

Girl Scouts Forever Green Park Clean-Up

So you want to hold a Girl Scouts Forever Green Park Clean-Up but you're not sure where to start? We've provided you with 10 easy steps to help you plan a fun and successful park clean-up:

Location: Locate a park where you'd like to host a clean-up:

- National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>
- Virginia State Parks: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/index.shtml
- Maryland State Parks: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/>
- West Virginia State Parks: <http://www.wvstateparks.com/>
- District of Columbia: <http://dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR>

Date and Time: Pick a date and time for the clean-up. Make sure to check the calendar for any religious holidays.

Park Connection: Contact the park to see if they will let a group hold a park clean up on your proposed date. Most parks have certain rules and regulations for clean-ups, so you'll want to find out what these are and if there are any forms you'll need to fill out. The park should also be able to tell you if there is a certain place that bags of trash and recycling can be left after the clean-up.

Home Base: Though your clean-up can cover as big or as small an area as you see fit, you may want to consider reserving a pavilion or specific area of the park so your group has a location to call home base for the day. This would be a perfect place to hold check-in for your event, provide water for all of your hard-working girls, and possibly host a speaker at the beginning or end of the clean-up.

Speaker: Decide if you'd like to have a speaker come to your clean-up to speak to Girl Scouts in attendance. Ideally, this would be a person who works in an environmental field who could speak to the girls either about the path they took to their career or about the importance of park clean ups. A good place to start might be the park's very own Park Rangers.

Tools and Equipment: Make sure you have all of the necessary equipment to hold a clean-up. Many parks will provide trash bags for you, but you may need to provide these on your own. Also consider having gloves and hand wash. Since the clean-up will be taking place outside, you may want to remind participants to dress appropriately (closed toed shoes, jacket) and to use sunscreen.

Promotion and Registration: Get the word out about your clean-up! Tell your Service Unit and Association about when and where it will be taking place. Consider holding registration for the event (via email to a clean-up coordinator) to get an idea of how many people are participating. This will help you ensure you have enough equipment for everyone to participate. Forever Green patches will be available for all Girl Scouts who participate in clean-ups. Please email Megan Kelly at mkelly@gscnc.org at least 3 weeks before your event to request patches for your event.

Advocate: Why are you doing a Forever Green clean-up? Because environmental issues have been at the heart of Girl Scouting since the very beginning! Make sure everyone participating in the clean-up knows why you are holding the clean-up and about [Girl Scouts Forever Green](#). That way if other people visiting the park ask about what's going on, you can tell them about Girl Scouting and all the different ways we are involved in going green for 100 years and counting!

Celebrate: At the end of your clean-up, announce to all participants how much trash was collected. Take pictures of the group at the park and hand out patches to all Girl Scouts who helped. Take time to recognize all of the hard work that went into cleaning up the park. In just a couple hours you can make a big difference!

Report Back to GSCNC: We want to know about your clean-ups! Please email Megan Kelly at mkelly@gscnc.org with a summary of your clean-up (location, date, time, successes, challenges), how many people attended, how much trash was picked up, and any anecdotes about the day. We'd also LOVE to have pictures from your event to display on the GSCNC website.

