



How to organize a successful National River Cleanup® event and help build a movement of river champions!

1

Select your cleanup site, date, and time

Remember to obtain all necessary permissions or permits for cleaning your site.

2

Register your cleanup with American Rivers

List your event on our website to receive materials and technical support, such as free trash bags and a volunteer-registration tool, and connect with other organizers around the country. Register at AmericanRivers.org/Organize.

3

Recruit volunteers and promote event

Spread the word; invite volunteers, elected officials, and corporate sponsors; and fundraise to support your cleanup.

4

Create your day-of action plan

Prepare your supply checklist, consider food/drinks for volunteers, and plan waste disposal and your post-cleanup celebration.

5

Prepare your volunteers

Inform volunteers of event logistics, what to wear and bring, responsibilities, and the contingency plan for inclement weather.

6

Host your river cleanup event

Welcome and sign in volunteers, review safety procedures, distribute supplies, and begin picking up litter. Remember to take photos!

7

Wrap up the event and celebrate

Tally how much litter you picked up, thank participants, dispose of waste, and celebrate!

8

Report back to American Rivers

Submit your cleanup results to American Rivers and email us your best photos.

9

Thank and follow up

Thank all participants and sponsors for supporting your event. Share a summary with participants that includes the results, photos, and your contact information for future cleanups. Encourage participants to sign up for American Rivers' emails to stay informed about river news and events at AmericanRivers.org/NRCemail.

American Rivers is championing a national effort to protect and restore all rivers, from remote mountain streams to urban waterways. Healthy rivers provide people and nature with clean, abundant water and natural habitat. For 50 years, American Rivers staff, supporters, and partners have shared a common belief: Life Depends on RiversSM.