

THINK BLUE BRIGADE INFORMATION

Facebook

www.facebook.com/ThinkBlueSanDiego

Brigade Group Page

www.facebook.com/groups/ThinkBlueBrigade/

Brigade Group Address

ThinkBlueBrigade@groups.facebook.com

Websites

www.thinkblue.org and www.cleansd.org

Request Start-Up Kit & Presentations

(619) 291-0103 or Education@cleansd.org

City of San Diego Storm Water Division

(858) 541-4300

Report Storm Water Pollution

(619) 235-1000 or www.sandiego.gov/stormwater

THINK BLUE BRIGADE START-UP GUIDE



A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BEGINS WITH YOU
THINK BLUE SAN DIEGO



thinkblue.org

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A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BEGINS WITH YOU
THINK BLUE SAN DIEGO



A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BEGINS WITH YOU THINK BLUE

Congratulations! Welcome to the Think Blue Brigade. We're excited that you have joined us and are taking the next step in making a difference in your community.

Your membership in the Brigade demonstrates your commitment to help keep San Diego beautiful and our beaches, bays and waterways clean. When you start a Think Blue Brigade or have your existing environmental club become an affiliate, you show others how important water quality is to San Diego. Your group can lead the way to increase knowledge of storm water issues and affect change within your community.

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 - o Creek to Bay Cleanup

Collaborate & Demonstrate:

- Facebook Group Page
- End of year Project Demonstration

LEAD

Congratulations! Welcome to the Think Blue Brigade. We're excited that you have taken the next step in making a difference in your community.

Your membership in the Brigade demonstrates your commitment to help keep San Diego beautiful, and our beaches, bays and waterways clean. When you start a Think Blue Brigade club or have your existing club become an affiliate, you show others how important water quality is to San Diego and lead the way in increasing their knowledge of storm water issues and affect change within your community.

What Is The Think Blue Brigade?

The Think Blue Brigade is a select group of high school environmental clubs within the City of San Diego dedicated to the protection of San Diego's beaches, bays, and waterways through participation in pollution prevention events and projects - all while earning valuable community service hours.

Join the Brigade

Let us know! Contact the Education Coordinator at I Love A Clean San Diego at (619) 291-0103 or at Education@cleansd.org to tell us about your club and we will send you a club start-up kit and application.

Your club can also connect with other Think Blue Brigade participants on our Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/ThinkBlueBrigade/. We'll use the Think Blue Brigade group page to keep your club members informed, post upcoming events and activities, collaborate on projects and events, and help you network with other Brigade clubs.

Start a New Brigade Club

If you are starting a club from scratch, how do you do it?

- 1 Find an advisor and a place to meet. Ask your teachers if they would be interested in supporting your club or if they would offer their classroom as a meeting place.
- 2 Ask people if they would be interested in joining. Talk to your friends or people in your classes to find out if there is interest in participating in the Brigade.
- 3 File school required paperwork. Find out what your school's club requirements are and fill out any needed applications to receive approval.
- 4 Elect club leaders and plan your club's meeting schedule.
- 5 Develop a project plan for the year with your club members. What community service projects and events are you interested in participating?
- 6 Act & Serve!
- 7 Receive rewards and recognition!

Brigade Benefits

As a Think Blue Brigade club affiliate, your club will receive increased rewards and recognition. You'll have the opportunity to gain community service hours while participating in Brigade specific events and through your club's own custom civic engagement project. Set yourself apart from the rest - Add the Brigade to your Extracurricular Activities, Volunteer and Community Service sections on your college applications.

As your club participates in Brigade community service events and projects you will be rewarded and recognized at each step of the way.

- Think Blue/ILACSD Watershed presentation delivered to your club and receive Brigade wristbands and pencils for club members. Your group will also be recognized on the ILACSD and Think Blue Facebook pages.
- Club members attending Storm Drain Stenciling Day or completing a storm drain stenciling project can receive a Think Blue water bottle. We'll post pictures of the event on the ILACSD and Think Blue Facebook pages and recognize your club for attending!
- Club members attending the Creek to Bay Cleanup or completing a cleanup project can receive a Think Blue Brigade t-shirt. We'll post pictures of the event on the ILACSD and Think Blue Facebook pages and recognize your club for attending!
- Club members that complete a pollution prevention project will be able to show off what they've done at the end of year Brigade recognition party hosted by Think Blue, I Love A Clean San Diego and UltraStar Theaters. In recognition of your group's accomplishment, your club will be treated to a free movie from UltraStar. We'll post your project on the Think Blue website, in addition to recognition on the ILACSD and Think Blue Facebook pages!

Help your club advisor also earn rewards and recognition!

- Advisors that help their club become a part of the Think Blue Brigade will receive a Think Blue t-shirt, hat and water bottle.
- Advisors that assist their club in completing a Brigade Club project will receive a \$50 gift card to a local teacher supply store.

Tips on How to Lead a Meeting

Create an agenda

- What do you want and need to discuss? This will vary greatly from group to group, but should be based on your group's interests and needs. Ask your advisor to review the agenda, as needed.

Start with an Icebreaker

- There may be people in your club that don't know each other. Starting with an icebreaker helps people get acquainted and loosen up to encourage idea sharing during meetings. Some great icebreaker ideas can be found at icebreakergames.net.

Find guest speakers

- Guest speakers will help your group learn more about San Diego's local environment and important issues facing your community. As you learn, your group may decide to adopt a certain water quality issue to investigate and address through a service-learning project. You can find guest speakers by asking local non-profit and governmental organizations or from the environmental services departments or green initiatives groups at local companies.
- Club members are also a great resource! Your colleagues may have completed a project for a class that they would like to share.

Complete a project together

- Coordinate a school-wide or neighborhood cleanup.
- Complete a storm drain stenciling project on campus or in the local neighborhood.
- Develop pollution prevention informational signs.
- Host a lunchtime educational booth.
- Create your own project – Ideas can be found on the Think Blue Brigade Facebook and Group pages.

Review upcoming events

- Stay up to date with and participate in local community service events.
- Create your own events and projects for community service hours.

Discuss past events

- What went well? What would you like to do more of? Evaluate the event's successes and failures and try to improve things for future events.

End with a success

- Recognize a club member for an achievement.
- Read an environmental quote.
- Share a positive environmental news story you've read recently.

EDUCATE & PREPARE

Watershed Presentation

Watersheds connect us all to our local waterways and ocean. Get inspired to act through a Think Blue/ILACSD environmental presentation about local watersheds and how pollution affects human health and local ecosystems. Learn how to keep our watersheds clean and healthy and get empowered to be an environmental steward for your community!

To set up a presentation contact the Education Coordinator at I Love A Clean San Diego at (619) 291-0103 or at Education@cleansd.org.

Investigate Issues & Interests

Get together with your club's members and investigate water quality issues and solutions. Use the watershed presentation as a starting point for exploration or begin investigating issues on your own. Gather information about water quality issues to share with your club – video, news clips, and magazine articles – whatever you can find. Determine what issues interest your group and begin brainstorming goals and service project ideas to address those issues. Who could you call on to help inform your project, are there community leaders or guest speakers that could talk with your club or answer questions for you? Develop a plan to help your club reach their goals.

Once you have decided on a project, staff from I Love A Clean San Diego or Think Blue are available to help answer any questions you may have about your chosen issue. It is our hope that together we can help you find the resources you need to accomplish your goals.

ACT & SERVE

Community Service Projects

Do something! That's right; the best way to address water quality issues in your community is to act. From your investigations about the issues, create a community service project. Depending on your project or action, you may be eligible to receive community service hours. Review your project ideas with your advisor or contact the Education Coordinator at I Love A Clean San Diego. In addition, the Think Blue Brigade Facebook page has a list of community service project ideas to help you create a project that's just the right fit for your group. We want to help you reach your goals.

Community Service Events

Community service events are happening all the time! The Think Blue Brigade Facebook page has a list of local non-profit groups offering community service opportunities in San Diego. Community service events include cleanup events, storm drain stenciling, canyon cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive species opportunities. Receive I Love A Clean San Diego's monthly e-newsletter to find out about more opportunities to get involved. Send your email address to the Education Coordinator at Education@cleansd.org to be added to their email list.

FALL EVENT - Storm Drain Stenciling Day

One of our goals is to have each club participate in our 1st Annual Storm Drain Stenciling Day. The event will take place during the fall and will call upon volunteers to stencil storm drains in nearby watersheds. Think Blue will sponsor breakfast goodies just for Brigade members. In addition, each member that volunteers will receive a Think Blue water bottle.

Of course, if your club can't make it to one of our Storm Drain Stenciling Day locations you can still sign up to receive a few storm drain stenciling kits for your group. Call I Love A Clean San Diego to find out more about our storm drain stenciling program. If your club completes a storm drain stenciling project, each member that volunteers will receive a Think Blue water bottle.

SPRING EVENT - Creek to Bay Cleanup

Our goal is to get at least one representative from every Brigade to attend I Love A Clean San Diego's signature cleanup event - the Creek to Bay Cleanup. The event takes place each year during the month of April. Thousands of volunteers participate and remove upwards of 100,000 pounds of trash from our creeks, rivers, canyons and beaches. Think Blue will sponsor breakfast goodies just for Brigade members. In addition, each member that volunteers will receive a Think Blue t-shirt. Have your club volunteer and get a chance to do your part to help improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.

www.creektobay.org

Of course, if your club can't make it to the main cleanup site you can volunteer to captain your own site at your school or a local park or open space through the Creek to Bay cleanup or through ILACSD's Adopt-A-Beach program. Call I Love A Clean San Diego to find out about these programs. If your club completes a cleanup, each member that volunteers will receive a Think Blue t-shirt.

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