



Greg Nace of Gig Harbor in Pierce County joins Washington Coast Cleanup Day at Ruby Beach last year. The nearly 1,000 volunteers who took part in the event last year enjoyed warm sun and blue sky, as predicted by cleanup coordinators.

DIANE URBANI DE LA PAZ/PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

Volunteers to clean beaches

Group hits coast on April 18

BY PAIGE DICKERSON
PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

Volunteers will hit the beaches on April 18 to help clean up the Pacific coast.

CoastSavers, which has organized the cleanup, expects it to draw about 1,000 people throughout the state.

"Everyone is invited to be a CoastSaver by joining us on April 18 for the Washington Coast Cleanup," said David Lindau, CoastSavers program coordinator for the Washington Clean Coast Alliance.

"The cleanup will span the state's entire Pacific Coast, from the long, flat beaches of the southern

coast to the rugged wilderness beaches of the northern coast.

"It's a great way to help save our marine environment and enjoy the beach, too."

Volunteers will help with a wide range of tasks, from picking up assorted debris along beaches and carrying it back to roadside Dumpsters to using a four-wheel drive vehicle to pick up filled bags at others.

"Marine debris is a serious threat to our coastal ecosystems. Coastal vegetation, wildlife and marine organisms are all harmed by these items and the toxins they can carry," said Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal.

"The work and dedication of every volunteer CoastSaver makes a critical difference in preserving the health and beauty of our coast."

Maggie Tyler, volunteer coordinator for Olympic National Park, said that the organization has had slightly fewer than usual registrations, so the organization is expecting about the same number of people as last year to show up.

Last year, about 1,100 helped clean up marine debris.

Diverse groups

"We're very pleased to have so many diverse groups working together to combat marine debris, not only along the Olympic National Park coast but along all of the state's ocean beaches," said Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin.

The Washington Clean Coast Alliance is a partnership of eight founding members including Discover Your Northwest, Grass Roots Garbage Gang, Lions

Club International, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic National Park, Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association, Surfrider Foundation and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Volunteers should check in between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on April 18 at the Kalaloch campground, the Hoh reservation at the end of Lower Hoh Road, Forks Transit Station and Information Center, Three Rivers Resort between Forks and LaPush, Ozette Ranger Station or Washburn's General Store in Neah Bay.

To sign up or to learn more, visit the CoastSavers Web site at www.coastsavers.org/washington.

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Briefly