

Activity sheet 2

Organising a Litter Pick

1. Choose the area to be litter picked. This could be part or all of the school grounds or a local litter hotspot like a play park or sports field.
2. Decide if you are going to recycle any of the rubbish that you collect. It should be possible to recycle whole glass bottles (not broken glass), drinks cans and plastic bottles (must be empty with lids removed). Anything that is to be recycled must be collected separately (blue bags are available).
3. Divide the class into small groups of about 4-6 people –each group can cover a different area. Each group will need the following equipment:
 - Gloves to be worn by everyone
 - Keep Scotland Beautiful tabards to be worn by everyone if available
 - Litter pickers to be issued to everyone involved in picking up litter
 - Handihoops and black plastic bags to be issued to 2-3 people for collecting of litter
 - Blue bags to be issued to 1-2 people for collection of recyclates if necessary
4. Before the litter pick your teacher will need to make sure that the area is safe and that any safety precautions have been put in place.
5. If there is a chance that there might be dangerous items like broken glass, dog mess or needles in the litter pick area contact the Litter Education Officer beforehand to arrange a check of the area by street cleansing staff. They will remove dangerous items but leave the litter.
6. The following health and safety advice should be followed:
 - Everyone must wear gloves to keep their hands clean. The gloves will not protect you against sharp things. Wear strong, sensible shoes, boots or wellies
 - Litter must only be picked up using the litter pickers to avoid the danger of being injured by dangerous litter
 - Do not attempt to pick up any dangerous items such as dog mess, broken glass or needles. Tell an adult who will arrange for them to be picked up.
 - Stay together in your groups.
 - Do not fill up the bags as they will get too heavy. Half fill them and use the hoops to hold the bag away from your body.
 - After the litter pick everyone should wash their hands before eating or drinking.

Once all of the litter and recyclates have been collected make sure you keep a record of how much litter was found and if possible weigh it. The results can be presented to others in the school or community using notice boards, assemblies and newsletters. If regular litter picks are done you might be able to record an improvement over time.