



Scouting for Clean Waterways A Quick Guide



Overview

A Scouting America initiative empowering Cub Scouts to take action through waterway cleanup projects. Land-based cleanups are also valuable, as 90% of aquatic trash originates on land.

8 Essential Steps

1. Location & Date Selection

- Choose accessible locations with visible trash
- Select spots with easy parking and multiple access points
- Schedule during April-June (recommended)
- Plan for 1-2 hour duration
- Avoid deep water and dangerous areas

2. Obtain Permission

- Secure written permission from property owners
- Contact city officials for public spaces
- Obtain necessary permits

3. Safety Requirements

- Implement buddy system (2-3 Scouts)
- Follow Youth Protection policies
- Keep Dens together
- Maintain adult supervision

4. Required Supplies

- First aid kit
- Work gloves or medical gloves
- Trash bags
- Water and snacks
- Sunblock and insect repellent

- Buckets for sharp items
- Trash pickers (optional)

5. Project Guidelines

- No water entry allowed
- Define cleanup boundaries
- Adults handle sharp/dangerous items
- Don't touch hazardous materials
- Report heavy items to authorities

6. During Cleanup

- Sign in/out process
- Assign buddy pairs
- Take breaks as needed
- Make it fun with themes or competitions

7. Material Sorting

- Separate recyclables if possible
- Follow local recycling guidelines
- Weigh collected trash when possible

8. Proper Disposal

- Arrange trash pickup beforehand
- Transport to approved facilities
- Report hazardous materials to authorities

Reporting

- Log service hours in Scoutbook
- Share success stories on social media
- Contact local media about your project

Remember: Safety first! No water entry permitted for Cub Scouts during cleanup activities.