

HOW TO ORGANISE: A COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Litter picks are a brilliant way to get out and about in your community, as well as making the neighbourhood a brighter and cleaner place for all who live there. We've created this guide to help you consider all of the different aspects of planning and running this kind of activity.

WHY A COMMUNITY LITTER PICK?

Picking up litter in the park or in the streets may seem like a simple task, but we have discovered it to be a creative way to **show God's love in a very practical way** to the wider community. Not only does it show that we **care** about the planet we all share, it shows that we care for our **community** and about improving the experience of life for those living around us.



Litter picks are also a great opportunity for people to serve together and **build relationships** within the volunteer teams.

WHERE DO I START?

Step 1: Pick a location

For your first outing, we recommend picking somewhere **familiar** to you. Perhaps it's a route that you often walk or a local park that is used by your neighbours. The key is to find somewhere that has rubbish and think about the impact on your community.

Step 2: Check to see if there is already a local group

You may find there is **already a group** who litter pick in your local area. If that's the case, get in touch with the group leader and see if they would be interested in litter picking in the specific location you have in mind, or if you can join them. If not, then follow the rest of our process below!

www.litteraction.org.uk has a handy tool that lets you search for litter picking groups in your area. You could also have a search on Facebook.

Step 3: Contact the landowner

It is sensible to check with the landowner about litter picking on their **property** e.g. the local council if you want to litter pick in a park. One good reason for this is that you may find out they already have other plans for clearing the waste at that site!

Step 4: Gather your resources

There are some very obvious things you'll need, including: litter pickers, gloves, waste bags. In addition, it will be important to make sure your team are suitably prepared for different types of weather and, if appropriate, hi-vis jackets.

It is worth contacting the local council's waste department to enquire about **borrowing** litter picking equipment and you may find they are able to assist in waste collection too. Do get in touch with us if you would like to borrow any equipment from us, or need help to find/purchase some.

Step 5: Gather your team

The great thing about this activity, is that even young children can enjoy getting involved and making a difference. You might choose to do this as a group activity, perhaps with your youth group or small group, or you might want to just go out as a pair or even alone! The more, the merrier, but even one or two people can **make a difference**, so don't feel disheartened if you can't pull a crowd.

Step 6: Pick your date and time

Litter picking is more of a daytime activity, where you can see the rubbish you want to collect. You'll want to think about the **availability** and **capacity** of your volunteers when picking a day and time. We recommend sticking to an hour at a time.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Injuries and incidents can occur during litter picking so, once your location is chosen, the next step is to arrange a site visit to assess the possible risks to participants. It is important to consider what **risks** there may be to those participating, and the **measures** you can put in place to avoid or manage any incidents. You should spend time creating a risk assessment which covers each aspect of the activity.

Pay special attention to busy roads, slippery grass banks, bodies of water, glass, trip hazards, insecticides, used condoms, syringes, faeces, etc.

Other things to consider are:

- How many volunteers are realistically needed?
- What age volunteer is it suitable/safe for?
- How much and what kind of waste will the activity produce?

It is important to have a plan for **disposing of any waste generated** during your activity before you start. You may find that small amounts of waste can either be disposed of by your volunteer team or collected by the local council's waste department.

You should also make sure you have the necessary **public liability insurance** to cover the volunteers involved in your project.

FINAL STEPS

Remember to **communicate** with your team of volunteers, before the project day, about any practical arrangements, including:

- What they need to bring with them
- When to arrive and how long it might take

Gather the tools and equipment needed – make sure you have enough for all of the volunteers taking part.

On the day, brief your volunteers about:

- **Health and safety** considerations
- How to use the **equipment**
- The agreed **area and route**. If it's a large area you are picking, allocate parts of it to pairs or groups of volunteers so they can chat as they go.
- Who is carrying a **first aid kit**
- Where to place **full rubbish bags**



Remember to pray before you head out, remember why you are doing it and invite God to direct your steps. As you walk, keep your eyes open to see what is happening in your neighbourhood.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

YOU CAN CONTACT US VIA INFO@THENOISE.ORG.UK OR CALL 0117 979 1399