

# CREATE YOUR CLEANUP DREAM TEAM



Most of us are aggravated with the trash on the streets, in the rivers, and on the beaches. Many still step over the trash or avoid the places where it collects. But a growing number of us know that bending over to pick up even a few pieces of trash during our day or week, can make a difference! A trash free community is in the bag. Create your cleanup dream team in three easy steps:

## STEP ONE: HOW BIG DOES YOUR DREAM TEAM NEED TO BE?

Your cleanup team could include hundreds of volunteers or dozens or just a handful of volunteers. No campaign is too small because every piece of litter we pick up makes a difference. Also even with a program involving hundreds of volunteers, you are only directly partnering with dozens of people who know dozens of people, who know dozens of people, etc. You may not know how big your team is until you know more about your territory and survey the trash, but we start here because you can't do much without an incredible group of volunteers.

## STEP TWO: WHO IS ALREADY ON YOUR DREAM TEAM AND IN YOUR TERRITORY?

It's always best to begin at the beginning and note your current all-stars. Who already cleans up with you? Next look around to acknowledge the other teams such as the Public Works Department, a nearby school or an environmental group who may be active in your territory. You want to list everyone who is cleaning up so that you can better work together and see who is missing. Yes there is plenty of trash to go around.

## STEP THREE: CALL MORE PEOPLE ONTO YOUR TEAM

1. **Brainstorming** is an easy way to create a first draft list of your dream team. You can do this alone or with friends. Just get out your markers and a big sheet of paper or a white board. Write at the top "Cleanup Dream Team." Then scribe quickly as everyone is calling out names. Never edit as you scribe, never pause to discuss the merits; because brainstorming requires trust and editing at this stage destroys trust. Even if it is just you alone doing the work, hold your judgements till the end. You can easily brainstorm a list of talented first draft picks.
2. **Heart-warming** can also be done alone or in a group. Similar to meditation, sit quietly in a safe place where you won't be disturbed. With closed or open eyes take a few breaths and imagine yourself in your favorite place in nature. Maybe it's your garden, a park, beach, or paddling down a river. As you move around this place, you smell the flowers and you see some trash. But you have your bags nearby because you love this place and enjoy keeping it clean. So as you happily pick up trash, you look around to see others cleaning up too. You may know some of them by name and others are new to you. Now open your eyes and jot down this list of people you know or you want to know. Voila, these are your first partners!



## Got more questions?

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