

The Importance of a Beach Clean-Up

Sofie Nickell
Boise State University

Transcript

MDS/BAS 495 Undergraduate Capstone Projects

Spring 2022

SOFIE NICKELL

Hello, my name is Sofie Nickell. This is my MDS 595 capstone project, service learning, and the title is, "Importance of a Beach Clean-Up." So what is a beach clean-up? As we all know, a beach clean-up is cleaning up trash on a beach.

But in my presentation, I'm going to go a little bit more into depth on positive outcomes of a beach clean-up, my key stakeholders, an event that I did in my own personal time, and what exactly a beach clean-up means.

So a beach clean-up is preserving our mother earth. It is taking out the time and making a difference to clean up our beaches, picking up trash, bottles, plastic, wrappers, etc.. It is really going that extra mile to do that. It is not destroying it like humans do. Why do people participate in a beach clean-up? Well, it is to do volunteer work.

It is something that people will take the extra time out of their day to go and do to perform a good deed. It is showing an act of kindness, and it is preserving, protecting, and saving our beaches, because it really does make a difference when we do do this. So what are the positive outcomes of a beach clean-up?

Well, of course, it is to have a clean, enjoyable beach, for tourists, for people like us, like locals. Of course that is what it is for. But I feel the main positive outcome is to spread awareness to ourselves and others, and that is what I have really tried to do throughout this presentation, is to really spread the awareness of why a beach clean-up is so important.

And of course, it is as well as protecting our environment, and protecting our own wellbeing and our health, by having a clean beach. Sea life danger. Because of the littering on our beaches and the trash that we do see on our beaches, there are a lot of sea animals in the ocean that are dying.

The shore, it swipes up like this (*sweeping hand gesture*), and then the trash goes into the ocean, and then these animals are thinking that the trash is food, and they're now eating the litter and the trash, which is now causing a lot of death within sea animals. Also, extinction as well within certain animals in the ocean. So because of this, this is causing our oceans to fill up with lots of litter and trash.

And honestly, it all starts with the beaches. The beaches have to be clean in order for our ocean to be clean. And then it turns into a cycle that goes like this (*circular hand gesture*). And so that's what I've noticed, especially by doing my event, that I will talk later on in this presentation. So, face mask danger. This is something that I found quite interesting while doing my research.

Since COVID-19 has started, we've been wearing face masks all around the world, especially nation-wide, and when we preserve our face masks, you're supposed to throw them in the trash. But unfortunately, sometimes they don't always all go in the trash. People litter. And these face masks, when they get littered, they get littered onto the beach, and now they're going into the ocean.

And unfortunately, the straps around the masks are getting caught on animals' body parts in the ocean. And they're also, these animals are eating them, because they think that they're food. And therefore, they're getting caught in their intestines and their bodies and their liver, of these animals, such as whales, sea lions, otters, and now, these animals are dying because of it.

And scientist have seen this since COVID-19 has started, and there's unfortunately constant litter affecting the ocean, ever since COVID-19 started with these facemasks. So, a lot of danger with this. So, in my own free time, I actually did a beach clean-up this early April, April 7th, I did it with my mom, my brother, and my boyfriend. I really enjoyed the event. It was a lot of fun.

We fundraised \$300, which I'm so excited to announce. This money is going to Newport Beach County to help out with future beach clean-ups and to go towards the beach clean-up and their account team. And so, I created a Facebook page, and I had my friends and family interact on there, with our followers, and engagement was amazing on it.

I posted a few photos on there, through my Facebook page, so it was really a hit. It was really great, and the support that I received was phenomenal, and I'm just so proud that we raised \$300, because I know that it's going to a great cause that I'm passionate about. So I actually am really happy to say that I got the chance to interview with a Newport local.

His name is Joe Murphy, and he has been living in Newport Beach for about 20 years or so. He was able to take out the time and talk to me about basically his own feelings on the beach clean-up, what has been his experience living by the beach for 20 years. Has it been clean, has there been a lot of litter? He shared with me that unfortunately there has been a lot of litter.

He shared that there's not enough beach clean-ups on the beach, to come and take the time to clean it. Because of this, the beach is not the way that it used to be when he first moved down there 20-something years ago. And this he said that he's really disappointed about, and he says that each year it actually gets worse.

This is something that I found interesting, because unfortunately this will always be a problem that we're gonna be working towards. So, my key stakeholders. The key stakeholders are definitely my mom, brother, and boyfriend because they did participate in the event. But it's also the community of Newport Beach, and it's the public outside of Newport.

I really tried to aim all over the board to really spread my message across, and I got the public involved on my event page as well, so that was huge. But the benefits of this is that people are benefiting, and they're impacting, from my message that I'm trying to across. It is not just a beach clean-up event, but it is the positive outcomes that I really tried to express to them.

So, the benefits include cleaning up the beach, saving animal life, not littering, preserving our wildlife, protecting mother nature. These are the benefits and the impacts that my key stakeholders took away. So, the skills acquired. Leadership, definitely leadership. It's hard to take out 20 minutes of our day, or more or less, once a week or so, to clean up a beach.

It's not something that we think of on the daily, so it definitely does take a leader to go ahead and do this act of kindness. Generosity. You are taking out the time, you're giving the time to do this. Compassion. You are showing that you have compassion towards the earth. You're passionate about what you're doing. And cleanliness. You're cleaning up the beach.

You're making a difference in our world. And love. You're showing your love for mother nature. These are all the skills that I acquired from my capstone project, and they definitely made a difference within my own life, from doing this capstone project this entire semester, and I couldn't be happy with the way that my project went, and especially my event.

And here are my references. These are three references that I found really fascinating and gained a lot of knowledge from. Thank you so much.

END OF TRANSCRIPT.