

ADOPT A BEACH HAWAII VOLUNTEER SAFETY PROCEDURES

We welcome you and your organization to our Adopt-A-Beach-Hawaii volunteer project and appreciate your commitment to keeping Hawaii clean and litter free. In order to make your project successful we request that you read this safety procedure carefully and ensure that all your volunteers are made aware of the proper procedures for completing your project. Remember- SAFETY FIRST!

SAFE WORK METHODS

- Volunteers should be well supervised and thoroughly trained in proper work methods and safety. Our staff is available to give safety presentations to your group prior to your project. Call 808-637-2211 to set up a safety class.
- Ensure that volunteers are capable of performing the assigned work.
- Be alert! Stop work during bad weather or when unsafe conditions arise.

SAFE WORK APPAREL

- Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing such as thick-soled sandals shoes, protective clothing, gloves and eye protection.
- Rubber gloves should be worn when painting or working with graffiti removers.
- To protect you from the sun, volunteers should wear hat and sunscreen. Drink plenty of water during the project.
- Respirators or dust masks should be worn when using paints.

POTENTIAL DANGERS DURING CLEANUPS

- Volunteers may find potentially dangerous items while performing cleanups in parks and beaches.
- Broken glass, boards with nails, splinters and other sharp objects. Handle with care and cover sharp objects before discarding in trash bags. Put in separate small bag. Broken glass placed directly in trash bags could possibly cut your legs.
- Medical waste (hypodermic needles, pill containers, etc.). Only responsible adults should handle medical waste.
- Never open or pour out closed containers of liquids. We can't be sure that we know what these liquids are. Dispose carefully in trash containers if necessary.
- Do not over-fill trash bags. Avoid lifting heavy objects to keep from hurting your back.
- Avoid things that bite or sting such as bees and centipedes which can be buried under tires or other stationary objects and plastic bags.
- Do not handle large dead animals. Contact the City and County Parks staff for removal.
- While at the park or beach avoid confrontation with people who may be breaking the law such as drinking, committing vandalism, littering, or open beach fires. Gather your group and leave the park then call the Police or Parks staff.

Finally, please remember that your project should be safe and enjoyable. If you have any questions or need further assistance please call us at 808-637-2211

We look forward to a safe and productive volunteer project.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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ADOPT A BEACH HAWAII PROGRAM

IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS:

The program is unique in that it relies solely on the use of trained volunteers for data collection. This program would not be possible without your help and the help of other volunteers across the state.

It is very important to understand the protocol of this study so that all data is collected in a standardized method. This will ensure that all data is reproducible and comparable between sites; it is the basis of a scientific study. The following pages will alert you, the volunteer, to the responsibilities you have, what you need to bring to each monthly survey, the specific walking pattern to follow while conducting the survey, specifics of the data card, and descriptions of some of the 30 specific debris items. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this card. Your Survey Director will be able to answer any other questions you may have.

Volunteer responsibilities

- Arrive on time and be prepared to conduct the survey on the assigned day. Most surveys will take between 1 and 2 hours to complete.
- Ensure that your data collection is accurate and informative.
- Conduct a safe survey (see safety tips).
- Return completed data cards and materials to your Survey Director following the monthly survey.

What You Need to Bring

We recommend that volunteers bring or wear the following:

- Comfortable clothes
- Comfortable closed-toed shoes or sandals.
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- Drinking water
- Snacks
- Latex Gloves (***provided by Director***)
- Data cards, clipboards and pencils (***provided by Director***)
- Trash bags (***provided by Director***)

Safety Tips- Conduct a Safe Survey

It is very important that you use safety precautions while conducting each monthly survey. We recommend the following tips be followed:

- Wear gloves and closed-toed shoes or sandals.
- Be careful with sharp objects and syringes. **If in doubt, do not pick up.**
- Leave the beach at the first sign of lightning or large waves.
- Watch out for and avoid wildlife.
- Don't lift heavy objects or try to pull partially buried large nets, tires, etc..
- Do not go near any large drums or chemical containers.
- Have one of the volunteers carry a cellular phone in case of emergency or know the location of the nearest pay phone.
- Carry a list of emergency phone numbers including local animal rescue and stranding numbers.
- Have a first aid kit on hand during each survey (include antiseptics, bandages, insect bite treatments).
- Broken glass in bags can cut legs- use separate bag for broken glass.

How The Survey Works:

All sites are chosen based on the study's beach selection criteria. Each survey site must consist of an easily accessible beach with a study area of 500 meters (1/3 of a mile). The beach site should be sand to small gravel in composition, have direct access to the sea, and not be cleaned on a regular basis (daily, weekly, monthly) by beach maintenance staff. We also want to make sure that the beach site is accessible year-round by our volunteers and does not contain any endangered or protected species (e.g. endangered sea birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, endangered plants, etc.) that could be adversely affected by this study.

The marine debris surveys and cleanups are conducted on a 30-day interval. A program calendar with dates of scheduled surveys is provided to each Survey Director. Volunteers have up to 3 days after the scheduled survey date to complete the survey and beach cleanup. Volunteers should understand that each survey would take, on average, 1-2 hours to complete. Also, picking the same day each month is easiest for public.

Turtle Beach and Chun's Reef on the North Shore of Oahu is the last Saturday of every month.

Volunteers will conduct the marine debris surveys and beach cleanups along the same 500-meter study site each month. It is very important that all volunteers know exactly where the study site begins and ends, so that data consistency can be maintained from survey to survey. Each study site should have a distinctive marker or designated landmark defining the boundaries. And if possible, should include the road/highway in front of the beach area.

Some questions we are looking to answer:

1. Is the amount of debris on your coastlines decreasing/increasing?
2. What are the major sources of the debris? (eg. Locals, tourist, boats, fisherman, etc.)

Other Programs:

An outgrowth of The Ocean Conservancy's hugely successful International Coastal Cleanup, the Save the Sea Turtles International takes the idea of beach cleanups a step further by standardizing the data collection using a scientifically valid protocol to determine the status and trends of marine debris pollution in Hawaii. As a result, volunteer participants become real "citizen scientist" of Hawaii.

SPECIAL BEACH CLEAN UPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF FIVE OR MORE WITH AN ADVANCE NOTICE.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Infectious Waste (syringes/needles): Dept. of Health- Hazardous Evaluation & Emergency Response
808-586-4249

Stranded Marine Wildlife: Dept. of Land & Natural Resources- Div. of Conservation &
Resource Enforcement
808-587-0077
National Marine Fisheries Service
808-983-5300
Seal: 808-983-5715
Turtle: 808-983-5730
Whale & Dolphin: 808-973-2987

Hazardous debris on Beach: Call the Police Department 911

Adopt A Beach Hawaii is a non-profit organization and can sign certificates for community and school civil service.