

Trash Cleanup

Preparation

- Choose accessible sites with visible trash
- Ensure parking and multiple access points
- 90 minute duration for Cub Scouts
- Get permission if necessary
- Be clear on any areas that are restricted
- Make a disposal plan - where are you taking the trash and recyclables and who is doing it?

Supplies needed

- Buckets or bags (if bags, 2-3 bags per person; clear for recycling and opaque for trash)
- Collection buckets for sharps
- Washable gloves or single-use gloves in both child and adult sizes
- Pack coolers with water
- Snacks
- Sun protection and insect repellent
- Pack flag (to post)
- First aid kit and cleaning station
- Fish scale
- Buddy board (for checkin/out)
- Signin sheet

The cleanup tub should have most of these supplies, but not all.

About Scouts Trash the Trash Day

Scouts Trash the Trash Day is an international Messengers of Peace project for Scouts around the world, where each Scout is challenged to bring a friend or family member along and pick up at least one Kilo (2.2 pounds) of trash each on the first Saturday in May.

About Scouting for Clean Waterways

Waterways are the lifeblood of our ecosystems, supporting countless species and providing essential resources for human life. Unfortunately, pollution – especially marine debris like plastic waste – threatens these vital environments. To combat this growing issue, Scouting America has Scouting for Clean Waterways (SCW), a nationwide initiative empowering Scouts to take action in cleaning up rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans while promoting environmental stewardship and community service.

The Event

Have a sign-in/out sheet as well as the buddy board. The sign-in sheet gives total participants plus a list of who earned a badge, and the buddy board helps check if someone's still out there or whether they left early.

The Trash Timeline game (laminated cards and key are in the LNT tub) can be a good gathering or start activity, to provide a clear "why", and you can share about the two scouting initiatives that relate to trash cleanup as well.

Review safety before starting:

- Buddy system with whistles
- Define cleanup boundaries
- Explain recycling sorting method
- Adults handle dangerous materials
- Report hazardous waste
- Water entry requires Safe Swim Defense and/or Safety Afloat
- Take regular breaks

- Sort recyclables (during or after)
- Follow local recycling guidelines
- Track collection data
- Track weight (estimate 10 lbs per bag if you lose the fish scale)
- Take the trash bags to either your house or bulk disposal place
- Report large items to watershed groups like the River Authority
- Log hours in SB
- Share stories on social media/local news, using the hashtag #CleanWaterScouts for Scouting for Clean Waterways