

Organizing your 4-H Trash Bash

National Day of Service 2025



What is a 4-H Trash Bash?

This is a fun day of community cleanup where volunteers work as a team to clean up parks, streets, and other outdoor spaces. Everyone works together to make the environment a better place, and it's a great way to have fun and make a positive impact!

Complete your 4-H Trash Bash any time between March 1 and June 30!



Getting Started

Before you get started, reach out to local Extension staff to record your group and receive relevant documentation.

Choosing a location

Your 4-H Trash Bash needs to be at a public place:

- Park
- School
- Church
- etc.
- **CANNOT be a highway cleanup.**

Organizers must get permission from local officials to hold their 4-H Trash Bash.

Material and Supplies

- Garbage bags
- Rip or puncture-resistant gloves
- Trash grabbers (Ecology Action Center can supply)
- Buckets (Ecology Action Center can supply)

Ecology Action Center: 309-454-3169

Plan for Disposal

Determine how you will dispose of the trash that you collect.

Things to consider

- Who will be responsible for managing trash disposal?
- Will you separate out recyclables?
- Is there a dumpster or large trash container at your site?
 - If not, will you need one?



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Safety

Before You Go

- Sign liability form
- Request Extension staff to take out special event insurance
- Find non-emergency number for local police
- Collect emergency contact number for participants

What NOT to Pick Up

- Medical waste
- Sealed containers
- Broken glass
- Hazardous waste
- Anything buried
- Weapons
- Heavy or large items that would require more than one person to retrieve

If you find any of these items, tell the event organizer. The proper authorities will be notified.

What to Bring

- First aid kit
- Water bottles
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent

What to Wear

- Close-toed shoes
 - No sandals or flip-flops
- Hats and sunglasses
- Dress appropriately for the weather!

Getting the Word Out

What to Share

- Coordinator name and contact information
- Location
- Schedule for the day
- Liability and photo release forms
- Materials to bring to site

How to Share

- Connect with local Extension office
- Use club communication methods (email, GroupMe, Remind)
- Post on social media
- Share with local news, businesses, libraries, etc.



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