

Clean Waters Challenge to take place August 5-7

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Bearcub Outfitters are returning with the third annual Clean Waters Challenge, August 5 -7. This shoreline and river/stream-bed cleanup offers the opportunity to keep our waters clean and healthy. There are great prizes from Bearcub Outfitters for participants to win, such as Keen shoes, a Bearcub Outfitters gift certificate, and a Patagonia Black Hole duffel bag, among others. While the challenge begins August 5, the two organizations are hosting a kickoff event on Saturday, August 6, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Petoskey's Pennsylvania Park, with snacks and registration for the challenge. Residents and visitors alike can register at www.watershedcouncil.org/clean-waters-challenge, find a priority area for clean-up, and learn more about the challenge and our beautiful waters.

Northern Michigan's waters are a huge draw for the area. People flock to the blue depths of Lake Michigan, or swim and boat our inland lakes. There are great fishing and swimming holes, springs gushing from hill-

sides, golden-sand beaches, and opportunities to make memories to last a lifetime. However, an abundance of water recreation can take its toll on our resources. The Clean Waters Challenge was born to help clean and beautify our shorelines and to reward folks who keep our waters clean and healthy.

To enter the challenge, individuals and groups can register and fill out a waiver at www.watershedcouncil.org/clean-waters-challenge. Each individual of a group must be registered to take part in the challenge. Pick an area or areas to clean up,

and head out between August 5 and August 7 with gloves, trash bags, and other equipment as needed. Make sure to read our safety instructions on the website before heading to your site. Pick up trash along lakeshores and stream and river banks, bag it, and dispose of the waste at an appropriate facility.

To enter the prize drawings, take pictures of yourself or your crew picking up trash during the challenge. Post your pics on Facebook or Instagram, tag Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Bearcub Outfitters, and use the hashtag #cleanwater-

challenge2022 in the post. The cutoff to post a photo is 8 p.m., August 7, 2022. Prize drawings will occur throughout the three-day challenge, with one prize per registered individual.

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