

Key Educational Messages

Talk to volunteers as they check in. Let them know the importance of what they are doing.

What is the SOLVE Beach & Riverside Cleanup?

- ❑ Started in 1984, takes place each September, and is part of the International Coastal Cleanup.
- ❑ Over **130,000 SOLVE volunteers** have removed **1.7 million pounds of debris** since 1984.
- ❑ Each year over **5,000 volunteers** come out to **100+ cleanup & restoration projects** across Oregon, including **45 coastwide** beach cleanups.

Why is ocean trash a problem we need to address?

- ❑ **It's a threat to our economies:** Coastal municipalities spend millions of dollars each year cleaning up the beach across the world. Debris impacts local fishing industries and outdoor recreation businesses.
- ❑ **It's a threat to our wildlife & habitats:** Common items found, like cigarette butts and tiny bits of plastic are often ingested. Other items such as fishing line and netting can entangle animals, trapping and strangling them.
- ❑ **It's a threat to our health & food safety:** Toxic chemicals are transferred up the food chain. Ocean predators—many of which we eat—accumulate toxins eaten by smaller fish and plants. The concentration of toxins in predators, such as tuna, increases considerably as we move up the food chain.
- ❑ Litter travels! From streets, to storm drains, to rivers, to the ocean – and **it's preventable**.

Future generations will be the ones dealing with our trash.

- ❑ Estimated time it takes for these commonly found items to break down:
 - Fishing line: 600 years
 - Plastic bottles: 450 years
 - Aluminum cans: 200 years
 - Plastic bags: 1-20 years
- 1. YOU, our SOLVE beach cleanup volunteers, serve as a powerful **force** against the ongoing issue of marine debris on the Oregon coast.

Every piece of trash you pick up today should be a challenge for change!

- ❑ Questions for every item picked up: How did it get there? How can we prevent it from happening again?

- ❑ What can you do?
 - ✓ Use reusable bags and water bottles.
 - ✓ Say no to soaps containing microbeads, which flow through our drains and into our waterways.
 - ✓ Bring a trash bag with you every time you are at a park or on the beach to pick up debris.
 - ✓ **We have a responsibility all year long to reduce, reuse and reinvent!**
 - ✓ Join a SOLVE cleanup or lead your own, anytime, anywhere. Contact SOLVE for free supplies and guidance.

Look for the small stuff!

- ❑ Look at the tide line – you’ll often see a line of tiny plastic pieces. These are the most common items we find on our beaches. Tiny plastics and cigarette butts have a huge impact on wildlife.

- ❑ Bring an old colander/sand sifter to help pick up these tiny plastics. Every little bit helps!

SOLVE & the Ocean Conservancy