

Key Educational Messages & Event Facts

1. The 2018 SOLVE Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup is part of a twice-annual coast-wide beach cleanup effort:
 - The Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup **started in 1986** and takes place each March.
 - The Fall Beach & Riverside Cleanup started in 1984 and takes place each September. It is part of the International Coastal Cleanup.
 - The cleanups were started by Oregon citizens, Judie Hansen and Eleanor Dye, and inspired a cleanup model that has inspired similar cleanups around the world.
 - Since 1984, over **250,000 SOLVE volunteers** have removed **3.6 million pounds of debris** from our beaches during the annual cleanups.
 - During the Spring Beach Cleanup, there are **45 cleanup sites**, scattered along **362 miles of coastline**, from Astoria to Brookings.
2. 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. Local fishing industries and outdoor recreation businesses face negative impacts from debris in the ocean.
 - **It's a threat to our wildlife & habitats:** Common items found, like cigarette butts and tiny bits of plastic are often ingested. When animals eat ocean plastics, they can feel full and starve to death. 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 as large as ocean predators – many of which we eat.
3. Trash is not only in our ocean and on our beaches, but also in our waterways, traveling from streets to storm drains to rivers, and eventually 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

4. 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 we should be thinking about 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 instead of plastic.
 - 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.
 - Reduce your use of all single-use disposable goods.
 - **We have a responsibility all year to reduce, reuse and reinvent!**
 - Join a SOLVE cleanup or lead your own, anytime, anywhere. Contact SOLVE for free supplies and guidance.
5. **During the cleanup, look for the small stuff!** Microplastics and cigarette butts have a huge impact on wildlife.
 - 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 and they can look like food to wildlife.
 - Bring an old colander or sand sifter to help pick up these tiny bits of plastic. Every little bit helps!