

Are you eager to jump right in and conduct your first stream cleanup—only to find you need a little help getting started?

In this brochure we've listed some helpful hints to assist you with your efforts. If you are organizing a large event, or need more detailed information, please e-mail us at streamteam@mdc.mo.gov or call 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail). Stream Team Staff are always ready to assist you!



Where can I get more information?

If you need assistance or would like more information, you can

Write to us at:

Stream Team
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

E-mail us at:

streamteam@mdc.mo.gov

Call us at:

1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)

Visit our website at:

www.mostreamteam.org

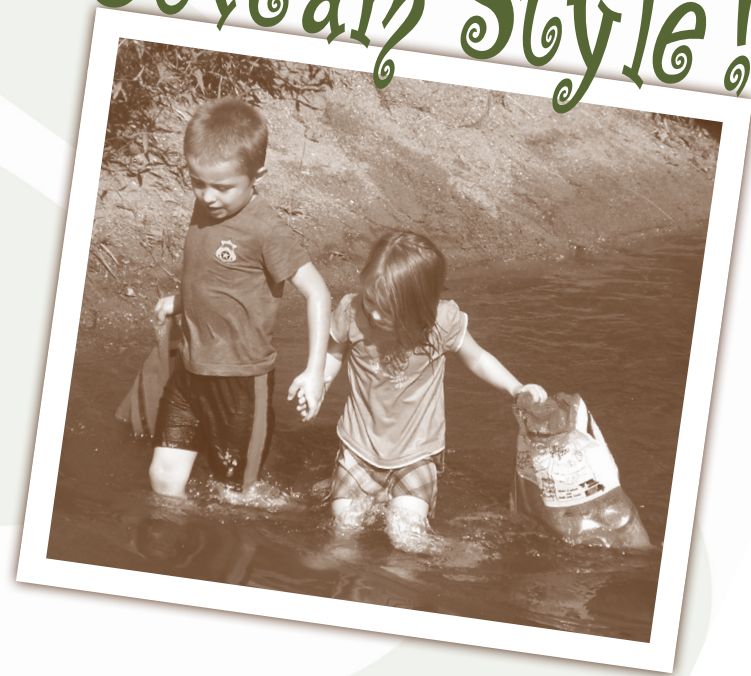
Stream Team is sponsored by:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri



How To Conduct a Litter Pickup

Stream Style!



Missouri Stream Team . . . promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.

EDUCATION STEWARDSHIP ADVOCACY



Before

- ◆ **Contact streamside landowners.**

Always obtain landowner permission before entering private property and inform your volunteers of property boundaries. When working on public or state land, it is a good idea to contact the property manager and inform them of your plans.

- ◆ **Survey the area before the event.**

Float or walk the section you plan to clean. Take a map and mark areas of interest, such as large accumulations of trash and potential hazards. Estimate the number of tires that will be collected and go to the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition website at www.mstwc.org for information on tire disposal cost reimbursement.

- ◆ **Get organized.**

Organization is essential. Determine access points, take-out points, collection areas, and the time required to clean each stream section.

- ◆ **Determine how trash will be disposed.**

Waste hauling and disposal can be costly, so plan ahead. Contact solid waste officials in your area to discuss your options. Ask if they would be willing to donate their services.

- ◆ **Arrange to get trash to the disposal site.**

If there are no waste haulers available, you will need to transport trash to a disposal site. Do you or your volunteers have access to trucks or trailers?

- ◆ **Solicit media coverage.**

Contact radio and television stations and newspapers ahead of time. Provide plenty of information to encourage coverage before, during, and after your event. Don't forget to submit your event to the Stream Team Calendar at www.mostreamteam.org.

- ◆ **Order trash bags, gloves, and first aid kits.**

Free reusable mesh litter bags, work gloves, and first aid kits are available to Stream Teams conducting litter pickups. Place your order using our online Activity Report at www.mostreamteam.org or by calling 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail). Please allow up to three weeks for delivery.

- ◆ **Do not overcommit.**

Cleanups are tiring work! Plan to limit your cleanup time to 2–3 hours.

- ◆ **Provide food and incentives.**

Plan a picnic or cookout and arrange for door prizes to reward your volunteers. Many Teams obtain donations for food.

- ◆ **Be aware of weather reports and water levels.**

Have an alternate plan of action in case of inclement weather or high water.

Team Heart!



- ◆ **Contact a local ambulance service.**

Many communities will provide an ambulance and EMT on call or on site free of charge.

- ◆ **Always kick off with a strong safety lecture.**

Make every effort to provide for the safety of your volunteers during the event.

During

- ◆ **Have a central gathering point.**

Establish a check-in area where group leaders can organize, volunteers can sign in, and litter bags and gloves can be distributed.

- ◆ **Give a short welcome and introduction.**

Be sure to thank all sponsors, the media, and, of course, the volunteers!

- ◆ **Have definite start and end times.**

Be prompt with your start time and announce a definite ending time. Make sure the group leaders and volunteers know when to quit.

- ◆ **Be a promoter.**

When you see other people on the stream, explain what you are doing. They may decide to join in!

- ◆ **Facilitate media coverage.**

Assign a contact person to help reporters get all the information, photos, and video they need.

- ◆ **Don't trespass.**

Be aware of property boundaries. If you or any volunteers trespass, even by accident, the penalties can be severe. After you obtain permission from a landowner, instruct your volunteers to respect the property, livestock, fences, and gates.

- ◆ **Think accomplishments.**

Take "before" and "after" photos to show what you have accomplished.

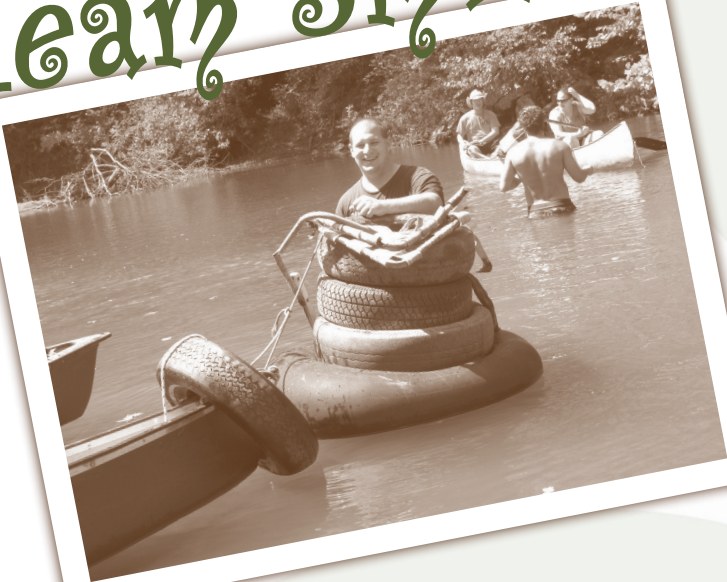
- ◆ **Separate recyclables.**

If possible, separate glass and plastic materials from trash. Also be sure to properly dispose of any tires, scrap metal, and electronics.

- ◆ **Come back for the big stuff.**

If your stream contains large items, such as appliances or cars, it may be necessary to remove these items as a separate project. This may require the use of heavy equipment. Remember that removing large items can decrease stream stability, especially when they are more than half buried in sediment. Contact your local Missouri Department of Conservation fisheries biologist for advice when considering the removal of large objects.

Team Smile!



After

- ◆ **Send thank-you notes or certificates to participants.**
You can also recognize your volunteers in a newsletter or wrap-up meeting.



- ◆ **Follow up with media contacts.**
Make sure they know how much trash you removed and how many participants were involved.
- ◆ **Complete a Stream Team Activity Report.**
Forward your report to Missouri Stream Team at PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or complete an online Activity Report. If you need an Activity Report, call 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail) or go to www.mostreamteam.org.
- ◆ **Keep in touch with area landowners.**
Inform them of your accomplishments and involve them in future projects you may want to do. A cooperative landowner can help you reach neighbors who have been reluctant.
- ◆ **Make the community aware.**
Share your accomplishments with clubs, community and youth groups, churches, and local government officials. This will encourage participation by these groups in the future.
- ◆ **Finally . . .**
Sit back and feel good about a job well done!

Good luck from all of us at the Stream Team Program!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need help.

Stream Teams Are Making a Splash. Jump In With Us!