

Volunteer Safety Briefing

- 1) **Key words for today: Be Safe**
- 2) Make sure that you or your adult have filled out the waiver.
- 3) **The banks can be really slick!** So watch your footing and stay out of the water! Mud can be very deep. Test muddy areas before walking into them and stay with a partner!
- 4) **Have the proper attire!** water, hat, gloves, sunscreen, long pants (watch out for poison ivy and stinging nettles!) boots and shoes. **No Flip-Flops allowed on the river!**
- 5) Partner up and watch out for each other. Take breaks, drink lots of water and reassemble every half hour. **Water is available at _____.**
- 6) **(If train tracks are in the vicinity, mention:)** It is illegal to walk on or beside train tracks. Please don't walk or leave trash bags on or near train tracks.
- 7) All volunteers need to be aware of **dangerous objects** such as broken glass, rocky outcrops, syringes, tanks, weapons, etc. Gloves should be worn. Leave **Questionable objects** where you find them and tell your team leader. This includes **Hazardous materials** such as tires, household waste, paint cans, freon, sealed barrels and car batteries which must be disposed of separately. (If appropriate, point out the Special handling Team leaders in the PINK vests.) **Tetanus shots** are common sense and are recommended! Do not approach homeless shelters.
- 8) **Emergency contact is _____.** Please report any issues by _____.
- 9) **Try not to overfill bags** as we will be going out to pick them up later, no dead animals please! Carry extra bags with you, tie them to your waste or stuff 'em in your pocket. Use the mesh bags to collect and carry trash. Empty them into the blue plastic bags and reuse. Use the clear bags for clean plastic bottles.
- 10) **Slow Down Before You Throw Down!** Take your time and be safe! This isn't a race; it's just picking up trash! Team up on anything too heavy and pay attention to who's around you when moving dangerous items.
- 11) **Bring bags to _____ place them where your site captain indicates.** Pile heavy bags, metal, appliances, and tires in a central area on the bank, trail or road where we can get to it. .
- 12) **If you are in distress or need serious help at any time, wave both hands in the air like so...** Waving a brightly colored shirt or trash bag is also a good way to get our attention. Report any injuries to cleanup leaders ASAP so they can be attended to.
- 13) Search the high bank and weeds for trash as the more floatable items are often up there. Leave all wildlife alone, they are in their place, and YOU are their guest. (**Snakes or mice** often like to live in dirt-filled tires or refrigerators, so beware!) (**Poison Ivy** may be present in the woods, so beware!)
- 14) **Please respect private property!** Even stuff that appears to be in bad shape may belong to the landowner. Leave any **occupied homeless camps** alone! If abandoned it's ok to clean them up with a site leaders permission.
- 15) Wear gloves. Do not touch your face or ears. When you are finished, wash your hands and rinse them well with lots of soapy water BEFORE you apply any hand sanitizer.

We expect you to finish up by about _____ and encourage you to go to your lunch if provided.

It's a great day to be out on the river.....Have Fun!!!

This safety talk has been adapted from the one provided by Missouri River Relief. The sections highlighted in green need to be modified to suit your individual location. Add any additional information necessary to your location.

