

The Ocean City Chapter Surfrider Foundation

"The Ocean City Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation" was formed to heighten the awareness of our residents and visitors for our fragile and beautiful environment. SRF through its initiatives, strives to enhance and safeguard, when and wherever possible our waves, dunes and beaches for the enjoyment of all-present and future.

Initiatives for the 2008 Season

I Surf - I Vote

Concerned citizens, once again, have the opportunity to be heard. The right to vote should be considered a privilege, a responsibility and a duty. We urge all to register and vote. "PROTECT YOUR BEACH" by rewarding elected representatives who demonstrate environmental responsibility and concern.

Please Leave Only Your Footprints

From the RT 90 banner to the RT 50 billboard, our 3rd installment of the 5-year "footprints" initiative is evident to beach visitors. With the co-operation of the Town of OC Public Works and the blessing of the Mayor and Council, SRF volunteers and SDHS students spend several Saturdays each spring stenciling the 600+ beach trash barrels with our motto. City trash trucks also carry this message on their daily rounds. We hope all visitors and residents will join us and make "Please Leave Only Your Footprints" their motto.

Hold On To Your Butts

"Clean beaches through good habits" - The popularity of this effort continues to grow, as evidenced in bumper stickers. From local shops to Assateague State Park, this "clean sand" effort will hopefully spread through beach vendors to all visitors.

Adopt Your Beach

For our 8th year, the Chapter is continuing its "pet" project - surf site stewardship. The partnership of SRF volunteers with resident groups and condo associations includes not only regular beach/dune cleanups, but also development of indigenous plants and dune grasses. The blue pet waste bag dispensers and crossover trash cans have become a familiar sight in some areas. This opportunity is open to any interested group.

Continued on Back

HA'AWI HO'IHI-LOA'A HO'IHI

"Give respect- get respect"- The surf etiquette initiative, though possibly universal, is directed to boarders. With clean water, pristine beaches, and easy access to our beaches, our final hurdle will be our interaction in the surf zone. Local "surfriders" hope to impart this "code of conduct" and pass on good in-water habits. As the popularity of our sport grows, so do the crowded conditions and numbers in the line-up and proper conduct will enable all to enjoy their ocean experience.

Respect The Beach

Awareness and education are the common threads tying all Chapter initiatives together. Our activities involve as many and as diverse a collection of participants as possible. The on-going relationships with Salisbury University and Stephen Decatur High School are vital parts of this expanding program. We are pleased to continue our in-season weekly sessions with the Assateague State Lifeguards and Ocean City Beach Patrol Juniors' programs. Our year-round service learning projects enable are students to not only fulfill graduation requirements but also heighten their awareness for our community's environmental needs. We hope more educators will take advantage of our enthusiasm for student involvement.

Scholarships

The Chapter offered its 1st scholarship for graduating area students furthering their education in related environmental studies in 2005 - A \$1000-CLEAN WATER SCHOLARSHIP. To further that end, the "OC legends" will again for a 3rd year offer (3) \$1000 scholarships to avid ocean sportsmen/women who will be attending institutions of higher learning in the coming fall.

Aloha Garden & Northside Cleansweep

The 1st Chapter community effort(2000) engaged volunteers in wetlands cleaning along the 125th St Athletic Complex adjacent to the Montego Bay Community. By removing accumulated trash and debris, SRF hoped to help minimize odors associated with marshy area. Shortly thereafter, this initiative grew to wetlands protection, in the form of a vegetated buffer and has become an annual effort celebrating Earth Day. The "Aloha Garden" not only adds color to the Athletic Complex, but also inhibits intrusion into the large northern bay wetland area.



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