

Volunteers Sought for Moke River Cleanup

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Posted by Mayra Jimenez
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On Saturday, Sept. 17, people who care about the Mokelumne River will gather at six sites, from Pioneer to Clements, for the 2011 Mokelumne River Cleanup.

“People who participate in the Mokelumne River Cleanup have a great time while they do something good for our local river,” said Randy Berg, Foothill Conservancy coordinator for the 2011 Mokelumne River Cleanup. “For the third year in a row, we’ll be joining volunteers across the Sierra as part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup and people all over the state taking part in the California Coastal Cleanup.”

Mokelumne participants will work along the river’s banks, in the river, and on Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs removing trash accumulated through the summer months. Previous cleanups over the last 20 years have cumulatively removed tons of trash and recyclables. The cleanup benefits wildlife and water quality, while keeping the river a beautiful place to visit.

Participants must register in advance.

The event will be held at six locations: the Highway 26 North Fork Mokelumne crossing, Electra Road, the Middle Bar area, Pardee Reservoir, Camanche Reservoir, and the lower Mokelumne from the Mokelumne Day Use area downstream to Stillman McGee Park.

Volunteers should register as follows:

- For the Electra and Highway 26 sites, sign up online at www.foothillconservancy.org or call Randy Berg at 295-4900. These sites will offer a special prize for the weirdest trash find and the chance to win other prizes.
- For the Middle Bar site, Pardee Reservoir site, Camanche Reservoir site, and the Mokelumne Day Use Area below Camanche downstream to Stillman McGee Park, sign up online at www.ebmud.com/recreation or contact EBMUD’s David Johnson at johnsond@ebmud.com.

Volunteers should wear long pants and sturdy boots and bring along work gloves, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, a water bottle and a bag lunch, unless they plan to participate in a free, post-cleanup barbecue for volunteers at Camanche South Shore. Water and snacks will be provided.

Flotation devices are recommended for those working close to the river's edge. Properly equipped paddlers are welcome to help from the river at the Electra, Middle Bar, and possibly other sites (ask when registering). No pets or alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

Volunteers under 18 are welcome, if accompanied by responsible adults. Minors must have their liability releases signed by a parent or legal guardian. Copies of the liability release for the Electra and Highway 26 sites will be sent to volunteers when they have registered, or can be obtained from the Foothill Conservancy office.

Groups are welcome to participate; call in advance for information.

This year's Mokelumne River Cleanup sponsors are the Foothill Conservancy, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council, Mokelumne River Outfitters, Pardee Lake Recreation and Camanche Recreation Company.

Business sponsors include ACES Waste Services, California Waste Recovery Systems, New York Fitness, Jackson Rancheria, George Reed Inc., 7-11 Materials, Jackson Signs, Martell Safeway, Pine Grove Market, Star Donuts and Munnerlyn's Ice Creamery.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup is sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

For more information, contact Randy Berg at 295-4900, email randy@foothillconservancy.org or visit www.foothillconservancy.org.