

Russian River Watershed Cleanup Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to complete a Release Agreement?

All participants in the 29th Annual Russian River Watershed Cleanup Event must complete Waivers to participate in the cleanup. If you will be in your own canoe/kayak/or any other floating craft or paddle board and participating in the cleanup, you must fill out a second waiver provided by a special insurance carrier, You will also be required to fill out a waiver provided by either River's Edge Kayak and Canoe Trips, LLC., Russian River Adventures, Burkes Canoe Trips, or Johnsons Beach.

Parents of minors must complete the required information at the bottom of the Waiver and Sign the appropriate waivers in the areas provided or your children will not be able to participate.

What should I wear to a river cleanup?

River cleanups can be messy and require hard work. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or even tattered. Work boots and durable, heavy duty work gloves are strongly recommended. We do provide each participant with gloves. However, it is advisable to bring an extra pair that fits you as a extra insurance. If you are going to be working in the water, dress appropriately. Long sleeve shirts and long pants are recommended; for the protection they provide against the sun, poisonous or thorny plants and biting insects. Wearing a hat and eye protection is also recommended.

What else should I bring to a river cleanup?

Bring plenty of water because it's important to keep hydrated. Bring a lunch or snacks to keep your energy up. Make sure to print your release agreement and waivers, and bring them with you too.

Is lunch provided? No, lunch is not provided. We will have some snacks to get you going in the morning.

Will restrooms be nearby? Yes, there will be restrooms at the sign-up locations in the morning and/or at the closest Sonoma County Regional River Park. Make sure you get your free county park day pass upon leaving the signup area so that you can enter the River Park nearest you if you need to use their facilities.

Can my kids participate?

Kids are absolutely welcome to beach and trail cleanups. Beach cleanups are a fun learning experience for kids. The safety of beach and trial cleanup participants under the age of 18 is the responsibility of parents or legal guardians.

Why are you holding the cleanup in the fall and not the spring? After Labor Day, the busy part of the recreation and paddling season has come to an end. We conduct cleanups in the fall to make sure no trash has been left in the environment. We clean up as much as we can before the winter rains begin, so the trash does not float to the ocean or harm wildlife.

What happens in the case of bad weather?

The river clean-up will go on rain or shine. In the extreme case, if there are severe thunderstorms forecasted, or the potential for flooding exists, we may have to cancel, or we will focus on cleaning up the riverbanks on foot. Updates on the weather forecast can be found by visiting

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Healdsburg&state=CA&site=MTR&textField1=38.6106&textField2=-122.868&e=0#.V9sVsTuLFgq>

You can check the Cleanup page for any updates during the week of the cleanup:

<http://russianrivercleanup.org>

What happens if I find something that won't fit in my canoe?

Every Lead and Sweep Canoe will be supplied with bright pink ribbon. If you find something that is too large to fit in your canoe, or that requires more than two people, flag the location with pink ribbon and let your team leader or sweep make a note of its location.

I have my own canoe or kayak, or I would prefer to pickup garbage in an area near a creek or along the Russian River that is not listed on the cleanup web site, can I bring trash to the drop off locations? YES, with advanced arrangements. Please contact

bob@russianriverkeeper.org or call (707) 433-1958