

Green Fins Beach Cleanup Guidelines



As marine debris continues to be a serious problem for coastal environments, along with encouraging people to stop littering, cleaning up existing debris can also help protect beaches and animals who may mistake debris for food which can lead to death.

Here is a step by step guideline for a beach cleanup activity that you should look through for advice.

I. Before the clean up

① Survey the cleanup site

- Identify the Assembly point, Trash Collection Points and First-Aid Station
- Identify possible hazards and anticipate potential difficulties and how to overcome them
- Measure the distance of the beach cleanup site
- Arrange the number of teams for specific distances

② Arrange the team

- 1 Captain (mark a data card)
- 5 members (2 people for holding the bin bag, the rest for collecting rubbish)

③ Equipments

- Data Cards (1:6 participants) , available on page xx
- Pens and Clipboards
- Cotton Gloves
- Trash bags
- Cutters, Scissors, Trowels
- Weighing Scales
- Cameras

④ Prepare a **proficient first-aid team** with **well-equipped first-aid kit**

⑤ Conduct a **briefing**

- Itinerary
- List of dos and don'ts
- Personal safety
- Trash collection points
- First-aid station
- How the data card and data recording works.

⑥ Arrange **the time and trash pickup location** with a bus

Important: Avoid Disposable Items. Be Green.

Avoid using disposable items when providing food and drinks, e.g. plastic bottles, foam boxes. Think of creative and greener ways to feed and water your group, e.g. have participants bring their own water bottles and snacks in reusable containers.

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II. During the clean up

① Work in team

- 1 Captain for data recording
- 2 member for holding trash bag
- 3 member for collecting garbage
- Have each team member rotate their roles

② Do...

- Pick up litter (plastics, bottles, cans, glass, other garbage)
- Be in good physical condition
- Avoid constriction sites
- Be alert to ditches, holes and steep slopes
- Be careful of plants and animals

③ Don't...

- Pick up natural items (driftwood, shells, seaweed, corals, dead animal, seeds)
- Pluck vegetation, step on beach grass/plant
- Pick up unknown or hazardous material
- Compact, squeeze or overfill bags
- Overexert yourself

④ Data Recording

- Count litter types and number
- Name all stranded animals and items trapping them in the "Entangled Animals"

⑤ Transfer **Filled trash bags** to **Trash Collection Point**

⑥ During the cleanup, have leaders to go round **motivating each team** with questions on things they have found and also stimulate discussion by requesting each team to guess the sources of the rubbish on the shores.

III. After the clean up

① Get teams to **total up the data card** information

② Separate the garbage into

- Plastic and Foam
- Glass and Metal
- Clothes and Paper
- Fishing gear
- Hazardous waste

③ **Weigh and record the amount of each type of garbage** you have separated

④ **Return all the data cards** to coordinators

- Consolidated data will be **submitted to the Ocean Conservancy** (www.oceanconservancy.com)

⑤ **Arrange** for the garbage to be collected

- Do not leave it on the beach
- Seek for Garbage buyer for reuse and recycle garbage
- Coordinate with responsibility sector to handle hazardous waste
- Transport non-hazardous and non-recycle waste to landfill

⑥ After the **cleanup, spread the word**. Tell friends, teachers and family members about what you did and what you learned

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References

International Coastal Cleanup Singapore (ICCS) and Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research. 2007.
International Coastal Cleanup Singapore Guideline 2007.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Division of Environmental Quality.
CNMI Schools Adopt A Beach Commitment Form.