

Blue Flag is one of 5 programs offered by the Foundation for Environmental Education. It is an annual eco-award for beaches, marinas, and tourism operators which has been operating for over 30 years.

Blue Flag operates in
50 countries
and has awarded
over **4600** sites

Beaches must comply with 33 criteria focused on sustainable growth in four areas:

- Environmental Education and Information
- Water Quality
- Environmental Management
- Safety and Services

ASBPA

Blue Flag USA is operated by American Shore and Beach Preservation Association. Founded in 1926, ASBPA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that advocates for healthy coastlines by promoting the integration of science policies and actions that maintain, protect, and enhance the coasts of America. We bring together coastal communities, industry, academics and individuals on the four US coasts - Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, and Great Lakes.

Contact Us

blueflagusa@asbpa.org
asbpa.org



Blue Flag USA

*Promoting
sustainable
development
through
environmental
education*



Environmental Education and Information

The Blue Flag program focuses on providing visitors with environmental education and information through an information board at sites, opportunities to engage in educational activities, maps with easily identifiable services, highlights on local ecosystems, and a code of conduct.



Safety and Services

Safety and services at Blue Flag beaches are just one more way communities distinguish themselves.

Beaches must have appropriate public safety control measures for the number of visitors and risks at their beaches. First aid must be available at the beach. Emergency plans must be in place. Management of different types of beach use must be in place to reduce accidents. The public must have free access to the beach and should have access to drinking water nearby. Finally, at least one beach in a municipality should have access and facilities for those with limited abilities.



Water Quality

The water quality at Blue Flag beaches is expected to be excellent. Beaches are required to post water sampling results at the beach. Samples are taken for two Fecal Indicator Bacteria commonly associated with illness at high concentrations. Beaches must compile a profile identifying potential pollution sources and cyanobacteria (Harmful Algal Bloom) formation. Additionally, recreational waters should have no smell, oil film, or floatables.



Environmental Management

Management practices at beaches are just as important as excellent water quality. These criteria highlight the everyday actions managers engage in to provide a clean recreation space and preserve the local habitat.

Operations and facilities on the beach should meet all national regulations and be maintained regularly. Sensitive environmental areas and species on land and at sea should be managed appropriately. Beaches and facilities must be clean, have adequate numbers of trash cans, recycling bins, and restroom facilities. Activities such as camping, driving, or dumping at the beach are prohibited. Domestic animals are restricted to parking areas and walkways. Communities should also promote sustainable means of transportation in the area.

