




Blue Ocean Society Beach Cleanup Guidelines and Responsibilities for Volunteers

Thank you for scheduling a cleanup with us! Below are some guidelines and information on what to expect at your cleanup. Please circulate these to your volunteer team before the event, and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Before the Cleanup:

- **Contact Information:** Please provide names of a contact person(s) and their phone numbers, especially cell phone numbers.
- **Appropriate Attire:** Remember it is always cooler at the beach. Cleanup participants should wear closed-toe shoes, such as hiking boots or sneakers, or sturdy sandals with an ankle strap. Also, dress in layers. Prepare for wind and for the temperature to be about 10-15 degrees cooler than it is inland. 
- **Snacks/Lunch:** You are welcome to bring lunch or a snack, and drinks. In keeping with our mission, we respectfully request that food/drink items be packed in reusable containers, and beverage cans/bottles be recycled wherever possible. Please make sure to dispose of your trash appropriately! Ask a BOS staff member if you need a trash bag for lunch trash.
- **Arrive on Time:** Arriving late will take time away from your clean-up. When coming from further locations it's best to carpool to ensure everyone arrives around the same time.

At the Cleanup:

- **Be prepared to supervise children:** BOS will provide an initial talk about our organization, the data cards and why cleanups are necessary. ALL participants should listen to this introduction so that everyone understands their role.
- **Communicate Changes:** If there are any changes in the number of volunteers or arrival or departure times, please notify us ASAP, in order to be sure we are able to make appropriate changes on our end.
- **On the Beach:**
 - Do not pick up sharp items. If you feel unsafe picking up an item please bring these to the attention of a BOS staff member. While it's rare to find medical

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waste such as needles, these are occasionally found, and broken glass is prevalent. These should not be picked up by cleanup volunteers.

- Do not remove lobster traps or buoys from the site.
 - If you see dead animals, look, but **don't touch!** If you see a marine mammal (e.g. a seal), tell BOS staff.
- **Respect for the Natural Environment:** Please respect the environment you're in. Try not to disturb living animals/plants. If there are dunes and grasses on the beach, please stay off!

We look forward to an enjoyable day of working with you to help the marine environment!



Volunteers from Liberty Mutual picking up rope from Foss Beach in May 2015.

What Happens at the Cleanup:

1. Arrive at the site. Learn about why cleanups are important and receive introduction of cleanup procedures and designated site to clean.
2. Divide into teams of 4-6 per team (if not already in teams)
 - a. Each team should have someone to:
 - i. Get supplies for your team
 - ii. Record Data
 - iii. Hold Garbage bag
 - iv. Hold Recycle bag
3. Have "supply person" get the supplies for your team from BOS staff.
4. Head to the cleanup site!

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- a) It is usually most efficient to walk to the far end of the site without picking up trash and then pick up trash on your way back, so that you're not carrying a heavy bag in both directions.
 - b) Cover the whole beach from the water up to the rocks/plants. If you are a large group, spread out and walk in a straight line, doing a "sweep" of the beach.
 - c) Look CAREFULLY for trash. It is important to pick up even the smallest piece of plastic or Styrofoam. We go for a quality job, as well as picking up a large quantity!
 - d) Record items on the data card while you are cleaning (see sample on next page.)
 - e) Do not throw out lobster traps or buoys. Tally them on your data card (try to make sure that nobody else tallies the same ones) and pull them up above the high water mark if possible so they don't wash back into the ocean. They can't be removed from the beach— it is a state law.
 - f) We usually pile up wood (not driftwood), rather than removing it from the beach.
 - g) Be careful of sharp items.
 - h) Stay off of dunes and beach grass as these are part of a fragile ecosystem.
5. Weigh your trash. When you get to the end of your site, bring your trash bag back to the scale to weigh it. Write the amount of trash in your bag (pounds) on the front of the data card.
 6. Tally up the debris items recorded on the back side of your data card.

Be sure your data card is given to the Blue Ocean Society staff member at your cleanup before you leave!



In 2011, an accidental spill at the Hooksett Water Treatment Plant in Hooksett, NH released a bunch of these small plastic disks in to the marine environment. Look for them at your cleanup!
Hampton Beach, NH. April 2016.

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CLEANUP DATA CARD

It is helpful to review the items you'll be recording prior to the cleanup. Items on the list below should be tallied as you find them when cleaning the beach. Additional items found can be noted in the margins. Please feel free to record especially any unusual items you find! BOS staff will review this data card with participants prior to the cleanup and answer any questions.

Items Collected	
<i>An easy way to keep track of the items you find is by making tick marks. The box is for total items. Example: Balloons <input type="checkbox"/></i>	
1	
Ocean-Based Debris	
Gloves _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nets (≥ 5 meshes) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traps/pots _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floats/Buoys _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing Line _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rope ≥ 1 meter _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land-Based Debris	
Condoms _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal beverage cans _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beverage bottles (glass) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balloons _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Six-pack rings _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Straws _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tampon applicators _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Syringes _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Poop (un-bagged) <input type="checkbox"/> (bagged) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Sources	
Plastic bags (≤1m) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bags (≥1m) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bottles (beverage) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bottles (food) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic bottles (bleach) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bottle caps—plastic _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motor oil containers _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cigarette butts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Styrofoam cups _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Straps-open _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Straps-closed _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments/Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

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