



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Media/ On-Site Contact: Tiff Murzi-Moyce: 650.996.5542  
[tiff@sfbaymsi.org](mailto:tiff@sfbaymsi.org)

## **Bay Area Students to Create Ripples of Change at the 29th Annual Kid's Ocean Day on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

(SAN FRANCISCO, May 22, 2024) – On Wednesday, May 22nd, hundreds of elementary school students and now, for the first time, middle school students from schools across the greater San Francisco Bay Area will gather at Ocean Beach for the 29th Annual Kid's Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup. Organized by the Marine Science Institute, this year's event takes on a poignant theme: "Make Ripples."

Inspired by the idea that small actions can create significant impact, the theme "Make Ripples" emphasizes the power of individual actions in initiating positive change for the environment. Just like a single drop of water creates ripples that spread outward, each person's effort in conservation can contribute to a healthier, more sustainable planet.

"We are thrilled to bring students together for Kid's Ocean Day once again, empowering them to become stewards of our oceans and coastlines," says Tiff Murzi-Moyce, Community Outreach Coordinator at the Marine Science Institute. "Through hands-on activities and the 'Make Ripples' theme, we aim to instill in these young minds the understanding that their actions matter and can create lasting change."

This year's event will feature two engaging activities. First, students will participate in a beach cleanup, highlighting the importance of preserving marine ecosystems by reducing the amount of waste entering the ocean. Following the cleanup, participants will come together to form an aerial art project on the beach. The stunning image will be captured by helicopter, students will sit in formation to create a larger-than-life design representing a California sea lion jumping into the ocean, symbolizing the collective effort needed to protect our oceans and the marine life within them, creating ripples of positive change.

The Kid's Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup is part of a statewide effort led by the California Coastal Commission, which coordinates Kids' Ocean Day statewide with proceeds from the Whale Tail License Plate and voluntary donations on the state tax return to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund. Similar events will take place at

beaches along the California coast, demonstrating the collective commitment to coastal stewardship.

"These kids are great role models," said Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. "They are demonstrating that we all have the power to make change for the greater good and that our actions can create ripples of positive influence for our communities, for the environment, and in our own lives. Hopefully their experience at the beach helps to spark a lifetime of impact and working together to create change and helping to protect the coast and ocean."

Participating schools from San Francisco include Sunset Elementary and Ulloa Elementary, Daniel Webster Elementary from Daly City, Hoover Elementary from Redwood City, Sunshine Gardens from South San Francisco, Mary Silveira Elementary from San Rafael, and our first-ever middle school, Bret Harte from Oakland.

Participating teachers who change schools demonstrate their dedication by requesting continued participation with their new school!

One such dedicated teacher from Oakland shared, "OUSD (Oakland Unified School District) has a lot of need, and many students have never left the neighborhood." She wrote, advocating for her 7th-grade class at Bret Harte MS, where 85% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. "We could definitely use a bus."

This commitment to environmental education underscores the importance of providing students with access to enriching experiences regardless of their socioeconomic background. By extending participation opportunities to schools facing challenges, Kid's Ocean Day aims to foster inclusivity and empower all students to become stewards of the environment.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024

**Times:** Students arrive between 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., clean until 11:30 a.m. Aerial art project commences at 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ocean Beach, Gate 15 (across from Beach Chalet restaurant), SF

### **About the Marine Science Institute:**

The Marine Science Institute is a nonprofit environmental education organization dedicated to providing hands-on science education to students across the San Francisco Bay Area. Through immersive programs, MSI aims to inspire responsibility and stewardship for the natural environment. Learn more at [www.sfbaymsi.org](http://www.sfbaymsi.org).

### **About the California Coastal Commission:**

The California Coastal Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. Through education,

regulation, and public participation, the Commission promotes coastal stewardship and sustainable development. For more information, visit [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org).

**Image:**



- **Date Taken:** May 24, 2022
- **Photographer:** Erick Lee – inBloom Films (formerly Erick Lee Pictures) For more information, visit <https://www.inbloomfilms.com/>

###