

GSCCC Celebrates Clean Beaches Week 2020!
July 1-7, 2020

Clean Beaches Week is an entire week to celebrate our beautiful beaches and ensure they stay clean, safe, and lovely for generations to come. Clean Beaches Week combines the spirit of Earth Day with the fun of the Independence Day and pumps up the fun for an entire week.

July 4 is the most popular beach day of the entire year, but it also results in the most litter on our shores! Clean Beaches Week is a way to be a wise steward and advocate for local beaches.

NOTE: When doing these activities remember, social distancing is recommended. The [CDC defines social distancing](#) as, “remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.” So, even when on a trail or just taking a walk in your neighborhood, remember our individual actions are small, but powerful measures to help “flatten the curve.”

The GSCCC Council's Own patch programs focus on the health of beaches and inland waterways.
[Coastal and Inland Waterways Patch Program](#)
[Beachcomber Patch Program](#)

Clean Beaches Week Activities

Go to the beach!

- Each year 180 million Americans make 2 billion trips to the beach! Celebrate Clean Beaches Week by heading to a beach near you, and make your trip make an impact by reducing your carbon emissions to it by using public transport or carpooling!
- Clean-up a beach
- If you go to the beach for fun, always make sure you "leave no trace," taking everything you brought to the beach back with you. You can even go a step further by participating in a beach clean-up to collect trash that others have left behind.

Watch and Learn

- The Earth has over 372,000 miles of coastline, and each mile is special in its own way. Learn more about the beaches of the world by watching a documentary like *Mission Blue*, *The Blue Planet*, or *A Plastic Ocean*.

Why We Love Clean Beaches Week

- Beaches are for everybody. Beaches are a public space open to everyone, a place where all people can come together to enjoy the sun, and of course, the cool water!
- The original A/C. Today if it's too hot out, many people can enjoy the luxury of staying indoors in the air conditioning. But for generations, and even now, for people without air conditioning, the beach, where the cool water and sea breezes keep the air a few degrees cooler than inland, is one of the only places to get relief from the heat!

Gateways to the Ocean

- 8 million metric tons of plastic make their way into the world's oceans each year, and the beach is the ocean's front door! By caring for the beach and keeping it clean, we also care for our oceans, which make up 70% of the planet and are home to over 1 million known species (and maybe up to 9 million unknown ones).

How can I make a difference during Clean Beaches Week?

1. Assess your transportation to the beach.

Before you even get to the beach, consider the way you plan to get there. Try reducing your carbon emissions by carpooling, biking, or using public transportation like buses or trains. These methods of transportation reduce your carbon footprint that much more. Every bit makes a difference!

2. Use the “leave no trace” method at the beach.

While you’re at the beach enjoying yourself by swimming, sunbathing, and snacking, remember take everything with you when leaving the beach, and leave no trace behind

3. Clean up trash (yes, strangers’ trash). ! Girl Scouts leave a place better than they found it.

The beach is the door to the ocean. If you volunteer to pick up trash on the shoreline, you’ll be making such a big difference in the environment by reducing the waste entering the sea.

4. Recycle.

Seeing lots of water bottles, soda cans, or glassware hanging around the beach? Consider recycling these items. Consider bringing bags to collect all of the recyclables.

Clean Beaches Week is a great time of year to participate in your community’s beaches to make them cleaner and safer for visitors and our oceans. However, it is not the only time of year we should care about our beaches.

Try using the above advice anytime you visit your local beach. We need to leave our environment in better condition than we found it in. Be mindful of the trash you create, the items you can recycle, and the impact you can have when cleaning up after yourself and even after others. Try putting these tips into action during Clean Beaches Week, and year-round!