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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. 2011 marks the organization's 27th anniversary.

What is the Surfrider Foundation?

The Surfrider Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches. Founded by surfers, the organization has grown to include a diverse group of ocean and beach enthusiasts.

What does the Surfrider Foundation do?

The Surfrider Foundation's grassroots chapters focus their campaigns on the coastal zone, where the land meets the sea. They work on Beach Access, Coastal Preservation, Water Quality and Special Place Protection.

What is the structure of the foundation?

The Surfrider Foundation's Global Headquarters is located in San Clemente, California. There are 38 paid staff that work 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:

- Jim Moriarty, CEO
- Michelle Kremer, Esq., COO
- Chad Nelsen, Environmental Director
- Edward Mazarella, Director of Chapters
- Steve Blank, Director of Development
- Matt McClain, Director of Marketing & Communications

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 over 60,000 members and 100 grassroots chapters worldwide including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The United States is home to 80 chapters.

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.

- International Surfing Day – June 20 – hosted by Surfrider and Surfing Magazine, International Surfing Day 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.
- Celebrity Expression Session – Early September – an annual fundraiser designed to raise ocean awareness, Celebrity Expression Session features celebrities competing against one another in a free-surf format at the world-famous Surfrider Beach in Malibu, CA.

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

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

[How do I get involved?](#)

Visit www.surfrider.org to become a member and find a chapter near you.