

# Coachella Valley Students Take On The Salton Sea

*Students from Palm Desert and Desert Mirage High School to kayak across the Salton Sea with the determination to raise attention to both Federal and State Leaders*

(Salton Sea) - With Covid-19 impacting our lives, a few determined Coachella Valley high school students that realized that once this pandemic has run its course, we will still be faced with the same environmental problems that plagued us before the virus. Students from opposite ends of the valley have joined forces to raise attention to the plight of the Salton Sea and how these issues will affect all valley residents for years to come.

High school seniors from opposite ends of the Coachella Valley; Layton Jones, Evalyn Garcia, and Clayton Jones, have joined forces to take action and raise the awareness of the dilemma confronting the Salton Sea. The Coachella Valley students will kayak across the large body of water. All three students hope to get the attention of federal, state and local leaders.

The Coachella Valley students will begin their kayak adventure in Thermal on Saturday, September 26 at 7:00 am and will hope to finish the five-hour journey at the Salton Sea State Park in North Shore.

Students plan to travel to Washington DC and Sacramento this fall to meet with Secretary Bernhardt and Governor Newsom. The offices of Congressman Ruiz, State Assemblymember Garcia, and Riverside County Board Supervisor Perez have been invited to attend.

## **Departing:**

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020  
Time: 7:00 am  
Location: 600 block of Capri Lane  
Thermal CA

## **Arriving:**

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020  
Est. Time: 1:00 pm  
Location: Salton Sea State Park  
100225 State Park Rd  
Mecca, CA 92254

Contact: Jacqueline Lopez  
760-989-3899

## **Meet the Students**

**Layton Jones**, Palm Desert High School Senior was raised in the west end of the valley (Palm Springs), and has been an intern at Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz's office since she was a freshman in high school. Her duties at the congressman's office included researching environmental problems at the Salton Sea and there negative impacts on valley residents. It was at this time when she developed an interest in raising public awareness with the issues associated with the large body of water.

**Evalyn Garcia**, a high school senior, was raised in the east end of the valley (Thermal), and has worked with the Green Academy, an environmental group that has been focusing on air quality in and around the Salton Sea. Evalyn responsibilities would include collecting air samples throughout the east valley at different times of the day and recording there effect on local residents.

**Clayton Jones**, a high school junior, was also raised in the west end of the valley (Palm Springs), and has an interest in hard science, physics in particular. He too has developed an interest in developing a solution to the issues facing the Salton Sea. He believes that there may be a political answer to the problem but he thinks science will play a big part in overcoming major obstacles.