

Annual Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup set for April 8th

Saturday, April 8, is the date for the 16th annual Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup. Thousands of volunteers who care about Oregon's livability are expected to meet at the state's beaches from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to clean the entire coastline between the Washington and California borders.

Volunteers are asked to check in at one of 40 meeting sites, pick up a bag, and head down to the beach to do their part in improving our coastline for wildlife and summer visitors. Coordinators of this event suggest volunteers bring gloves, and wear sturdy shoes. Complimentary bags will be furnished by beach cleanup coordinators. Groups of 20 or more are asked to register in advance with the appropriate Zone Captain. Call Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) at 1-800-322-3326, or visit their web site at <www.solv.org> for more information and to view a list of meeting sites and Zone Captains.

"We want to emphasize volunteer safety this spring more than ever," said Jack McGowan, SOLV Executive Director. "Knowledge of basic beach

safety and adherence to some basic guidelines can help reduce the potential for accidents and injuries." Volunteers are requested to be aware of these safety tips while on the beach:

- Don't turn your back on the ocean—watch out for sneaker waves.
- Don't play on or around logs.
- Exercise extreme caution on rocks and cliffs.

Records were set at both 1999 Beach Cleanups. During the Spring Cleanup, 7,200 volunteers removed 42 tons of debris from our beaches. The Fall Cleanup attracted 5,227 volunteers who removed 21.5 tons of trash. This event, started in 1984 in Oregon, has spread to 55 states and U.S. Territories and 90 foreign countries. In 1998, more than 500,000 volunteers around the world participated in coastal cleanups, picking up 5.3 million pounds of trash along 9,022 miles of coastline.

Sponsors of the Spring Beach Cleanup are Clean Rivers Cooperative, Inc., Jantzen, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Shilo Inns, Tektronix, and Wells Fargo Bank. Along with SOLV, the cleanup is coordinated by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association.

SOLV is a statewide organization founded in 1969 to act as a catalyst in linking business, government, and citizens in preserving the livability of Oregon. Other SOLV programs include education, enhancement, and cleanup activities directed towards the preservation of Oregon's quality of life.

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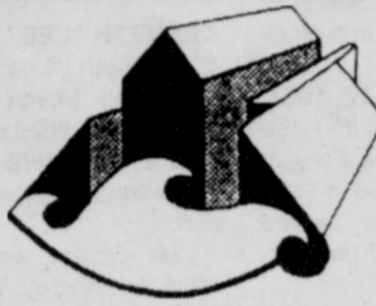


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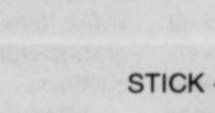
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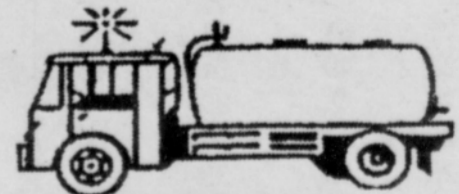
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