

ORIENTATION AND SAFETY TALK

Welcome and Thanks. Volunteers taking care of our community are vital. Not only does Marine debris spoil our beaches, it can be dangerous for both people and marine life. Trash can endanger, injure, and even kill ocean animals. They get trapped in fishing nets, fishing lines, and six-pack rings, and may mistake the debris for food. But with your help today, and year-round, we can prevent this from happening.

Make sure each person has signed and turned in a liability waiver!

SAFETY

1. Wear gloves and closed-toe shoes at all times, as well as protection from the sun, such as a hat and sun-block. Only pick up litter with a trash grabber or gloved hand, and do not reach where you cannot see (in between rocks, into thick brush) as there may be critters inside.
2. *Stay away from any ecologically fragile areas (e.g. sand dunes, nesting areas, sensitive plants). Do not go off trail and walk through brush, as there may be animals living there.*
3. Don't lift anything too heavy; when in doubt, don't try! Stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade if needed.
4. **Do Not** pick up dead animals, or attempt to move injured animals. Make your leader, park ranger, lifeguard, or city employee aware of the animals and where they are.
5. **Do Not** pick up syringes, needles, or any sharp objects. Mark the area and notify the cleanup captain or local official of their location.
6. Make sure that fire pits are cold before reaching into them.
7. Always stay in teams of at least two.
8. Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. When in doubt, come in early.
9. Children should always be supervised by an adult.
10. Be aware of your footing and surroundings at all times, and be sure to watch for traffic, steep slopes, or slippery surfaces.

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 ecological system we are working to restore and should be left alone. Avoid disturbing plants and animals. Remember to pick up even small pieces of trash, which animals often mistake for food.

DATA CARDS

The information volunteers collect on data cards is being used to educate the public, businesses, industry, and government officials about the problem of marine debris. Data reports have also influenced public policy on waste management, prompted legislation, and convinced individuals, organizations, and communities to examine their waste handling practices. With the data you collect, we are able to get a snapshot of the issue of trash in our oceans.

Hand out the data cards and accompanying instruction sheet to each team, and go over the data collection instructions. Please stress the following:

- 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 (except, of course, hazardous waste).**
- 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 (i.e. "Gazillions" will be counted as zero).

FILLED BAGS

Make sure you tell all participants to bring filled bags back to the check-in area to be weighed. Once numbers are recorded, direct the volunteers to the onsite trash or recycle bins so you aren't left with a giant pile to take care of yourself! Please do not ever overflow a trash receptacle or leave bags next to one.

RETURN TIME

Let everyone know when to return to the starting point to turn in their data card and enjoy any post-party, awards, and/or group photo opportunity with all the collected trash.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Do not pick up hazardous waste such as paint, chemicals, electronics, oil, or containers with unidentified liquid. Inform a lifeguard or city employee.

RECYCLING

Encourage volunteers to separate recyclables from trash. See the next page for a recycling guide.

Yes This Can Be Recycled



All Glass Bottles and Jars



Empty Aerosol Cans



All Plastic Bottles and Jars



Cardboard



Aluminum cans



Paper Bags



Clean Aluminum Foil, Foil Trays



Cartons



Newspapers



Metal Cans



Phone Books



Paper or Frozen Food Boxes



Mail



Magazines and Catalogs



Clean Plastic Food Packaging
(No compostable plastics or PLA, Styrofoam plastic film, bags or utensils)



Plastic Buckets, Tubs, Pots and Toys*

*Other non-food plastics **that are accepted** include large items such as plastic crates, totes, laundry baskets, pallets, and lawn furniture. These types of items must usually be broken down to fit into the blue recycling carts. If they are jammed into the carts or protruding out of the carts, the recycling truck may not be able to empty your cart.