



HOME TO BEACH CLEANUP 2020

Hello Potential Beach Cleanup Volunteer!

Thank you for your interest in participating in a beach cleanup at Huntington or Bolsa Chica State Beaches!

This has been an unprecedented year. Due to the current pandemic, we have shut down our beach cleanup program. Every year over 20,000 dedicated volunteers arrive at our beaches to help keep trash out of our ocean. This year, our maintenance crew has been working hard to maintain our beach without the extra help.

We know our volunteers are eager to get back to the beach but to protect their health and slow the spread of the coronavirus, we are unable to resume our normal in person beach cleanup program until farther down the road in 2021.

We still need your help!

This year we are doing something different with our cleanup program. We will not be opening the in person cleanup calendar until sometime in 2021. Instead we are offering a **Home to Beach Cleanup program. Interested participants pledge to participate in one cleanup near home in 2020 and one cleanup at the beach in 2021.**

Beach cleanups start at our own front doors. Trash can travel through storm drains, creeks, and rivers to become beach pollution. We need help stopping the trash at the source. We have noticed a disassociation between the trash that we generate at home and the trash we pick up at the beach. Before they even begin to cleanup at the beach, participants must understand the impact their choices at home and their neighborhood make on the beach.

Prospective cleanup volunteers will organize a home cleanup following the guidelines attached.

You will be asked to take pictures of your cleanup to share the wealth of information and spread the volunteer spirit to your friends and neighbors. We will be posting these photos to [Orange Coast District's social media page](#). The more people we can get to care about trash in our ocean, the better!

IMPORTANT

By participating you understand and agree that the State of California may not be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death, or other damages to you or your family, heirs, or assigns that may occur as a result of your participation, or as a result of product liability or the negligence, whether passive or active, of any party in connection with the cleanups. Have fun and remember, safety first! Thank you for extending your care and compassion to our communities at this time! Stay healthy.

HOW TO START:

- Get your group together. It can be your scout group, your office mates, or just you and your mom!
- Decide what format the group feels comfortable with. Do you want everyone to gather to cleanup together? Do you want volunteers to cleanup separately together (i.e. volunteers stay home but everyone agrees to be cleaning up their home space at a certain time)?
- Figure out your location.
- Nail down a date and time that works for your group.
- Send out all this information to the group and include the [VISUAL MEDIA CONSENT FORM](#), safety information, and supplies to bring.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- **Supplies.** Either assemble your group's cleanup gear or ask participants to bring their own, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This should include trash bags or buckets, gloves, face mask, a trash grabber or tongs (if available), sun protection, first aid kit, and make sure to wear close-toed shoes to protect against sharp objects.
- If feasible, please try to reduce the waste from your cleanup with the following strategies:
 - Ask participants to bring **gardening or work gloves** from home to use during the cleanup. If cleanups will be an ongoing activity, consider raising money or asking the group to pitch in to purchase a set, or requesting a donation from a local hardware or garden supply store.
 - Use **buckets or reusable bags** for collecting trash. Possible trash containers include: reused shopping bags, an opened half-gallon milk carton, a cardboard oatmeal cylinder, and a plastic milk jug or 2-liter bottle with the top cut off.
- **Access to dumpsters** for trash and recycling. [Learn where to recycle in your area.](#)

OPTIONAL

- Download the **CleanSwell app** to enter data from smart phones directly into the online database. This will help you track the trash you collected and compare it to other locations such as the beach. If you do not have a device capable of using the app, you can download the data card from the CA [Coastal Commission's](#) website.
- A **bathroom scale** for weighing your trash

PREPARATION

- To protect your health and slow the spread of the coronavirus, please follow the most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.
- If you are sick in any way, DO NOT go out for a cleanup.
- Please check the air quality in your area and if it is unhealthy, please do not go out for a cleanup.

CLEANUP

BEFORE THE CLEANUP BEGINS

Share with your participants this safety information. Send out the information in an email beforehand, set up a sign with the information for self-guided cleanups at the meeting spot, or gather the participants (socially distanced) to tell them in person. Make sure all participants are adequately geared up in PPE, aware of the rules, and know cleanup specifics (start/end times, where to drop trash, etc.). Be sure to send and have willing participants sign the [VISUAL MEDIA CONSENT FORM](#) so they may appear in pictures.

Safety Information

- Maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from everyone you encounter, even if you are wearing a mask.
- ALWAYS wear gloves – disposable if available - and dispose or wash them immediately after your cleanup.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not pick up sharp objects, especially syringes!
- Don't pick up anything too heavy or anything that you will not be able to fit into your home debris bin.
- In parks and natural areas, follow all posted signage, stay on trails, and limit activities to areas open to the public.
- If you clean up near a waterway, be mindful of the conditions (such as high tide, sneaker wave warnings, etc.), and be careful near the water's edge.
- Keep a safe distance from all wildlife!
- Do not pick up or disturb natural objects, such as leaves, nests, or eggs.
- Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. When in doubt, come in early!
- Unfortunately, you may find used gloves, masks, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) among litter. DO NOT PICK UP ANY PPE without a grabber.

DURING THE CLEANUP

- Take pictures!
- Use the CleanSwell app to keep track of the trash found.
- Have a station for volunteers to drop full trash bags, grab extra supplies, and refill water.

AFTER THE CLEANUP

- If possible, weigh or estimate the pounds of trash and recyclables you collected during your cleanup.
- Dispose of trash.
- Dispose or wash gloves immediately after your cleanup. To properly remove disposable gloves, grab the glove opening near your wrist and pull towards your fingers, then turn the glove inside out before disposing.
- Wash your hands thoroughly as soon as possible, and use hand sanitizer in the meantime if soap and water are unavailable.
- Take pictures!

FINISHING UP

PLEDGE AND PICTURES:

We will be posting the photos to our social media accounts ([FACEBOOK](#), [INSTAGRAM](#)) to promote the Home to Beach Cleanup program and celebrate your hard work! By sending us pictures, you are agreeing to release your photos.

Follow these steps:

1. Send in at least one photo to Elizabeth.Bailey@parks.ca.gov. This photo must have at least one volunteer visible.
2. In the email with your photo, please include the name of your group, the most common piece of trash your group found, the weirdest item you found, and optionally the total weight of trash collected.
3. Most importantly, anyone that is appearing in pictures must have signed the VISUAL MEDIA CONSENT FORM. We will not accept any pictures that do not have this form. You must attach these signed forms to the email.
4. Once we receive this, we will send you a completed pledge form and will celebrate your volunteer work on our social media pages! We can't wait to see you in 2021 at the beach!

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California Coastal Commission, 2019, *Schoolyard Cleanups*, Retrieved from <https://coastal.ca.gov/publiced/schoolyard/index.html>

California Coastal Commission, 2020, *Coastal Cleanup Day*, Retrieved from <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html>