle threatening people and wildlife.
- Bolsa Chica & Huntington State Beach employ a garbage company that hand sorts all of our trash for recyclables, so that you do not have to worry about sorting the recyclables that you pick up today.
- Last year, over 80,000 volunteers helped to clean up over 1.4 million pounds of debris from hundreds of clean up locations across California. Thank you for being one of the volunteers that is making a difference this year.

## **Now, on to Safety....**

- Please wear shoes while cleaning up the beach –be on the lookout for broken glass, coat hangers, wood with protruding nails and other sharp items. These items should be put directly in the trash can and should only be handled by adults.
- Be careful around the fire rings – there could be hot coals inside and around the edges. Please make sure that any children in your group do not play too close to the fire rings.
- Please don't pick up heavy items like logs or things that have a lot of sand embedded in them. Please notify maintenance or a park employee to arrange for it to be picked up.
- Though not likely, if you do see a dead or injured animal, please don't pick it up. Notify park staff and we will either bury the animal or take it to the wildlife rescue center.
- Make sure to wear your gloves at all times while picking up trash. Though they are rarely found, do not pick up syringes. Mark the spot and notify park staff. We will have a lifeguard or maintenance pick it up.
- If you decide to spend time at the beach after your beach clean up is over, please ask a lifeguard about the swimming/surf conditions. Be aware that we have strong currents and stay close to shore.

Thanks again and have a great time!