



N E W S F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO BEACH CLEANUP SEPT. 19

Citizens are encouraged to play a role in preserving Volusia County's beaches by participating in the International Coastal Cleanup from 8:30 - 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. This worldwide annual event, hosted by the Ocean Conservancy and Volusia County Environmental Management, features many locations along the coast for people interested in helping clean up the beach.

The cleanup is the largest and most successful volunteer event of its kind, according to the Ocean Conservancy. The Ocean Conservancy promotes healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposes practices that threaten ocean life and human life. The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is a year-round program designed to keep the ocean and waterways free from trash and safer for people and wildlife.

Each year thousands of volunteers from around the globe participate in the cleanup, clearing tons of trash from ocean coastlines, rivers and lakes. In 2008, in 104 countries nearly 400,000 volunteers picked up more than six million pounds of debris from shorelines and beaches. Last year in Volusia County there were 633 volunteers who removed 2,700 pounds of trash.

"Not only is the trash removed, but every piece collected is recorded on a tally card," said Jennifer Winters, project coordinator with Volusia County Environmental Management. "This data helps environmentalists track and understand the type and amount of trash found on beaches worldwide. For example, in 2008, more than 28,000 cigarette butts and 6,000 bottle caps were removed from Volusia County beaches.

"It's important to remember that trash left on the beach does not just disappear. In fact, most of it eventually ends up in the waterways, which can affect the drinking water," added Winters. "We encourage citizens to dispose of trash properly to ensure a healthy environment for future generations."

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www.volusia.org

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Volunteers can participate in the cleanup at the following locations:

- ◆ **North Peninsula State Park**, 40 Highbridge Road, Ormond-by-the-Sea
- ◆ **Bicentennial Park**, 1800 N. Oceanshore Blvd., Ormond-by-the-Sea
- ◆ **Tom Renick Park**, 1575 Oceanshore Blvd., Ormond-by-the-Sea
- ◆ **Sunsplash Park**, 611 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach
- ◆ **Frank Rendon Park**, 2705 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores
- ◆ **Toronita off-beach parking area**, 4200 S. Atlantic Ave., Wilbur-by-the-Sea
- ◆ **Winter Haven Park**, 4589 S. Atlantic Ave., Ponce Inlet
- ◆ **North Beach Neighborhood Park**, 1100 N. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach
- ◆ **Flagler Avenue beach approach**, Flagler Ave., New Smyrna Beach
- ◆ **27th Avenue Park**, 3701 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach
- ◆ **Bethune Beach Park**, 6656 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach

Citizens can register to participate in the cleanup at the Ocean Conservancy web site

www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanup. Preregistered participants will receive a Coastal Cleanup water bottle and memento.

Registered participants should check in between 8:30 - 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at their designated location. Participants are encouraged to bring used, plastic shopping bags to separate recyclables from trash and drinking water, and should wear sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen and comfortable clothing.

This year, participants also are invited to volunteer to help coordinate the efforts at the different locations in Volusia County, according to Winters. These "lead volunteers" would assist with checking people in, explaining the tally cards, distributing supplies and giveaways, and helping compile site data. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Winters at (386) 238-4668.

For more information about the cleanup, please visit www.volusia.org/cleanup or contact Chad Truxall at (386) 428-3310, chad@marinediscoverycenter.org for locations in New Smyrna Beach, or Volusia County Environmental Management at (386) 238-4716, emintern@co.volusia.fl.us or jwinters@co.volusia.fl.us.