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## Surfrider Foundation FAQ

### When and where were you founded?

The Surfrider Foundation was founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California. 2014 marked the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### What is the Surfrider Foundation?

The Surfrider Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Today, the organization is measurably stronger, with more force and movement than ever before. It has 84 chapters, plus 30 high school and college clubs, and more than 250,000 supporters, volunteers and activists around the country.

### What does the Surfrider Foundation do?

The Surfrider Foundation's chapter volunteers focus their efforts on issues in coastal communities, where the land meets the sea. Issues include pollution and water contamination, irresponsible coastal development, coastal erosion, loss of beach access and threats to healthy oceans. While Surfrider is currently involved in more than a 100 active campaigns at the local, state and national levels, the size and impact of each varies and can endure for years. Armed with a model to defend the coast, it has achieved more than 300 coastal victories (and counting) since 2006.

### What is the structure of the foundation?

The Surfrider Foundation's Global Headquarters is located in San Clemente, Calif. In 2005, the organization started placing staff regionally in Wash., Ore., Calif., HI, the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Fla. Currently, there are more than 40 staff working to assist the grassroots chapters and membership. Our chapters are all volunteer-based as is our 15-member Board of Directors.

Key leaders within the Surfrider Foundation include:

- Dr. Chad Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer
- Michelle Kremer, Esq., Chief Operating Officer
- Angela Howe, Esq., Legal Director
- Nancy Eiring, Director of Marketing and Engagement
- Edward Mazarrella, Director of Chapters
- Steve Blank, Director of Development
- Peter Stauffer, Environmental Director
- Jeff San Marco, Director of Information Technology

### How are you funded?

The majority of Surfrider Foundation's funding is generated from individual membership dues, corporate contributions, grants and private donations.

### Is Surfrider Foundation only active in the United States?

No. The Surfrider Foundation boasts a powerful network of more than 250,000 supporters, activists and members, in 84 grassroots chapters in the U.S. and a handful of international affiliates in South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

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### [Do you have to be a surfer to join?](#)

No. Our membership is quite diverse and includes ocean lovers of all kinds, including: surfers, windsurfers, body boarders, stand-up paddle boarders, surf fishers, kayakers and coastal recreationists.

### [I don't live near a local chapter. Are there still ways for me to help?](#)

There are many small things we can do in our everyday lives to help protect the world's oceans, waves and beaches such as: cleaning up after your pets, picking up trash when you go to the beach, eliminating your use of single-use plastics, and planting drought resistant plants.

### [What are some of your annual events?](#)

The Surfrider Foundation hosts several annual events with the goal of raising awareness about the state of our oceans, waves and beaches.

- World Water Day, March 22, founded in 1993 by the United Nations, is a global observance that highlights the need for care and management of our world's water resources. The Surfrider Foundation celebrates World Water Day to help educate and drive awareness and support for the organization's various clean water campaigns and programs.
- April 22 is Earth Day, and the Surfrider Foundation celebrates with month-long promotions around protecting what we love most – our ocean waves and beaches.
- International Surfing Day was founded on June 20, 2005 by the Surfrider Foundation and *Surfing Magazine*. It is the one day a year where surfers from around the globe come together to celebrate the sport of surfing and pitch in to give back to Mother Ocean.
- Rise Above Plastics Month in October is a month long initiative to raise awareness about the harms of single-use plastics in our marine and coastal environments. Throughout the month, the Surfrider Foundation hosts a variety of activations, special contests and membership offerings.

### [What is your tax ID number?](#)

The Surfrider Foundation's tax ID number is 95-3941826.

### [How do I get involved?](#)

Visit [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org) to become a member and find a chapter near you.