




Annual St. Pete Ocean Sweep Trash Collection Tournament 2026 – Official Rules




 **Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026

 **Location:** Harborage Marina - High & Dry, St. Petersburg, FL

 **Register Online Here!**

Join us for the **Annual St. Pete Ocean Sweep Trash Collection Tournament**, where volunteers and teams unite to clean up our waterways and coastlines while competing for exciting prizes! **Proceeds benefit Water Warrior Alliance's 501(c)(3) initiatives.**

♦ **Tournament Divisions & Participation**

-  **Waterborne Teams** – Divers, snorkelers, kayakers, and boaters clean the waters.
 -  **Shoreside Teams** – Volunteers tackle pollution in parks, streets, and coastal areas.
 -  **Youth Division** – Young eco-warriors compete in a special category.
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Tournament Schedule


Thursday, April 23, 2026

 **6:00 PM - 7:00 PM** – In-Person (Held at Big Catch) or Virtual Participant Meeting (Mandatory for 1 team captain/diver)

 Covers event logistics, safety guidelines, and cleanup questions.


Saturday, April 25, 2026

 **7:00 AM (First Light)** – Cleanup begins across Pinellas County & surrounding areas.

 **12:00 PM** – Event opens to the public (Check-in, sponsor booths, eco-activities).

 **1:00 PM - 2:30 PM** – Trash Weigh-In (Sorting & awards categories).

 **1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** – Free Lunch for all volunteers & teams.

 **1:00PM - 3:00PM** – Public Art Activity & Youth Activism: Vision to Voice Art Contest

 **3:30 PM** – Awards Ceremony (Trophies for top teams) & Art Contest Winners

 **4:30 PM** – Closing Remarks.




Join the **St. Pete Ocean Sweep 2026** and help make a difference!

  **Let's turn the tide on pollution—together!**






Tournament Categories & Awards

Waterborne Teams:

-  **Total Weight (1st & 2nd place)** – Determined by total pounds collected.
-  **Most Unique Item (1st & 2nd place)** – Chosen by weigh-in team judges.
-  **Specialty Category – Anchors (1st & 2nd place)** – Based on the number of anchors collected.


Shoreside Teams:

-  **Total Weight (1st & 2nd place)** – Determined by total pounds collected.
-  **Most Unique Item (1st & 2nd place)** – Chosen by weigh-in team judges.
-  **Specialty Category – 7 Types of Plastics Challenge (1st & 2nd place)** – See detailed rules below.

Youth Division:

 **1st place – Waterborne**


 **1st place – Shoreside**

 **2nd place – Waterborne**

 **2nd place – Shoreside**


 **Total Weight** – Determined by total pounds collected.

 **Most Unique Item** – Chosen by weigh-in team judges.

 **Shoreside Specialty Category – 7 Types of Plastics Challenge** – See detailed rules below. Or **Waterborne Specialty Category – Anchors** – Based on the number of anchors collected.

Weigh-In & Cleanup Guidelines

 **Location:** Harborage Marina - High & Dry

 **Weigh-In Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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⚠ Rules for Weigh-In & Categories:

- ✓ **Weight Categories:** Determined by total pounds (lbs) collected.
 - ✓ **Anchors Category:** Counted by total number collected. *(If entangled with other debris and unable to separate, judges will make a fair assessment.)*
 - ✓ **Most Unique Item:** Selected by weigh-in team judges.
 - ✓ **Separation of Trash:** Teams entering multiple categories must separate items before weigh-in (if possible).
 - ✓ **Each team may enter up to TWO categories:** (1) **Total Weight** + either **Most Unique Item** OR a **Specialty Category** (Anchors or 7 Types of Plastics Challenge).
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◆ **Shoreside – 7 Types of Plastics Challenge Rules**

✓ **Participants must collect and separate all seven types of plastic:**

- **PET (#1) – Water bottles, soda bottles**
- **HDPE (#2) – Milk jugs, detergent bottles**
- **PVC (#3) – Pipes, some food packaging**
- **LDPE (#4) – Plastic bags, wrap**
- **PP (#5) – Bottle caps, straws, takeout containers**
- **PS (#6) – Styrofoam cups, food containers**
- **Other (#7) – Miscellaneous plastics**

- ✓ **Winning Criteria:** The team with the highest quantity of the least-collected plastic type wins.
 - ✓ **Example:** If a team collects 10 PET (#1) bottles but only 4 PVC (#3) plastics, their final score is $4 \times 7 = 28$ points. The team with the highest total wins.
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◆ **Waterborne – Anchors Challenge Rules**

- ✓ **All anchors must be accounted for during weigh-in to qualify.**
 - ✓ **If entangled with other debris and separation is not possible, judges will assess accordingly.**
 - ✓ **Only anchors collected during the cleanup count toward the challenge.**
 - ✓ **All trash must be sorted before weighing (when feasible).**
 - ✓ **Teams must arrive by 2:30 PM for weigh-in to qualify.**
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Prohibited Items

To protect our environment and ensure safety, **the following items must NOT be removed or handled:**

-  **Do not disturb** natural vegetation, wildlife, or live marine organisms.
 -  **Any hazardous materials** (oil barrels, chemicals, medical waste, etc.) should be **reported to event staff immediately** and left undisturbed.
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Tournament Rules & Disqualification Policy

- 1 **Waivers:** All participants (18+) must sign a waiver; minors require a parent/guardian signature.
- 2 **Boat Safety:** All boats must comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and have proper safety gear, first aid kits, and VHF radios (Channel 7).
- 3 **Debris Handling:** Teams are responsible for unloading and weighing debris at the designated station.
- 4 **Eligibility:** Only trash collected from **public areas** counts toward weigh-ins. **Personal trash will result in disqualification.**
- 5 **Ethics:** Suspect trash, unsportsmanlike conduct, or rule violations may **lead to disqualification** at the discretion of event officials.
- 6 **Weather:** The tournament is **rain or shine**. There is **no backup date** in case of inclement weather.
- 7 **Media Use:** By participating, contestants grant permission for their name and likeness to be used in event promotions.
- 8 **Weigh-In Deadline:** Teams must **arrive for weigh-in by 2:30 PM sharp**. **Late arrivals will be disqualified.**

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 **Disqualification Notice:** Any disputes will be reviewed by the tournament committee. All participants are expected to accept decisions with respect and sportsmanship.

 **Tournament Experience – Team Up, Clean Up, Win Prizes!**

- ✓ **Team up, sign up, and make a plan:** Choose your cleanup location (land or water), decide on your vessel, and determine if you will be scuba diving.
 - ✓ **Download PhotoCircle** to document your cleanup and share photos.
 - ✓ **Clean up, document, and share your impact on social media.**
 - ✓ **Head to Harborage Marina- High & Dry (1500 2nd St S, St. Pete , FL 33701)** to weigh in
 - ✓ **Enjoy a free lunch provided by Big Catch and drinks from Tito's Handmade Vodka and 3 Daughters Brewery.**
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 **Questions?**

 **Email:** wwa.trashtournaments@gmail.com

 **Contact:** Jenna Byrne at 727-303-9987

 **Follow Us:**

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