



This Week: Volunteers needed to help remove trash from American River and other waterways

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Whether it's the ocean you love, the rushing [American River](#) or the sparkling Yuba, you'll have a chance Saturday to help keep the water free of debris.

Saturday is the International Coastal Cleanup, an annual event that last year drew more than 500,000 volunteers who removed 10 million pounds of trash from shorelines worldwide. [Conservation groups](#) around the country have scheduled river cleanups to coincide with the coastal effort, begun nearly three decades ago by the Ocean Conservancy. In the greater Sacramento region, these include the Great American River Cleanup, the Annual Yuba River Cleanup, the Great Sierra River Cleanup and Teaming up for the Tuolumne.

More than 60 percent of California's drinking water comes from the watersheds of the lower Cascades and the [Sierra Nevada](#), including the American. Trash pulled from the rivers each year includes beverage cans, tires, furniture, shopping carts, diapers and even appliances, says the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, which is sponsoring the Great Sierra River Cleanup. Sign up at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. Closer to Sacramento, the American River Parkway Foundation is recruiting volunteers. (See www.arpf.org). Both events last from 9 a.m. to noon.