



Media Alert/Photo Opportunity:

Broward nonprofits team up to tackle shoreline restoration with Project ROC

Youth Environmental Alliance, HandsOn Broward to educate youth about environmental stewardship

Three Broward-area nonprofits are teaming up to tackle the issue of critically-eroded shorelines by educating and activating 1,000 youth and adults in habitat protection education and restoration. Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA) and HandsOn Broward (HOB), with partner South Florida Audubon Society (SFAS), will host **eight beach restoration events in 2017-18**.

Journalists and members of the press are invited to attend these restoration projects, shoot photo and video, and interview volunteers and project participants. Complete details about the project are outlined below.

Who:

Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA) and HandsOn Broward (HOB), with additional partner, South Florida Audubon Society (SFAS).

What:

Youth Environmental Alliance, in collaboration with HandsOn Broward and the South Florida Audubon Society, has received a grant of \$61,000 from the Community Foundation of Broward to continue Project ROC!, a community-based coastal reclamation and education program.

This program has been made possible by support from the following Community Foundation of Broward Funds: Jan Moran Unrestricted Fund, Kathleen Kinney Slappey Fund, Mary N. Porter Community Impact Fund and Kiwanis Club of Fort Lauderdale.

Where:

Project ROC events will take place:

October 24, 2017	February 24, 2018
November 18, 2017	March 17, 2018
December 9, 2017	May 21, 2018
January 28, 2018	

Volunteers will *remove exotic plants* or *replant sea oats and other native plants* along the Broward County coastline as vital part of the solution to restore the dune ecosystem which provides a variety of economic and direct benefits to all residents of Broward County as well as wildlife.

Coastal reclamation sites and dates will be announced at www.YEAfrog.org/events and at www.handsonbroward.org/projectROC.

Details:

Through Project ROC!, Youth Environmental Alliance and HandsOn Broward will tackle the issue of critically-eroded shorelines by educating and activating 1,000 youth and adults in environmental stewardship and habitat protection. Participants will help reverse coastal habitat loss and improve coastal resiliency at eight Broward County sites by cleaning up beaches, removing invasive plants, and installing native plants that discourage beach erosion while providing habitat for sea turtle nesting, food for pollinators, and way-stations for migratory birds. Participants also will have the opportunity to train as Project Leaders who will mobilize volunteers at each site.

This dynamic partnership combines Youth Environmental Alliance's extensive education and coastal restoration knowledge and experience with HandsOn Broward's proven volunteer mobilization and leadership training. To round out this collaboration, HandsOn Broward and Youth Environmental Alliance also have partnered with the South Florida Audubon Society. The South Florida Audubon Society will advocate for the project to help facilitate restoration implementation in local municipalities and at coastal properties through informative talks about project ROC and the importance of dunes as they impact Sea Turtles.

About Youth Environmental Alliance:

Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA) is a South Florida based 501 C3 nonprofit, whose mission is to deliver education programs and facilitate participation in environmental activities to diverse persons of all abilities. YEA is committed to providing opportunities for youth and their families, adult groups and corporate teams to reconnect them to Florida's outdoor activities while fostering environmental stewardship and a lifelong respect for our planet's future.

About HandsOn Broward:

Founded in 1974, HandsOn Broward inspires, equips, and mobilizes people of all ages to take action to effect positive change in Broward County. We activate thousands of individuals each year to revitalize schools, parks, playgrounds, nonprofits and neighborhoods. Our volunteers create art in public spaces, build sustainable gardens, teach financial literacy, respond to disasters and work to protect the environment. Opportunities to make an impact are available year-round on a daily basis. To volunteer for Project ROC! or to learn more about HandsOn Broward's upcoming service opportunities, please visit www.HandsOnBroward.org or call 954.233.1300.

About South Florida Audubon Society:

South Florida Audubon Society (SFAS) is one of the 45 chapters of Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society, Inc. SFAS provides a wide range of services to members and the general public including: field trips for watching birds and enjoying nature; local, regional, and national events like the Christmas Bird Count, and the Great Backyard Bird Count); environmental education programs; local and regional environmental and conservation advocacy.

About Community Foundation of Broward:

Founded in 1984, Community Foundation of Broward helps families, individuals, and corporations create personalized charitable Funds that deliver game-changing philanthropic impact. We provide leadership on community solutions, and foster philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. Our 450 charitable Funds represent \$180 million in assets and have distributed \$96 million to help Broward BE GREATER. For more information about the Community Foundation of Broward, visit www.cfbroward.org or call 954.761.9503. Connect at #cfbroward @cfbroward.

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