



## Rubbish Roundup Mission

# STAGE 1: RESEARCH & BRAINSTORM

**STAGE OBJECTIVE:** During the Investigate & Brainstorm stage, the members of your club will think about the impact of garbage on the environment and carry out a mini-audit to help them plan an effective community cleanup.

**STAGE LENGTH:** Approximately 3 meetings

**SUGGESTED BREAKDOWN OF MEETINGS:**

## MEETING 1: Our Local Environment

**KEY FOCUS:** What are the features of our local environment?

1. To begin, talk about ecosystems. Here are some questions that can get the discussion started:
  - *What is an ecosystem?*
  - *Who can name different types of ecosystems?*
  - *How do these ecosystems help us?*
  - *How would you describe our local ecosystem(s)?*
2. In groups, give club members 5 minutes to brainstorm a list of the natural features (i.e. trees, rocks, hills, lakes, ocean, etc.) and species that are found in your local environment. Explain that groups will receive a point for each answer that is not on any other group's list so they should try to find as many answers as possible. After the five minutes are up, compare the lists and count up the points.
3. Shift the discussion to how your local environment helps you (some answers might include: that it gives us fresh air to breathe, it provides clean water, it contains healthy soil to grow food in, etc.). Build off the club members:
  - *How can we help the local environment?*
  - *What happens when garbage/plastic is added to the local environment?*
  - *Then ask students to identify some of the problems our local environment is facing and discuss how we can help it (for example by reducing litter, practicing the 3Rs, planting native species, etc.).*
4. Explain that next time, you are going to go outside and observe what you find in a small part of a local area.

### Examples of different types of ecosystems:

Forests  
Grasslands  
Deserts  
Tundra  
Aquatic

For more information about ecosystems, visit  
**Britannica Kids: Ecosystem**

## MEETING 2: Outdoor Investigations & mini cleanup

**KEY FOCUS:** What is the situation in our community?

**MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS MEETING:** Bags and gloves

Before the meeting, select a small area that the club can investigate to see what kind of garbage they find.

1. Explain that you are going to go outside to observe and collect litter found in the area.
2. Before going outside, hand out gloves, bags, and a way to keep track of what is found (sample charts can be found below). Discuss the importance of being careful about handling litter and what should not be picked up (needles, sharp items)
3. Go outside and indicate to the club how much time they have.
4. Once the time is up, everyone can head back inside and dispose of the litter they have found. Collect all the observation charts to talk about next meeting.
5. Explain that next time, you will analyze your results and begin to think of a game plan to help your community.

### Safe litter handling tips:

[Litter Cleanup Safety Guidelines \(City of Edmonton\)](#)

[Litter Be Gone Safety Tips](#)

[Ontario Litter Cleanup Guide](#)

## MEETING 3: Investigation Results and Game Plan

**KEY FOCUS:** How our results can help us plan a clean up

1. Discuss the experience of the mini cleanup and look at the results. What was as they expected? What was surprising? How did it make them feel?
2. How do things found in the environment impact it? What could we do to solve our local problems?
3. As a club, begin to brainstorm on what you think we could focus on for a cleanup in your local community.
4. At the end of the meeting, explain that next meeting, you will begin to plan a community cleanup.





# DATA COLLECTION SHEET

Use the chart below to tally the number of items you find:

item	number found
Plastic bottles	
Pop cans	
Coffee cups	
Wrappers	
Bottle caps	
Paper (flyers, newspapers etc)	
Cardboard boxes	
Straws	
Plastic forks, knives, and spoons	
Plastic bags	
Paper bags	
Other	