

# How to start a Litter Lifter Group in your community





The following **How-To Guide** was created by the **Litter Lifters of West Vincent** - it shares information about how the group was organized and how they hold litter clean ups.

Please check out their social media pages to learn more!



# STEPS

## Steps 1 thru 11

1. Organize a group of people who want to help.
2. Create an identity for your group.
3. Create a list of supplies you will need.
4. Figure out how to get the supplies you need for FREE.
5. Find out what local resources are available.
6. Meet with your municipality.
7. Pick a date!
8. Promote your event.
9. Prepare for safety.
10. Hold your event!
11. After the event.



# STEP 1

## Organize a group of people who want to help.

- Collect emails.
- Call or text friends.
- If you don't know anyone yet, create a Facebook post for your township or local police department to share, and/or another existing group that has members in your area.





# STEP

## Create a list of supplies you will need

- Trash bags
- Gloves
- Safety vests
- Trash pickers/grabbers



# STEP 4

## Figure out how to get the supplies you need for **FREE**

- Contact your local landfill to see if they can provide trash bags, gloves, and/or vests. Both landfills in Chester County provide free trash disposal for volunteer groups.
- Signing up for PennDOT's Adopt a Highway program allows groups to get free supplies from PennDOT, including "Litter Crew Ahead" signs.



# STEP

## Find out what local resources are available

- Reach out to **Keep Chester County Beautiful** to let them know about your new group -  
[www.chescoplanning.org/Environmental/KCCB/Introduction.cfm](http://www.chescoplanning.org/Environmental/KCCB/Introduction.cfm)
- Check out the **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful** website for more information on how to organize clean-ups-  
[www.keppabautiful.org](http://www.keppabautiful.org)





# STEP

## Meet with your municipality

- Let your Municipal Manager/Secretary know about your group and determine if it makes sense for the group to be affiliated with the municipality.
- If associated with the municipality, determine what support they can provide (supplies, police support at roadway clean-up events, promotion through newsletter, social media etc.)



# STEP 7

## Pick a date!

- Choose a date for your clean-up, and preferably a rain date, too.
- Be sure to have contact information for volunteers in case you need to quickly communicate any change in plans.



# STEP

## Promote your event

- Register your event on **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's website**. If the event is part of the Adopt-a-Highway program, be sure to post at least a week in advance so PennDOT has time to acquire/gather your supplies.
- Create a post for social media, and share to local groups, your municipality's pages, and/or a new page you create for your group. Be sure to include the date, timeframe, parking location, location of clean-up, what to bring/wear, and how to register.



# STEP

## Prepare for safety

- Consider having a liability waiver for volunteers to sign once for the first clean-up (if you keep a file of waivers, it can be valid for all future clean-ups). Email it to volunteers to bring to the event and have copies available at the event.
- Create a safety list for volunteers and ask volunteers to review the document in advance. Also have copies available at events.
- Secure local police support if cleaning up a busy road or if other safety concerns exist.



# 10 STEP

## Hold your event

- Start early, particularly if doing a road clean-up, so there's not too much traffic.
- Ask volunteers to arrive 15 minutes before the event starts- use this time to go over safety precautions, sign waivers, and hand out supplies.
- Keep your event under three hours – people are busy, and they will get tired!

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# 10 STEP

## Hold your event (continued)

- Keep volunteers close together. If you have a big group, break up into several small groups and assign “Litter Captains”. Get the cell phone number of each Litter Captain for easy communication.
- For Adopt-a-Highway clean-ups, securely tie full trash bags closed, and place in a pile near the road where they will be easily visible for PennDOT to pick up, preferably near an intersection.
- Take pictures!
- After the event, thank the volunteers!



# STEP

## After the event

- Post on social media the results of the event - where you worked, who helped, and what you accomplished.
- If you provided reusable gloves and/or vests, wash them immediately due to germs, ticks, poison ivy, etc.
- Send an email to volunteers asking for feedback.





## Contact Us!

Still have questions, or want to talk about your ideas?

Contact Keep Chester County Beautiful:

Email: [Sustainability@chesco.org](mailto:Sustainability@chesco.org)

Phone: 610-344-6285

Contact the Litter Lifters of West Vincent:

Email: [litterliftersofwestvincent@gmail.com](mailto:litterliftersofwestvincent@gmail.com)

Facebook #litterlifters

Instagram: litterliftersofwestvincent

