



# Safety Guidelines for Litter Cleanups

**Your group leader should have a first aid kit and a cell phone for emergency 911 calls. Report injuries or emergencies immediately. Think safety first! Then have fun!**

1. Wear closed – toe shoes or comfortable boots that can get muddy and wet.
2. Wear comfortable clothes that will protect you if you walk through brush and undergrowth.
3. Wear hats or visors for sun protection.
4. Use insect repellent and sunscreen.
5. Bring water to drink.
6. Wear gloves while picking up litter. They will be provided for you, or you may bring your own.
7. Do not pick up medical debris, chemical containers or barrels. Do not touch any closed, swollen plastic bottles with dark liquid. They may be dangerous. Report to leaders where they are located.
8. Do not touch living or deceased animals. Animals can carry diseases, and injured or trapped animals may bite.
9. ALWAYS use the buddy system. Phone 911 in the case of emergency. If you get hurt, inform supervisors immediately.
10. Be observant – look out for snakes, poison ivy and poison oak, and avoid slippery, unstable or steep banks.
11. Do not enter waterways without permission from the group leader. Always test the depth of the water before entering creeks. Remember that streambeds may have deep pools hidden from view. Do not enter the water if you do not know how to swim!
12. If working along roads or streets, wear a vest and stay 3-5 feet away from the road. Do not enter traffic or collect litter from bridges.
13. Ask someone with heavy gloves to pick up sharp objects. Double bag plastic bags if collecting sharp objects or broken glass and do not overfill.
14. You have the right to refuse to do tasks that make you uncomfortable or that you feel are unsafe. Ask your leader for a different assignment if asked to do something you feel uncomfortable about, and report your concerns to the event coordinator.

**Poison Ivy:**  
Leaves of three, let it be!



**Copperhead Snake**

