

# Community Clean-up

## What you will need:

Disposable gloves for each student plus extras

Garbage Bags

6 labeled boxes: 2 "Recycle", 2 "Reuse", and 2 "Trash" (or use 2 recycling bins, 2 trashcans, and 2 boxes)

2 boxes of clean trash. Make sure to have equal type items in each box and have an assortment of items that are trash, recycling, and reusable. About 20 items each

## Prepare:

Find a spot in your community that can use a good clean-up. We have gone to the local park and our parish's cemetery. Be sure to get permission from the city, park's department, or whoever is in charge of the area you are wanting to clean-up

Be sure to have parental permission before taking the students off campus

Secure enough adult volunteers to help keep students safe. If you are splitting into groups, make sure you have enough adults to do so.

Label 6 boxes as mentioned above

Collect and wash 20 items that can be thrown away, recycled, or reused. Some reuse items could be clothing, containers, books, etc.

# Community Clean-up Agenda

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, As we go out into the community today, let us be Your hands to do Your work. Let us be Your eyes to see the beauty in our neighborhood. Let us be Your ears to hear what You want us to hear. And, Lord, please be our protection to keep us safe from any danger as we work in the community today. Amen.

**Announcements:** Let your youth group know of any upcoming events, youth nights, or other activities they should be aware of

**Discuss: As Catholics we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. – USCCB**

## Scripture Says:

- [Genesis 1:1-31](#) God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.
- [Genesis 2:15](#) Humans are commanded to care for God's creation.
- [Leviticus 25:1-7](#) The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.
- [Deuteronomy 10:14](#) All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord.
- [Psalm 24:1-2](#) All the earth is the Lord's.
- [Daniel 3:56-82](#) Creation proclaims the glory of God.
- [Matthew 6:25-34](#) God loves and cares for all of creation.
- [Romans 1:20](#) Creation reveals the nature of God.
- [1 Corinthians 10:26](#) Creation and all created things are inherently good because they are of the Lord.

**SAY: Today, we are going to practice our Catholic promise to be good stewards of our land. We will be going to \_\_\_\_\_ to clean up.**

Give each student a set of gloves and trash bag. Discuss any safety rules and expectations. If the group will be splitting up, let everyone know what time to return together.

**Recycling Relay:** Divide into 2 teams. Put boxes at one end of the play area. The Reuse boxes should be placed the closest; the Recycling Boxes should be placed midway, and the Landfill Boxes must be furthest away. The teams should line up at the other end of the playing area with the box of clean trash near them. At "Go", one person from each team should pick up an item from the clean trash box and figure out what they have to do with the item, then run to place it in the appropriate bin, and run back to the end of the line. The next person in line from each team will do the same once their teammate returns. Game continues until all of the items have been sorted. At the end of the game, review each item in the bin. The team members have to explain how they would reuse an item in the reuse bin to confirm that the items put in the recycling bin are actually recyclable in the community. Deduct points if you feel the item put in any bin is incorrect.

## Points:

Finishing 1<sup>st</sup> – 20 points

Correct bin – 5 points each

Incorrect bin – (5) points each