



Brown Girl Surf Summer 2018 Newsletter

Dear Brown Girl Surf Community,

Thanks to you, our Spring season was amazing!! Now that we are gearing up for the summer, we are excited to share with you:

- 1) Upcoming events
- 2) Team updates
- 3) Spring highlights
- 4) Media coverage
- 5) Organizational needs

Upcoming events

We are bringing back our youth Surf Sister Summer Camp! Build ocean confidence, learn to surf, and explore the marine environment in a supportive, girl-centered environment. All equipment, wetsuits, and lunch are provided, as well as transportation from Oakland! Registration is on a sliding scale. Can't swim? We'll provide a safe and supported environment for you to be in the ocean. All four sessions are open to girls ages 12-19. Session 3 is also open to girls ages 9-11. Sign up today to secure your spot!



Photo from Summer Camp 2016

2018 Surf Sister Summer Camp sessions:

- 1) July 10-12. Register [here!](#)
- 2) July 17-19 – Register [here!](#)
- 3) July 31 - Aug. 2 – Register [here!](#)
- 4) Aug. 7-9 – Register [here!](#)

Team updates

Mira gave birth to two healthy babies, Hanu and Bhumi, at the end of March! Everyone's doing well, and Mira is so grateful for all the support she's received from the community. She sends her love to the Brown Girl Surf family!

We're also excited to welcome Kristi as the Summer Programs Coordinator for this year. Kristi has been a volunteer with us since Spring 2017 and was also the Communications and Registration Coordinator last year. Kristi will be helping Marley and Maya run the Youth Summer Camp.



Hanu (L) and Bhumi (R)



Mira voting with two babies in tow!



Kristi

Two of our community members who hold advisory roles, Farhana and Jana, are leaving the Bay Area. Farhana is the founder of Brown Girl Surf, which she started in 2011 as a social change movement. She now runs Surf Life Executive Coaching. She is moving to London for a year to spend time with extended family, travel, and surf, while continuing to coach remotely.

Jana has been an incredibly devoted volunteer since 2016. As a Rising Leader mentor, she has taken girls on independent surf excursions and other field trips on a regular basis. Jana is going to Johns Hopkins to get a Master of Public Health degree. We will miss both Farhana and Jana dearly, but are excited for their new adventures!

Speaking of degrees, congratulations to Rebecca, who has obtained her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley this summer! Rebecca was the first Brown Girl Surf volunteer, is a Rising Leader mentor, and is on the Brown Girl Surf advisory board. Rebecca is also the founder of [Queers Makin' Beers](#), a non-profit community partner of Brown Girl Surf.

Spring highlights

Surf Sister Saturdays: We held five Community Surf Sister Saturdays this spring, with a total of 64 participants and 19 volunteers! We hosted several school groups, including girls from Muir Elementary School, Met West High School, and Skyline High School. We also had some participants who traveled quite a bit to join our community! In addition to participants from all over the SF Bay Area and Sacramento, we had Dana and Jenna from LA, Samiya from Portland, Kai from Cleveland, and Brianna from Atlanta! Our community is growing!



Above: Our First Surf Sister Saturday. Of the 10 brand new participants who had never been to a Brown Girl Surf event before this day, 6 signed up to join us for another surf day or as a future volunteer!





Brown Girl Surf's Spring 2018 Surf Sister Saturdays! Thank you for an amazing season!

Earth Day Fun Day: On April 21, we held our Brown Girl Surf Earth Day Fun Day in collaboration with the Oakland Museum of California's Green Team. It was held at Lake Merritt Channel Park. 19 of our volunteers, intergenerational Rising Leaders, and other members of the Brown Girl Surf community joined us.

Kristi led a group discussion on the organisms that inhabit Lake Merritt and the drainage systems that affect the watershed, using home-made instructional posters. Brown Girl Surf members picked up trash along the channel, removed invasive species, and helped restore native plant species in the estuary. We learned about how Lake Merritt is a tidal estuary connected to the ocean via the San Francisco Bay – driving home the point that taking care of our oceans begins right here, at home in Oakland.



Film screening: Huge thanks to Susan and Jennifer of [Women Sports Film Festival](#), Anne of Sports Basement Berkeley, and film maker Dayla Soul for partnering with Brown Girl Surf to host a screening of [It Ain't Pretty!](#) Several of our new participants said they heard about us through the film screening, so thank you for helping us spread the stoke! Additional thanks to everyone who joined us – through the event, we were able to raise over \$500 to support the programs of Brown Girl Surf!

Media coverage

We received some awesome media coverage in May! The Root joined us for one of our Surf Sister Saturdays and did a piece featuring Shaunti, one of our youth Rising Leaders. The video, which can be seen [here](#), has been viewed over 250,000 times since it came out in late May. Brown Girl Surf was also featured in a [Vice Magazine article](#) about gender equality in the sport of surfing.



Shaunti representing Brown Girl Surf on The Root TV!

Organizational needs

Summer volunteers: We are actively recruiting volunteers for surf instruction and transportation! Whether you are a non-surfer who wants to help drive girls to the beach, a novice surfer, or a skilled shredder, we have a spot for you. Volunteers must be available for at least one of the summer camp sessions, and for a volunteer training session on July 7th. Please contact marley@browngirlsurf.com if you are interested!

Wetsuits: Our wetsuits are getting worn out from a ton of use (a very good problem)!! We need new or used wetsuits - especially smaller sizes for our girls. Please email maya@browngirlsurf.com to arrange a hand-off. Your gift can transform a participant's surf experience!

Over 40% of our operational funds come from individual contributions!

Thank you for being a member of our community. Please help us grow the movement by spreading the word and supporting our work!

Click [here](#) to support the programs of Brown Girl Surf!