



WATERSHED BRIGADE

WAIVER, SAFETY & OUTREACH GUIDELINES

Channelkeeper has 20 years of experience cleaning & monitoring our coastline. We've gathered some important information to help keep you safe and make the most out of your volunteer time.

Before participating in the Watershed Brigade, please follow steps 1 & 2 by completing our waiver and reviewing our safety and outreach guidelines.

STEP 1 | FILL OUT OUR ONLINE [WAIVER](#)

STEP 2 | READ & UNDERSTAND OUR SAFETY & OUTREACH GUIDELINES BELOW

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES & GUIDELINES

- Please follow all applicable **social distancing guidelines**, maintaining a distance of 6 feet or more between you and others.
- Volunteers **must wear masks and gloves**.
- Only individuals or family/household units may participate as a group in the same location.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Please avoid picking up needles, sharp objects, broken glass, toilet paper, human waste, etc.
- Use extreme caution and be wary of traffic and your surroundings

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

Homeless encampments are one of the most significant sources of litter in our local watersheds. However, **Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade is not currently targeting homeless encampments for cleanup. Please do not approach or remove any items from homeless encampments.** Cleanup projects in areas with active homeless encampments require special coordination and resources to protect health and safety and should be coordinated with local



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public officials. If you would like to report litter in any area due to a homeless encampment, please email Molly@sbck.org.

OUTREACH GUIDELINES

Social distancing requirements and closures of public recreation areas are controversial topics, and Channelkeeper defers to public health officials about these matters. **We ask that volunteers do not engage in dialogue with visitors about COVID-19, swimming hole or trail closures, other Channelkeeper programs and initiatives, or any other controversial topics.**

If broader issues are raised regarding Covid-19 or any of Channelkeeper's other work, please avoid debating or commenting on these matters on Channelkeeper's behalf. **We recommend that you respond by providing community members with the contact info of a Channelkeeper staff member along with a friendly explanation such as:**

"I understand your concern. Let me give you a card if you would like to speak with someone at Channelkeeper about that. I am only here today to help keep litter out of the creek/river/park."

Channelkeeper is not working to enforce closures in place or police behaviors. Our sole purpose with the Watershed Brigade is to make a positive contribution by minimizing littering impacts to our waterways. When interacting with others:

- Only engage in conversation with visitors if you feel comfortable.
- Do not confront visitors, even if you see illegal or irresponsible activity.
- Call 911 to report any emergency – Though irresponsible and impactful, littering is not justification to call 911.

As a Watershed Brigade volunteer, you can contribute to community outreach and awareness.

Channelkeeper encourages volunteers to engage with visitors to our local creeks and rivers about the need to keep our waterways clean in a



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friendly and positive manner. We've provided some talking points below to help you engage with visitors.

OUTREACH SAMPLE GREETING & TALKING POINTS:

"Hi there, I'm _____. I'm a volunteer for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. We are a group that works to keep our rivers and streams clean.

Since the COVID closures went into place, we are seeing a lot of increased visitation to this location, and unfortunately we are seeing a lot more littering than usual. We are saying hello to people today just to politely remind people to please pack out everything that they brought in.

Can I offer you a trash bag?

I also have gloves that you could use if you'd like to help pick up any other litter that you see. It would be a huge help if you could pick up anything else others have left behind. However, please do not pick up any sharp objects or other potentially dangerous items.

(If the conversation is going well you could maybe ask where people are visiting from.)

Well, have a great day, and thanks so much for helping keep our creek/river clean!"

Your health and safety are our #1 priority.

In case of urgent questions, please contact Channelkeeper staff for support:

Ventura River Watershed – Ben Pitterle – 805-636-6189

Santa Barbara/Montecito/Carpinteria – Molly Troup – 603-236-9262

Thank you helping to make a difference during the pandemic by keeping our waterways clean!