



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION

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STUDENT  
**wave**

# Stream Cleanup Handbook

**STREAM CLEANUPS LIKE A PRO**

Dear Student,

This handbook is for YOU, to help your student group get organized and contribute to Saving the Bay like *professionals!*

With it, you won't just run a "I Picked Up One Snickers Wrapper" snoozer event. Instead, this handbook will help your student organization run a badass cleanup that makes a difference not only for the stream you clean, but also for all the people who helped. (Plus all the rest who got jealous that they didn't show up.)

Get organized using the [Cleanup Roles](#) and the [Timeline Checklist](#); make it an Instagram-able and educational day with the [FUNventor Brainstorm](#) and the [Polluted Runoff Education Handout](#); and keep track of your awesome work with the [Sign-In](#) and [Trash Tally](#) sheets.

This handbook is also in *beta*, meaning it is a work in progress. If something wasn't useful, or if there is something else you still need - let us know! You can help update it for the next groups. Email feedback to [studentwave@cbf.org](mailto:studentwave@cbf.org)

*And don't forget to have people sign-in at the event and to tally the trash!* This will help you show your impact to your school and community, and it lets you know who to contact that might come to the next event. We also ask that you share that info with Student Wave – we want to show off your impressive work! (Good to brag sometimes, amirite?)

Lastly, unlike your classes, this handbook is NOT mandatory. There is no grade, prize, or pizza bagels that you will get for following it. (Just coolpoints.) All we can say is, the more you can use it, the better your cleanup. Keep us posted as you plan, we would love to provide any extra help you need!

Sincerely,

CBF Student Wave Coordinators

[studentwave@cbf.org](mailto:studentwave@cbf.org)

## Cleanup Roles

With lots to do beyond just picking up trash, dividing up into specific roles can help keep people from getting swamped with tasks. Plus it means that people can play to their strengths. So the friend who always loses their homework but enjoys making videos might want to be the Camera Artist and not the Organizer. *Also, people can sign up for more than one role, or multiple people can share a role.*

**Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea** – Find a stream that needs a cleanup. Make sure it is accessible – ask permission if needed to access it. Pick a day for the cleanup and make sure group members have chosen their role assignments on this sheet.

**Advertiser** – Make a facebook event, make flyers, post on morning announcements, advertise on twitter, etc. Include directions and advice on what to wear (i.e. long pants, close-toed shoes recommended)

**Organizer** – Gather the list of people coming, remind them of details the days before, get everyone to sign-in once they arrive, help people tally up the trash. Enter the signups and trash tallies onto the web page.

**Camera Artist** – Take photos and videos at the event. Edit the videos as needed, write up how it went, and post online. Submit to school newspaper, share on facebook, etc, and send to [studentwave@cbf.org](mailto:studentwave@cbf.org)

**General Store Clerk** – Bring: trash bags, work gloves, grabbers, snacks, drinks, hand sanitizer, bug spray. As needed.

**TED Talker** – Before the cleanup starts, pass out the Polluted Runoff Education Handout. Performances about polluted runoff and trash encouraged. Sing a song, give a rousing speech, do a dance, whatever might help teach people.

**Getaway Driver** – *Must have access to a truck or trailer, may require a parent.* Take the trash away. Ask permission to use school or other dumpster, or take the trash to a local landfill.

**FUNventor** – Create a game, a contest, a theme, etc to make the cleanup exciting. Ideas: Trashlympics (with a Triashlon and Trash&Field events), Trash Parade, Trash Art Projects, etc. Use FUNventor Brainstorm page to help plan.

<b>ROLE</b>	<b>PERSON</b>
Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea	
Advertiser	
Organizer	
Camera Artist	
General Store Clerk	
TED Talker	
Getaway Driver	
FUNventor	

## Timeline Checklist

Print out copies of this sheet so people can highlight their tasks.

Time	Task	Roles	Done
3-5 weeks before	Have everyone pick roles from the Roles Assignments sheet.	Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea	
3-5 weeks before	<b><i>Find the cleanup location</i></b> , make sure it <b><i>needs a cleanup</i></b> and that it is accessible	Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea	
3-5 weeks before	Pick a day and time that works for everyone.	Lewis & Clark & Sacagawea	
3-5 weeks before	Brainstorm and plan ways to make the cleanup extra exciting	FUNventor	
3-5 weeks before	Design advertisements - flyers, facebook event, ask for time on morning announcements, etc. Start advertising.	Advertiser	
1-2 weeks before	Advertise more – post flyers, send the facebook invite, etc	Advertiser	
1-2 weeks before	Have people sign-up to attend - via facebook or an evite, or keep a list of names and contact info	Organizer	
1-2 weeks before	Gather necessary materials (trash bags, plan for snacks, etc)	General Store Clerk	
1-2 weeks before	Prepare a presentation/performance about polluted runoff	TED Talker	
1-2 weeks before	Finish planning and get whatever you need for your activity	FUNventor	
1-2 weeks before	Line up a truck, figure out where you will dispose of the trash	Getaway Driver	
1-2 weeks before	Find video/photo camera to use	Camera Artist	
3 Days before	Via text, email, or facebook, remind those who have signed up about the event location/time/what to wear	Organizer	
1 Day before	Remind everyone again - helps to keep it fresh in their minds!	Organizer	
Day of Cleanup	Remind everyone a third time a couple hours before event	Organizer	
Day of Cleanup	Have people sign-in, thank them for coming!!	Organizer	
Day of Cleanup	Give out trash bags, make snacks/gloves/etc available	General Store Clerk	
Day of Cleanup	<b><i>DO THE CLEANUP! WOO!!!</i></b>	Everyone!	
Day of Cleanup	Take photos/video	Camera Artist	
Day of Cleanup	Share the Education Handout and present on polluted runoff	TED Talker	
Day of Cleanup	Lead the contest/activity/silliness you planned	FUNventor	
Day of Cleanup	Tally the trash	Everyone, participants too	
Day of Cleanup	Dispose of trash. Recycle/reuse as much as possible!	Getaway Driver	
Post-cleanup	Show it off! Share photos/videos/accomplishments with your school newspaper, on the morning announcements, and on social media, etc.	Camera Artist	
Post-cleanup	Send sign-ins, trash tallies, and any photos/video to Student Wave: <a href="mailto:studentwave@cbf.org">studentwave@cbf.org</a>	Organizer, Camera Artist	

## FUNventor Brainstorm

A stream cleanup can be SO much more than just walking around with trash bags. Make it an event that *people will want to come to*. This is where you can plan how to add music, art, sports, theater, writing, games, food, awards, whatever. Although don't forget, *you can't force people to have fun*. Go with whichever ideas get people excited. Suggestions:

### Trashlympics

*With the soundtrack of John Williams and world-class trashletes representing four corners of your high school, turn the day from just a cleanup into an epic contest of epicness. Put up a Leaderboard of who picked up the most trash. Hold "Trash&Field" events like javelin (who can throw a can the farthest, or who can find the most aerodynamic trash) or a trash relay (the baton is a piece of trash). We don't even know what a "Triashlon" might be, but it's a great pun. Whatever you plan, 1) using an open field may help, 2) be sure to be safe, and 3) don't disturb wildlife too much.*

### Trash Parade

*Pick some of the coolest, weirdest, ugliest, most provocative trash (while staying clean and sanitary) and find a place to march around with it before finally throwing it away. "Seeing is believing" as they say, so find a fun time to advertise what you discovered, and remind people to not litter and to recycle what they can. Get on the schedule of the homecoming rally or parade, do a trash conga line through the cafeteria, or make a surprise appearance at a PTA or school board meeting.*

### Trash Art

*Not gonna lie, trash looks pretty weird. You can start by making a sculpture out of what you find. Or think about how you can cut up the old toys and cans and make them into colorful mosaics or collages. Or use trash as your tools: turn trash bags into paintbrushes and create murals with crazy brush-strokes.*

**YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA? HUH? GOOD! START PLANNING IT HERE:**

## Polluted Runoff Education Handout

Trash is one piece of a much bigger Bay issue: **Polluted Runoff**

**What is polluted runoff?** As water flows off of our streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, it picks up fertilizers, pesticides, oil, and automotive fluids, pet waste, sediment, and other pollutants. This simple process—untreated stormwater flowing through gutters and storm drains—pollutes our rivers and streams and threatens our drinking water. It also causes problems like local flooding of streets and homes, beach closures, fish advisories, and sewage system overflows.

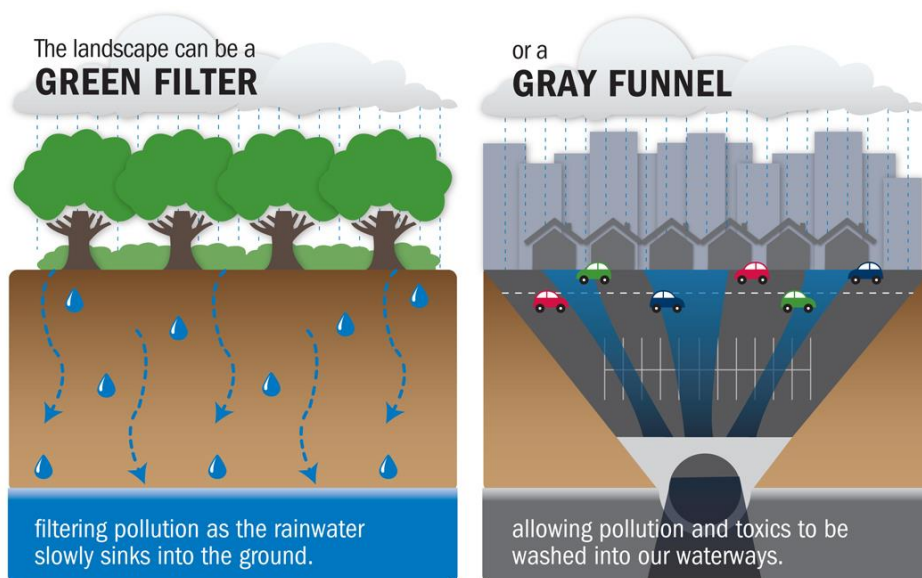
**What can be done to stop polluted runoff?** There are simple, proven solutions that work by slowing down and absorbing much of the polluted runoff. These solutions include planting trees, planting vegetation around streams, restoring stream beds, and using rain barrels and rain gardens. These local projects not only reduce pollution and improve water quality, but also make our communities more beautiful, reduce flooding, and create jobs.

**Why has urban & suburban polluted runoff emerged as an issue?**

Up until about the 1980s, builders didn't know much about the problems associated with polluted runoff. They just designed developments to flush the water off the property quickly. Now we realize runoff should be slowed down, and soaked up, where possible.

In fact, in the Chesapeake Bay region, this sort of pollution is the only major type of pollution still on the rise. Air pollution is down, as is pollution from wastewater treatment plants and agriculture. Urban and suburban runoff is the last nut to crack.

For more information visit [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)





## Trash Tally Sheet

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Cleanup Location \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	TALLY	TOTAL
Plastic bags		
Clothing/shoes		
Food wrappers/containers		
Bottles/cans		
Toys		
Cigarettes/Cigarette filters		
Medical/personal hygiene (diapers, etc)		
Large items (appliances, furniture, tires, etc)		
Other (list them)		

Print as many of these sheets as needed to help tally. Share the tallies with [studentwave@cbf.org](mailto:studentwave@cbf.org)