



# 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](mailto: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.



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Channelkeeper encourages volunteers to engage with visitors to our local creeks and rivers about the need to keep our waterways clean in a 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 beaches, 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/beach clean!"*

**Your health and safety are our #1 priority.**

**Thank you for helping to make a difference by keeping our waterways clean!**

