



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Save Our Shores Recruits Community Members to Become Sanctuary Stewards**

**(December 19, 2011) Santa Cruz, CA** – For the benefit of the marine environment, [Save Our Shores](#) (SOS), the leader in ocean awareness and advocacy on the Central Coast, is looking for the next class of local leaders to join the **2012 Sanctuary Steward Program**. Sanctuary Stewards are the core volunteer force of Save Our Shores, each one of them instrumental in advancing ocean conservation work in the communities surrounding Monterey Bay.

The Sanctuary Steward training course begins in Santa Cruz on February 21, and continues on Tuesday evening through April 10. The course includes presentations from local experts on the ecology of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, sustainable fisheries, plastic pollution, clean boating, ocean policy and advocacy. Stewards also receive hands-on training in classroom and outdoor event leadership with the staff of Save Our Shores. An alternate training based in Monterey will be held in April and May.

Following the training, Stewards will take the lead on Save Our Shores' beach and river cleanups, as well as have numerous opportunities to educate, advocate, and share their skills. Those looking for opportunities to make a difference in ocean conservation are encouraged to apply to the 2012 Sanctuary Steward Program.

"The Sanctuary Stewards Program is your chance to make a difference for the ocean and your community. Get educated, get trained, and get busy as a volunteer leader for the environment with Save Our Shores in 2012," says Andrew Hoeksema, coordinator of volunteer programs at Save Our Shores.

"I had three goals for the summer of 2011: do something that would benefit my local community, be outdoors as much as possible, and hopefully learn something in the process. The Save Our Shores Sanctuary Steward program allowed me to achieve all three," said Curtis Luckado, 2011 Sanctuary Steward.

For more information contact Andrew Hoeksema, Coordinator of Volunteer Programs at SOS at 831.462.5660 ext. 3 or [volunteer@saveourshores.org](mailto:volunteer@saveourshores.org). Information and applications can be found online at: <http://saveourshores.org/volunteer/sanctuary-stewards.php>

#### **About Save Our Shores:**

Save Our Shores is the Central Coast leader in caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action. Our core initiatives are Plastic Pollution, Clean Boating, and Ocean Awareness. Over the last 30 years, Save Our Shores helped to establish the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, prevent offshore oil drilling and cruise ship pollution, and today focuses on educating youth about our local watersheds, tackling pollution on our beaches and rivers, implementing our renowned DockWalker program, and providing our community with educated and inspired Sanctuary Stewards. For more information visit: [www.saveourshores.org](http://www.saveourshores.org).

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*Caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action.*