

YNA Gunnison Beach Cleanup Report and Why Cleanups Are Important

Written by Felicity Jones

Tuesday, 10 October 2017 23:51 -

This past Saturday, we had our very first beach cleanup at Gunnison nude beach!

Why organize a beach cleanup? First of all it is part of our YNA naturist philosophy to take care of the environment, especially the places we enjoy as naturists.

Second, it's important for the preservation of nude / clothing-optional beaches and places on public land. As we know, nude beaches get closed down all the time even when there's been a longstanding tradition of nude use. Organizing a beach cleanup doesn't guarantee that this won't happen, but it does help develop a positive relationship with the local parks department or authorities responsible for overseeing and policing the area.



Group photo taken with the ranger before our Gunnison Beach cleanup

It demonstrates that naturists are invested in their beach and willing to help maintain it. It also puts a face to the community and creates personal ties. We in essence stop being “those naked

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people” and start to be perceived as individuals with names and faces.

Working with local authorities also helps dissolve any preconceived notions they might have about nudists and the nude beach. Even the ranger we worked with at Sandy Hook said he better understood the nude beach after overseeing our event. A cleanup is so simple but it makes a difference!

We want to make it known that we (naturists) are good, responsible citizens that will do our part to make a place better for everyone. And that in turn will make rangers’ jobs easier and more pleasant instead of more difficult. If the only time the rangers are interacting with naturists is to make arrests or intervene when there’s inappropriate behavior, this is not going to leave a positive impression of naturists as a whole.

On Saturday around 10:00 am we gathered at the entrance to Gunnison Beach. Here we met with a ranger who gave us a quick safety talk and lent us a bunch of trash pickers, which we appreciated!

Then we took our bags and went out to the sand to start picking up any trash. Just in the first few hundred feet of sand you can already find litter – I saw little pieces of plastic and a beer can almost buried in the sand.

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Picking up litter next to the dunes at Gunnison Beach

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fruitless, but we will keep going until we find a good one. This was the first time we used a metal detector (based on

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When the cleanup is over, the litter is taken to a recycling center. The original photo is a

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~~Placeholder text for a caption or description of the image.~~

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Beach cleanup is an important activity for communities, helping to improve the quality of the environment and protect the site. We

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<https://www.youthnatives.org.au/gunnison-beach-cleanup-report/> Beach waste is our