

She's only 10 and already making a big difference in cleaning up the beaches

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Image 1. Sasha Olsen, 10 years old, during a January beach cleanup at Bal Harbour, Florida, that she organized through the nonprofit Iwantmyoceanback she created with her cousin. Photo: Iwantmyoceanback/TNS

Sasha Olsen went on a trip with her family. They went to Japan. They also went to Vietnam. Both countries are in East Asia. They went to some beaches. She was upset by pollution in the ocean.

"We went on this trip and I was so excited," said Sasha. She is 10 years old. She lives in Bal Harbour, Florida. "But when I saw the way the oceans had become I got upset."

Water Was Not Clean

Back at home, she got more worried. Some of the beaches in Florida were closed by the health department. The water was not clean.

Sasha asked for help from her cousin, Narmina Aliyev. Ms. Aliyev is 23 years old. They started a group to help. It is called Iwantmyoceanback.

The group started small. Friends got together to clean up beaches in Bal Harbour.

Now the group holds events. There are meetings to make money. The money will help clean up beaches. It will help other groups that protect the ocean, too, Ms. Aliyev said.

Sasha held "Kids Heal the Oceans" at Bal Harbour Beach. She talked about the oceans' problems. People picked up plastic off the beach. Then they made art out of it.



Making Art From Plastic

On February 16, the group had a party. The party had a beach cleanup. Then guests made art from the plastic they found.

Sasha is working on a book with her sister, Mia. Mia is 2 years old. Sasha wanted to show how the oceans affect children.

They are scared to go into the water sometimes, said Sasha. It is not always safe, she said.

The group is working online, too.

YouTube Channel

Sasha started a YouTube channel online. She shares videos. She started a show called "Table Talks." In it, she talks to people about the oceans.

After the talk, she and her guest will make a painting. Then the group will sell it.

Jencarlos Canela is a singer and TV star. He was on Sasha's show.

Mr. Canela wrote about it online. He thanked her for working to keep the oceans clean. "You are so special and very talented!"

Sasha and Ms. Aliyev hope to do more. They want to clean up more places.

Quiz

- 1 Where is Sasha Olsen from?
- (A) Japan
 - (B) Vietnam
 - (C) Florida
 - (D) East Asia
- 2 What detail in the article shows how Iwantmyoceanback is fighting pollution?
- (A) "But when I saw the way the oceans had become I got upset."
 - (B) They started a group to help. It is called Iwantmyoceanback.
 - (C) Now the group holds events. There are meetings to make money. The money will help clean up beaches.
 - (D) Sasha started a YouTube channel online. She shares videos. She started a show called "Table Talks."
- 3 Why did Sasha Olsen start the group Iwantmyoceanback?
- (A) She was upset by a video about pollution she saw on YouTube.
 - (B) She was upset by ocean pollution she saw in Asia and near her home.
 - (C) She got the idea from her older cousin Narmina Aliyev.
 - (D) She was talked into it by TV star Jencarlos Canela.
- 4 Why did Sasha Olsen start a show called "Table Talks"?
- (A) to talk to others about the oceans and sea animals
 - (B) to talk to some of her favorite singers and TV stars
 - (C) to help make money for another family trip to East Asia
 - (D) to help get people to clean up beaches in East Asia