



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

For Immediate Release

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Volunteer Registration Open for 21st Yuba River Cleanup

SYRCL seeks at least 800 participants to cover 35 sites along Yuba and Bear Rivers

KNOW & GO:

What: Volunteer Registration for SYRCL's 21st Annual Yuba River Cleanup

When: August 3 through September 10, 2018 ONLINE

Cleanup Day is September 15, 2018, from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Volunteer Appreciation Party at Pioneer Park from 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Where: Dozens of sites in the Bear and Yuba River watersheds

How: Register online at: www.yubariver.org. Volunteers registered by September 10 receive free lunch at Pioneer Park.

Nevada City, CA – For the 21st year, the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is calling on volunteers and the local community to sign up for its Annual Yuba River Cleanup, which is set to take place on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Volunteer registration is now open at YubaRiver.org, and SYRCL anticipates slots will fill quickly.

The Yuba River Cleanup is one of the largest of its kind in the Sierra region, and it relies on the power of 850 volunteers to work at dozens of sites across the region, from Donner Summit to the Lower Yuba. They'll tackle everything from hauling out tires to picking up "micro-garbage," like cigarette butts and bottle caps.

"This year the Cleanup is particularly significant because we're celebrating SYRCL's 35th anniversary. It's incredible to see how the community has grown from those early days seeking Wild & Scenic status for the South Yuba to present today, where at least a thousand individuals, businesses, agencies and community groups come together with a common goal at the Cleanup. Keeping the river clean, safe and healthy requires all us who love the Yuba to be active stewards. The Yuba has already received a lot of love this summer and it's time to give back. I'm inviting the community to join this high impact event. Dedicating a few hours of work on Sept. 15 will make a significant difference for the health of the Yuba and Bear rivers." said Melinda Booth, Executive Director of SYRCL.

According to Daniel Belshe, SYRCL's Community Engagement Manager, "We couldn't do this incredible work without our local and regional partners. To date, this effort is supported by State Parks, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, Grass Valley Public Works, Caltrans, Nevada County, as well as many local businesses, clubs, and school groups. And we'll be welcoming more over the next six weeks. We're committed to working at dozens of sites, we just need the volunteer power to do it."

Last summer, 880 volunteers participated in the Cleanup and removed nearly 1,100 pounds of recyclables and 13,000 pounds of trash from approximately 80 miles of river, creek and lake shoreline at sites within the Bear and Yuba River watersheds.

On September 15, volunteers will embark on a watershed-wide hunt to rid the river of everything from cans, bottles and straws, to outlandish items such as washers and trailers. After the Cleanup, volunteers are invited to the [Volunteer Appreciation Party](#) in [Pioneer Park, Nevada City](#), from 1pm-5pm, to enjoy music by local artists [the Heifer Belles](#) and [Red Dirt Ruckus](#), great company, and a no-host beer garden. Volunteers registered by Sept. 10 will receive a delicious complimentary lunch.

Keeping the river from being trashed is more than a one-day-a-year activity. Since 2012, a group of dedicated volunteer River Ambassadors have spent every summer weekend educating folks at the four major river crossings about how to keep the river clean and safe. This dedicated team promotes an ethic of responsible, non-polluting use of the river by speaking one-on-one with visitors at crossings, beaches and on trails. Using a friendly, non-confrontational approach, River Ambassadors bring awareness to the polluting impacts of trash and dog waste, the dangers of broken glass, and the catastrophic potential of wildfire.

"The River Ambassador program and Yuba River Cleanup produce tangible benefits to our community, but these efforts have real, concrete costs. Volunteers, and even those who can't make it to the Cleanup, can help support a clean river year-round by asking friends and family to sponsor their day of service through the Clean-a-thon. No donation is too small, gifts of \$10 or \$20 add up quickly," said Belshe.

If you have questions about volunteer registration or donating to the Clean-a-thon, contact Daniel Belshe, Community Engagement Manager, at (530) 265-5961 x201 or daniel@yubariver.org.

About the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL): SYRCL (pronounced "circle") is the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River watershed. Founded in 1983 through a rural, grassroots campaign to defend the South Yuba River from proposed hydropower dams, SYRCL has developed into a vibrant community organization with over 3,500 members and volunteers based in Nevada City, CA. See: www.yubariver.org
