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Coral World Ocean Park and Others Take Part in International Coastal Cleanup

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, Coral World Ocean Park, Coki Beach Dive Club, Blue Flag USVI, the St. Thomas Young Professionals and community volunteers will join the Ocean Conservancy for the annual International Coastal Cleanup events to clean Water Bay and Coki Point.

Volunteer divers and snorkelers will meet at Coki Beach Dive Club at 9 a.m.; all necessary equipment and water will be provided free of charge. Land volunteers are to meet in the Coral World parking area at the same time. The first 20 participants will receive a free day-pass to Coral World Ocean Park.

Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Join the world's largest volunteer effort for our ocean and waterways by participating in the International Coastal Cleanup. More than 500,000 volunteers picked up 10 million pounds of trash during the cleanup held in 2012.

According to Valerie Peters, director of marketing at Coral World, "This is the 20th cleanup we have organized in the Water Bay and Coki Point area in the past seven years.

These efforts include participation in annual events such as Earth Day, World Ocean Day, Reef Alliance, Reef Fest and, of course, International Coastal Cleanups. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers over the years, there has been a significant reduction in the amount of large waste items, such as tires, batteries, engine blocks, boat parts and construction materials found on the ocean floor of Water Bay and on Coki Point."

Coki Beach Dive Club, a Padi Gold Palm Resort, offering quality scuba dive courses and guided dive tours, has been extremely helpful with the underwater portion of the cleanups.

For winners of passes, the ocean park's summer hours continue to the end of October - open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Fridays and Saturdays), and the ticket booth closes one hour prior to closing. Feeding presentations begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

The cleanups in the U.S.V.I. are organized by the UVI Marine Advisory Service and V.I. Waste Management Authority. Anyone can and are encouraged to participate in International Coastal Cleanups. To get involved, send an e-mail to Valerie Peters at marketing@coralworldvi.com ^[1]

St. Thomas business

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