

# Wyandanch

Community Advisory Board

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## Girl Scouts Make a SPLASH with Beach Cleanup Initiative

*In Spring 2022, Troop 518 took strides in local climate action with Operation SPLASH.*



Wyandanch Girl Scout Troop 518 rides a boat to shore to start picking up litter!  
From left to right: Kaida, Naomi, Jada, and Iyana.

Girl scouts Iyana Carpenter and Naomi St. Louis explain that Operation Stop Polluting And Save Harbors (SPLASH) is an organization dedicated to refining the qualities of Long Island beaches and all South Shore waterways.<sup>1</sup> In this issue, Iyana and Naomi reflect on their educational experience with Operation SPLASH and the importance of taking care of our environment for humans *and* wildlife.

Operation SPLASH was founded by Joanne Grover, who started cleaning Freeport beaches in 1990 with the intention of making a difference in the world. As of today, Operation SPLASH has collected 3 million pounds of trash and has made headway in positive legislation such as the NYS Spill Bill, which aims to protect the public from the "release of hazardous substances into the environment."<sup>2</sup>

Write to us at: EditorsNewsletterCAB@gmail.com

# Save Marine Animals From Pollution

- Naomi St. Louis, Girl Scout Troop 518



**A**t the beginning of this wonderful experience with Operation SPLASH, my group and I watched a short film about a baby sperm whale named Inky. When Inky was only six months old, Inky ingested a plastic shopping bag. Inky had to undergo a procedure to remove the plastic bag from her. After Inky's surgery, she was in rehab for a few weeks. After the rehab, Operation SPLASH let Inky go back to her family. Inky has made a full recovery and she is doing great today.

Often, marine animals ingest or become entangled in plastic pollution, and so many get hurt. What I have learned is that people need to stop polluting the earth. **We need to keep our waters free of any harmful materials that will have a negative impact on our environment.**

After this video, my troop and I proceeded to head out on a boat to one of our local beaches to help clean up. You would be surprised to see how much trash was collected from the beach. Please help save animals like Inky from pollution.

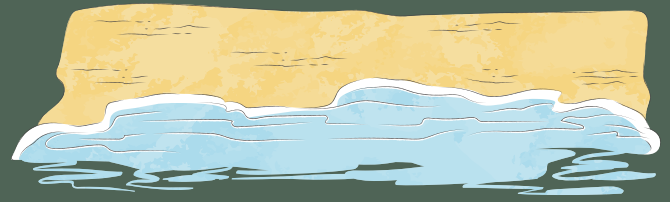
Troop 518 poses with Operation SPLASH after cleanup!





# Shore Cleanup!

- Iyana Carpenter, Senior Girl Scout Troop 518



**A**fter learning about Operation SPLASH's mission, we rode a boat to the shore and began picking up trash. I loved riding the boat - it was so much fun! While cleaning, I found lots of things that shouldn't even be on the shore in the first place! I found many water bottle caps, plastic bags, and lots of other disgusting and strange items that are very dangerous to the animals living in the area. This trash can disturb the ecosystem in the ocean as well. **Whenever you go to a beach or bay please be aware of what you bring there and always clean up after yourselves!**

When we finished, it was incredible to look at the impact I made on the environment and ecosystem. Learning that such small actions, like picking up a few pieces of garbage, can completely change someone or something's life made me feel proud and accomplished with what I did that day with my troop.



Troop 518 picks up litter. Even seemingly small actions can make a difference.



Iyana's horseshoe crab shell!

On the bright side, I found the shell of a horseshoe crab and kept it as a souvenir! My troop and I went for pizza after cleaning up the shore and talked about weird or unique pieces of trash we collected, like my horseshoe crab shell.

It is so important to continue taking care of our environment because if we don't, it will affect everyone eventually whether we like it or not.

**If we really care about our future, we need to normalize taking care of our Earth. This should be normalized everywhere if we really care about our future.**

## External Links

1. <https://www.operationsplash.com/>
2. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/about/community-right-to-know/hazmat-spill-bill-law-and-regulations.pdf>

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