



GUIDELINES FOR TRASH/LITTER CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

Baltimore County Public Schools



Outdoor clean-up activities can be enjoyable, educational, and environmentally beneficial. To ensure the safety of participants, please follow these guidelines whenever you, a student, or group of students participate in such activities, including those related to school curriculum, extra-curricular activities, service-learning projects, or programs such as Clean Green 15. It is advised that cleanups covered by these guidelines be limited to Grades 3-12.

- **Before cleanups:**

- Adult leaders (teachers, e.g.) will visually ensure that participants are wearing appropriate clothing, including thick-soled, closed-toe shoes, long pants (if appropriate) and long-sleeved shirts (if appropriate). Gloves should be used if available.
 - Any participant who is dressed inappropriately will be excused from the cleanup activity and assigned a related responsibility (logging items/bags picked up; monitoring time of activity) that does not require proper clothing.
- Cleanup participants are to be paired in teams of two or more.
- Cleanup adult leaders will conduct a brief safety meeting with participants prior to cleanup.
 - During safety meeting, adult leaders will review what not to touch/pick up, how to avoid hazardous materials, and to be alert for dangerous plants, animals, and other objects.
- Ensure that an adequate first-aid kit is available or nearby, including eye wash.

- **During cleanups:**

- Participants must work in pairs or groups.
- Cleanups must occur only in daylight hours.
- Cleanups must have adult/teacher supervision. Adult leader must be within sight of all participants at all times.
- Avoid horseplay or other activities that could compromise safety.
- Do not overload cleanup bags.
- Upon encountering a hazardous material, participants should:
 - Stop work; step away from the suspicious item or material.
 - Do not touch the object/material(s).
 - Send partner to alert adult leader.
 - If the following items are found, adult leaders must call 911 and the school principal:
 - Weapons including knives, guns, shell casings, etc.
 - Drugs/drug paraphernalia, incl. syringes, pill jars containing a powdery substance, etc.
 - “Bottle bombs” or “Drano bombs” – typically suspicious, sealed soda bottles containing odd-colored liquid; they may detonate soon after being handled.
 - Human remains
 - Adult leaders should inspect and carefully remove, if possible, hazardous materials. For dangerous/suspicious items, adult leaders should note/mark area where item is located and contact the BCPS Office of Grounds.



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- **During cleanups: *(continued)***

- Hazardous materials include:

- Sealed containers.
- Lumber that might contain splinters or rusty nails.
- Florescent light bulbs.
- Chemicals or objects that may have chemicals in them, including used oil, car batteries, antifreeze containers, gas cans, paints, solvents, etc.
- Sanitary pads, condoms, etc.
- Dead animals.
- Objects that could cut or injure (broken glass, razor blades, etc.).
- Natural hazards such as snakes, spiders, stinging insects, and poisonous or noxious plants.
- Areas where herbicides have been applied.

- **After cleanups:**

- Do not pick up trash bags from the bottom.
- Dispose of trash properly
- All participants should wash hands

- **If you need basic First Aid:**

- If participants are cut, bruised, or scraped, or if they are exposed to chemicals, hazardous substances, animal bites, or toxic vegetation, immediately report exposure to school nurse or, if nurse is unavailable, to participant's parent or guardian.
- If participants experience significant injury, call 911 immediately.