

Organize Your Own Community Cleanup!



Let's plan it out...



- Get a group of friends together who want to join you!
 - Pick a date and time when you're all free for the cleanup.
- Pick a location! Talk to your school principal or area parks and recreation department for recommendations.
- Figure out what to do with the trash and recycling: Ask if your local trash company will pick up the bags or donate a dumpster, or you can ask an adult with a big car to pick them up.
 - Find a list of materials that can be recycled in your community.
 - Know what can NOT be thrown away and find out where to bring these items (i.e. batteries, paint).

Get the word out!

- Let the community know the time and the place to meet, and how long you intend to stay. Tell your school, community center, place of worship, sports teams, etc.
- Create a sign-up sheet—how many people want to come? Get phone numbers from anyone who wants to join in case plans change.
 - Make a rain plan. If it rains, have a backup time in mind and contact people the night before to let them know if the event is still on.

What you'll need:

- Bags: one color for trash, another for recycling
- Sturdy gloves
- A bucket for sharp items
- Drinking water
- A first aid kit

Everyone should bring:

- Bug spray and sunscreen
- Hats, pants, close-toed shoes
- A bottle of water



Before you start, let everyone know...

- Where is the first aid kit?
- Are there any areas at the site to avoid?
- Pick a buddy! Work with them throughout the cleanup and don't lose sight of them!
- Make a list of items that you should NOT touch (like medical waste, animals) and items that an adult should pick up (anything heavy or large).
- Is everyone dressed appropriately—gloves, close-toed shoes, pants, sunscreen?
- What color bag is for trash vs recycling?

Ready, set, go!

- Have fun and drink lots of water.
- Have someone take a photo of the site before and after the cleaning.

Once You're Done:

- Estimate how much trash you collected at the end of the day—10 bags? 30 bags?
- Let the person in charge of the area know how it went.
- Write a thank you note to any organizations that helped—trash companies, businesses that donated supplies, etc. Include the before and after photos!
- Write up a short summary on the project, including groups that attended, organizations that donated items, the trash company that took your bags, where and when you cleaned, how many bags you collected, and the before and after photos, and send it to your local newspaper—you could get some publicity!
- Celebrate! You've done a great thing!

For more ways to get outside and help the planet, visit

NEEFusa.org

Sources:

www.handsonnetwork.org
www.happynews.com
lancaster.unl.edu

