

# Litter Cleanup Tips

## Tools and Safety Equipment

### *Tools that your volunteers will find useful include:*

- ▶ Trash bags
- ▶ 5-gallon buckets (a more sustainable option than using trash bags)
- ▶ Litter pickers
- ▶ Rakes
- ▶ Flat tipped shovels

### *Suggested safety equipment for your cleanup include:*

- ▶ Gloves
- ▶ Traffic vests
- ▶ Cones
- ▶ Roadwork signs (for road side cleanups)

**\*\*Please note that other safety equipment may be needed depending on what you are cleaning and where.**



### ▶ ▶ ▶ DO's ▶ ▶ ▶

#### Group Leader:

- ▶ Conduct a safety talk orientation so volunteers understand how to safely pick-up litter
- ▶ Know emergency procedures, location of nearest emergency facility and how to quickly summon emergency services
- ▶ Have a first aid kit and mobile phone on hand
- ▶ Provide adequate adult supervision if you involve youth groups in litter removal (e.g., at least 1 adult to 8 participants between the ages of 10 - 17)
- ▶ Reconvene each hour to ensure all participants are accounted for, safe & enjoying the cleanup
- ▶ Consider using walkie-talkies as a communication device between groups
- ▶ Arrange a "Thank You" party for all of the volunteers after the cleanup
- ▶ Take BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER pictures to show off your work!

#### Individuals:

- ▶ Wear gloves; thick-soled, closed shoes; long pants; and long-sleeved shirts
- ▶ Wear safety vests or bright colors for roadside cleanups
- ▶ Wear sunscreen and bug repellent
- ▶ Drink plenty of fluids and keep "quick energy foods" on hand
- ▶ Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards (e.g., passing cars, poison ivy, overgrown vegetation)
- ▶ Use the "buddy system" working in teams of two or three to maximize safety
- ▶ Wash hands with antibacterial soap after the cleanup
- ▶ Bag litter to meet local regulations

### ▶ ▶ ▶ DON'Ts ▶ ▶ ▶

#### Group Leader:

- ▶ Don't schedule cleanups during peak pedestrian or traffic hours
- ▶ Don't conduct cleanups during extremely inclement weather (if possible)
- ▶ Don't allow small children to participate in cleanups near major traffic corridors

#### Individuals:

- ▶ Don't pick up hazardous materials like hypodermic needles, sharp objects, condoms, animal carcasses or other questionable items-- Report to Team Leader
- ▶ Don't overstuff bags
- ▶ Don't attempt to move large objects -- call your local fire or police department to report illegal dumping and for instructions on how to proceed
- ▶ Don't bring pets, as they may distract participants or even detract from the cleanup
- ▶ Don't overdo it physically