

## **Get the Litter Out Program: Site Captain Leader Checklist**

- Attended Rising Tides: McCoys Creek Cleanup. Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_
- Reviewed the Site Captain Cleanup Instructions (see below)
- Watched the Get the Litter Out Presentation
- Assisted or lead one local cleanup with SJRK staff

## **Site Captain Cleanup Instructions**

### **Supplies:**

- Water bottle for you!
- Gloves
- Bags
- Hand sanitizer
- First Aid Kit
- Bug spray
- Cleanup Waiver
- Community Service Slips
- Pen
- Membership Envelopes
- Sharps Box

### **Program Guide:**

Get onsite early and set up your area. Table/tent if needed, then lay out the sign in sheet, bug spray, bags & gloves, sharps box. Keep the first aid kit and other emergency items on hand but not available.

Walk the area to scope out the distance, look for trash centers, tires, and identify where people will likely want to go first. Find hazards like rocks, tree stumps, or other things to point out to volunteers.

As people begin arriving, make sure they have signed in and let them know how long before you do a brief safety talk and send them on their way.

### **General Discussion and Safety Talk:**

Once you have a good amount of people and you don't expect too many more, begin the talk.

Introduce yourself and anyone who is helping you

Thank everyone for taking the time to come out and do such important work on behalf of the river. The St. Johns River is 310 miles, the longest river in all of Florida, but in those 310 miles, the river flows very very slowly and often what we put in our river, ends up staying there.

*"Has anyone ever heard of the St. Johns Riverkeeper? Do you know what we do?"*

St. Johns Riverkeeper is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the St. Johns River.

*Can anyone tell me what you think the most common trash item is that you will likely find today?*

Cigarette Butts, do not biodegrade, can last in the river for up to 25 years, 1 butt pollutes up to 25 gallons of water, so create toxic conditions for fish, so please pick them up

*What are some other common items?*

**Fishing Line** – becomes ingested by bird and tangles fish and other marina mammals

**Styrofoam and Plastics** – never go away, only get smaller and smaller being ingested by birds, turtles and marine mammals, act like plankton floating in our waterways but are not digested and add weight to aquatic life that eventually kills them.

**Broken Glass or other sharp objects** – DO NOT PICK UP broken glass or sharp objects because they will tear through your back cutting you, breaking the bag and possibly cutting others. Leave on the ground or bring to me to put in the sharps box.

**Safety Precautions** – (*Only use when in areas this may be necessary!*)

**Tires** – whether submerged or just lying on the ground, kick tires before handing them. Tires are counted and disposed of separately from the rest of the trash.

**Rocky/RipRap shoreline** – Tap each rock to check for how secure it is before stepping onto it with your weight.

**Grass above 1 foot** – Watch for critters. You may want to use a grabber and avoid stepping into areas with thick tall grass.

When you have filled a bag, please tie tightly and bring to the place you specify.

Tell volunteers how long the cleanup will be and when you are stopping.

We want to thank you for helping us protect the river today. BE SAFE! GO CLEAN!

### **Site Captain Tasks**

#### **Pre-Cleanup:**

1. Set up the area. Bags, Gloves, Tools and Waivers
2. Walk the area to locate known hazards and trash
3. Designate Area where trash bags should go. Preferably, near a public trash can, but not blocking any roadways or pedestrian areas. If there are no public trash cans, then find a landmark you can describe to the city. Good examples are electricity poles which all have a number on the side. Make sure wherever your pile is, it is easy for Waste management to reach it but does not block any regular traffic. It could be up to 6 days before the trash pickup occurs.
4. Give safety talk, and Begin!

#### **During Cleanup:**

5. Keep trash bags piled together. In a nearby pile, stack tires. In a nearby pile, stack other large objects. In another pile, stack natural debris like limbs and weeds. **DO NOT pile these items together!** Each has its own trash pickup with a separate part of Waste Management.
6. Take Pictures
7. Help people who have found sharp objects dispose of them in the sharps box

#### **Post Cleanup:**

8. Count trash bags, tires, and list large objects in a space on the waiver/sign in sheet.
9. Make sure all volunteers signed the waiver, and count the amount of volunteers total to ensure the numbers are the same.
10. Gather everyone at the designated time and ensure all the trash bags tied securely and piles are separate, and take a group picture.
11. Submit the scanned signed waivers to [megan@stjohnsriverkeeper.org](mailto:megan@stjohnsriverkeeper.org) along with your totals of each item within 1 business day of the cleanup.