



GGC MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAYS

GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP



Backgrounder



A CONSERVATION INITIATIVE OF





GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Backgrounder

We are challenging girls across the country to provide environmental service by cleaning a local shoreline. A shoreline is any place where land connects with water, so anyone from anywhere in Canada can participate. You could host a cleanup at a local wetland, lake, river, pond, beach or even a local park where there is a drainage system. Any water going through the drain system will eventually lead back to our waterways. You do not need to live by the coast to take part in a shoreline cleanup!

Site Coordinator

The first step to planning a cleanup is finding and registering an individual as the Site Coordinator. The Site Coordinator is the lead contact and organizer for a local shoreline cleanup. She is responsible for:

- Selecting a date, time and accessible location to host a shoreline cleanup
- Registering your Shoreline Cleanup online
- Notifying your local municipality to:
 - ensure permission to clean
 - seek guidance on waste disposal
- Managing a team of cleanup volunteers (girls, Guiders, and parents/guardians)
- Obtaining cleanup supplies such as bags and gloves
- Ensuring participants complete data cards to tally the type and amount of shoreline litter collected

This role is appropriate for Guiders. Please see Site Coordinator Guide for more information on how to plan your Shoreline Cleanup.

Youth Site Coordinators

We are encouraging Pathfinders and Rangers to take on the role of Youth Site Coordinators. This is a great way for them to work towards their Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner's Gold Award! While Guides may not be ready to act as Youth Site Coordinators, they are still encouraged to participate in a Shoreline Cleanup as a part of their Lady Baden-Powell Challenge.

Youth Site Coordinators will still require a Guider who is at least 19 years old to register as the Site Coordinator and supervise the event. Please see the Youth Site Coordinator Guide for more information.



GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Working as a Community

This is a great opportunity for a bridging activity between the different branches in your area! You may want to contact units in your community to join in on one giant cleanup! This will make sense for units in smaller communities who have fewer cleanup locations to choose from.

Preparation

- All cleanup events led by Girl Guides of Canada should be registered online as private cleanups that are closed to the general public, meaning that only members of Girl Guides of Canada, as well as parents and guardians, family members and necessary local authorities and experts can participate.
- Recruit adult volunteers, parents or guardians to assist with the Shoreline Cleanup. This event can also act as a bridging opportunity between different branch levels. Consider recruiting older girls from other branches to support younger girls in the cleanup.
- If you are a Site Coordinator, familiarize yourself with the Site Coordinator Guide. Ensure you have prepared all of the necessary items for the day of the cleanup. See our checklist of items.
- Make sure you review your activity under our Safe Guide guidelines to ensure all safety precautions are considered, such as completing and submitting relevant forms.

Activity: Practice Cleanup*

- This activity should be done in a unit meeting prior to the Shoreline Cleanup.
- Show pictures of items that are recyclable and non-recyclable. Sample images are found on pages 5 – 8. Explain to the girls which items they will collect and that they will separate them into recyclables and non-recyclables. Optional: Include compostable examples.
- Explain to girls about natural items that are not considered litter such as shells, logs and animals.
- Show pictures of dangerous items (such as needles and syringes) that girls should not be picking up along the shoreline. Explain to the girls that if they see these items during the cleanup, they should ask an adult (such as a Guider or parent) to pick it up as described in the Safety Section of the Site Coordinator Guide.
- Use a large piece of fabric or carpet to mimic a shoreline or wetland
 - Place print-outs of trash, animals, plants, and dangerous items around the shoreline/wetland.
- Form groups of two to four girls.
 - Provide a bag and individual data card to the groups.
 - Ask the girls to work together as a team and begin to sort the items into recyclable, non-recyclable and compostable bags. With each item that they put in the bags, they will need to place a tally next to the item on the data card checklist.
 - When the girls find a dangerous item, they should call a Guider to help them to retrieve the item.
 - At the end of the activity, ask the girls to count how many items they picked up.

*(Adapted from the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup K-8 Curriculum)

Backgrounder: Practice Cleanup

Recyclables



Glass beverage bottles



Plastic bottles



Aluminum cans



Cardboard box

Non-recyclables



Plastic forks



Styrofoam containers



Plastic bags



Food Wrappers and containers

Compost



Apple core



Banana peel



Paper towel



Corn cobs

Dangerous/Unhygienic items



Glass Shards



Syringes

Photos: @PhotoSpin



Needles



GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Cleanup Day

- Gather girls, volunteers and Guiders at the designated cleanup site.
- Outline the site boundaries and safety guidelines clearly to the girls and volunteers.
- Divide girls into groups of three or four
 - Designate one Guider/parent for each group to act as the group leader and data recorder. For older branches, a Ranger or Pathfinder can be designated as the group leader and data recorder.
 - Explain to girls and volunteers how to collect the data. Your Site Coordinator should have this information.
 - Explain to everyone what the role of the data recorder is.
- Begin the cleanup! Groups collect items, separating recyclables as they go, and recording items specified by the data collection sheet. These sheets will be mailed to the Site Coordinator by Shoreline Cleanup but they can also be found on the dashboard of your Shoreline Cleanup online account.
- Once the waste collection is finished, weigh the trash and ensure that any outstanding items on the individual data collection sheet are completed.
- The data recorder should submit the individual data collection sheets to the Site Coordinator.
- Support the Site Coordinator in disposal of the trash.
- Where relevant, facilitate any day-of activities.

Data Collection and Evaluation (mandatory)

- Individual data collection sheets are submitted by each small group to the Site Coordinator. The Site Coordinator is then responsible for compiling all of the individual data collection sheets onto a group summary card. The group summary card should then be submitted to the Shoreline Cleanup via their online account (preferable) or mailed to:

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
c/o Vancouver Aquarium
PO Box 3232
Vancouver BC V6B 3X8

- More information on data submission can be found [here](#).
- If you have **photos** of your unit participating in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, we would love to see them. Please send them to us at programs@girlguides.ca. Please be sure that girls have their IR.1's and that you complete and submit an Image Submission form (<http://forms.girlguides.ca/SitePages/Home.aspx>) to GGC as well.
- We also encourage you to send photos to shorelinecleanup@vanaqua.org. You will need to complete and submit a Content Agreement Form to the Shoreline Cleanup and GGC respectively.
- Complete the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup's online evaluation form (<http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/sites/default/files/gcscstaff/ONCG%20%28Appendix%29%20Evaluation%20Form.pdf>).
- More information on data submission can be found [here http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/sites/default/files/gcscstaff/ONCG%20%28Appendix%29%20Data%20Collection%20and%20Submission.pdf](http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/sites/default/files/gcscstaff/ONCG%20%28Appendix%29%20Data%20Collection%20and%20Submission.pdf)



GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Crests

When girls complete a shoreline cleanup, they earn a crest! Remember, crests will only be mailed to you by the Shoreline Cleanup once evaluation forms are received, so make sure this is done as soon as possible! There is a field on the online evaluation form that will allow the Site Coordinator to input the number of crests they require. **Crests are free and will be mailed to the address listed on the Site Coordinator's online account.**

Girl Guides gratefully acknowledges the support of Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and Vancouver Aquarium in the development of content and activities.

© Girl Guides of Canada–Guides du Canada; March 2015