

Students needed for Green Team cleanups!

By Chris Conrad, El Sobrante Green Team

People of 20th Century generations remember when schools promoted a blend of cleanliness and civic duty that inspired young people to launch Earth Day and ongoing environmental cleanup efforts. It seems that, over time, as plastic waste, eco-crises and climate change continued to worsen, the green has grayed — and youthful optimism has been replaced by a sense of hopelessness and depression in more recent generations. Well, don't despair!

Our community cleanup volunteers report that nothing helps clear up the blues better than going 'green' and taking local action. Don't fret over the problem: Do something about it!

The Green Team wants to bring young people into our shared activities to clean and beautify Richmond / El Sobrante and environs. That's why we're so excited to see more and more families, students and scouts join our regular monthly cleanups and special cleanup events. This was especially clear on Earth Day, when more than 130 volunteers from the 94803 El Sobrante area came out to help. Many of these were families with small children. That's the perfect age to instill a sense of responsibility, purpose and hope.

Our strategy is to interact with schools and plant seeds of integrity and community pride to inspire upcoming generations. The problem is that, in this era of fear, school shootings and intolerance, campuses are more insular and less open to allowing outsiders on campuses. The solution is for parents, siblings, boosters,



Earth Day volunteers.

Photo: Ed Shelden

clubs and school support groups to take a more active role. Help get word out at schools, hand out info and otherwise get more youngsters started on a life of caring about and cleaning up our planet! Make stewardship part of the curriculum or a focus of campus activities. Give students extra-credit to clean up on campus or around Murphy, Olinda, Sheldon, Valley View and elementary, Crespi Middle School, De Anza High, etc. What would you like to see? The possibilities are endless.

We hope the readers of this newsletter will take this task to heart and help our outreach. Are you a student, teacher, administrator, parent or older sibling who wants to make a difference in the lives and futures of young people? If so, we want to hear from you to help with ideas on how to make this happen. If you can help, please contact Mikki Norris, info@keepelsobrantebeautiful.info or call 510-215-8326. Much more info is online at KeepElSobranteBeautiful.info.

Join our Third Saturday cleanup from 10 AM to noon any month, at ES Library, 4191 Appian Way. We have your vest, bag, buckets and grabber and a list of places to clean up.

Thank you, Earth Day sponsors! Thanks to everyone who provided drinks, food, publicity or money for our April 22 Earth Day event, and to the library staff. Special thanks to all the caring volunteers who did their part to make El Sobrante a cleaner place for all to enjoy.

FREE Cleanup postcards are available from us for businesses to provide as a free public service to your customers. It promotes our Third Saturday Cleanups, with a list of the area's disposal resources and free services.

THIRD SATURDAY
MONTHLY LITTER CLEANUP
El Sobrante / Richmond 94803
Every Month • 10 AM – Noon • Fun & Free
Meet up at ES Public Library, 4191 Appian Way



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El Sobrante / 94803 Green Team

**JOIN
US!**

