

Washington CoastSavers Partner with Operation Shore Patrol

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : September 4, 2013 at 6:29 am

Volunteers needed to clean up state park coastal beaches. OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and its partners invite the public to participate in Operation Shore Patrol and the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 21.

Washington State Parks and the Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association have been organizing beach cleanups on the third weekend of September since 1971. This is the first time CoastSavers is joining the efforts to expand the participation for this event. Volunteers cleaning the beach on Sept. 21 will be joined by thousands of others around the world, all sharing the common goal of protecting the marine environment.

“Marine debris is a serious threat to our ecosystems and our enjoyment of the coast,” said Don Hoch, director of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

“Garbage and debris harm coastal vegetation, wildlife, and marine organisms and mar the beauty of the coastline.”

Volunteers of all abilities are needed. If you can hold a bag, you can help. While some people carry garbage bags to roadside dumpsters, others simply fill bags and leave them on the beach to be collected by volunteers driving four-wheel drive vehicles.

Along with Washington State Parks and the Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association, participating groups include the Callam Bay-Seiku Lions Club, Discover Your Northwest, Olympia Coast National Coast Marine Sanctuary, Olympia National Park, and Surfrider Foundation. You can sign up for the beach cleanup of your choice by visiting online at www.coastsavers.org.

The Tribal nations of the Quileute and Hoh along Washington's coastline also support and participate in tribal beach cleanup events during this event.

To learn about additional International Ocean Conservancy Coastal Cleanup events in Washington, send an e-mail to wa.coastcleanup@comcast.net.

Stay connected to your state parks by following Washington State Parks at www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks, www.twitter.com/WAStatePks, www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks and www.foursquare.com/WAStatePks. Share your favorite state park adventure on the State Parks’ blog site at www.AdventureAwaits.com.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse system of more than 100 state parks and recreation programs, including long-distance trails, boating safety and winter recreation. Washington State Parks turned 100 years old on March 19, 2013, and will celebrate with

events in parks all over the state, all year long. For more information, visit www.parks.wa.gov/events/.

Support state parks by purchasing your annual Discover Pass today, and enjoy a whole year of outdoor fun on Washington's beautiful state-managed recreation lands. For more information, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov.