



General Community Litter Clean-Ups

So you've decided to join Mission Adopt-A-Block's on going efforts to "Keep Mission Litter Free" by participating in a volunteer litter clean-up in the community. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the cause of making Mission a cleaner, and therefore, a healthier and safer environment. We look forward to meeting with your group and working with you to arrange an appropriate time, place, and litter clean-up route. Please be aware that clean-ups tend to run for 2-4 hours and should be undertaken by a minimum group of ten (10) people. Because litter clean-ups involve the need for a driver & truck to remove the bagged litter garbage – we require groups to book clean-ups a minimum of one month before the clean-up day. Finally, the use of a driver & truck is a cost to Adopt-A-Block, therefore, we require a minimum number of volunteers (10) to take part along on a given litter route of 2km or more.

Please take time to read the list of general information and procedures before you start planning and recruiting volunteers for your clean-up. Then make sure to share this information with other group leaders and volunteers that will be present on the day of the clean-up. Participants must also be willing to sign a waiver release on the day of the clean-up before commencing – this is to ensure that your group accepts the risks involved in partaking in a volunteer roadside clean-up. We will provide yellow vests to help increase visibility of the clean-up crew, as well as set out 2 sandwich boards to indicate the route – and it is up to volunteers to follow our safety guidelines. It is also important to remind volunteers to dress weather appropriate & come weather prepared – if it's hot, dress lightly, wear sunscreen and bring lots of water, if it's cold or rainy, wear warm clothing, water resistant materials and warm gloves to keep your hands from chill.

*If you have any questions regarding any information provided in this package please contact the coordinator by phone **(604) 826-9423** or e-mail missionadoptablock@gmail.com

Thank you again for your interest and commitment.



General Community Litter Clean-Up Information

- A minimum of 10 volunteers is needed to schedule a clean-up.
- A minimum of one month is needed to organize the clean-up with your group.
- Route can take 2-4 hours and will cover a minimum of 2 km.
- Adopt-A-Block will arrange for the removal of litter bagged garbage.
- For safety reasons, all volunteers **must be age 10+** AND relatively fit to participate.
- Make sure there is one adult volunteer for every 4 youth volunteers. Supervision of volunteers is your responsibility.
- Group coordinators are responsible for the recruitment of their volunteers and **MUST** attend the clean-up to coordinate volunteers.
- Group coordinators can work with Adopt-A-Block staff to select litter route of choice OR routes can be assigned
- Community clean-ups include the picking up of litter along streets, and green spaces – NOT private property. Some clean-up routes (parks) require district permission.
- Come weather prepared! Come with rain gear and boots if the ground is wet or if it may rain, OR sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and water in the hot weather.
- **ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP OPTION:** If you are planning a litter clean-up with less than 10 volunteers and under 2 km in road way AND still require the assistance of litter pick-up equipment – group coordinators can contact Adopt-A-Block to borrow equipment for their event (please notify AAB of your equipment needs within a minimum of 2 weeks before event). Please note, for smaller litter clean-ups, other than the loaning of litter control equipment, Adopt-A-Block will NOT be involved in your event. Removal of litter bagged garbage is your responsibility. However, we can work with your group to waive landfill tipping fees. (Loaning of equipment requires (\$) deposit, refundable to you when equipment is returned in good and working condition)



General Community Litter Clean-Ups Methods & Procedures

- Volunteers arrive at the designated meeting place. Each volunteer will be equipped with:
 - a safety vest, a picker (28" or 36"), and a strong re-usable bag to collect the litter
 - garbage bags to empty re-usable bags into when full
 - flagging tape to mark dangerous or large items for later pick-up
 - blue recycling bag for recyclable items
- Mission Adopt-A-Block will provide a safety talk to all volunteers, and will set out "Volunteers at Work" sandwich boards on the major litter pick-up routes to help alert traffic to your presence along side the road.
- Mission Adopt-A-Block staff will assist group coordinator(s) to divide volunteers along the litter clean-up route.
- Volunteers pick-up litter with the pickers provided and place in the re-usable bag. When this bag gets full, they will empty it into a regular garbage bag, and leave it on the side of the road. Please try to fill the garbage bags, tie them up securely and leave them in a place visible and accessible for a driver to pick up later. (Garage bags should NOT be left in front of residential driveways as litter garbage bags are mistaken for residential curb garbage.)
- Please don't empty your garbage anywhere but in the garbage bags provided, (eg. a garbage barrel on the street). We need to collect all garbage bags and weigh them at the landfill site to determine how much litter was collected during the Clean-up. We report to the District of Mission on the amount of litter and recyclables collected over the calendar year.
- Please don't clean private property unless litter is within reaching distance of the sidewalk.
- Don't feel you must clean up every cigarette butt unless you have time.

- Volunteers are to separate recyclables. Recyclable items include:
 - Any drink containers (pop cans, tetra packs, glass jars, beer bottles, milk cartons and jugs)
 - CLEAN and DRY cardboard, newspaper, paper, magazines
 - Clean aluminium cans, clean plastic containers with #1, #2 or #5 labels

- Volunteers will be given strips of flagging tape to mark the location of litter that *should not or cannot* be picked up, such as:
 - Large and/or unmanageable items (tires, wood debris)
 - Dangerous items (needles, syringes, dead animals, broken glass)
 - These kinds of items will be picked up by Mission Adopt-A-Block staff and disposed of properly.

- When all areas of the route have been covered, volunteers are asked to return to the meeting place to hand-in equipment & recyclables, sign-out and inform us of any items flagged or concerns. Mission Adopt-a-Block will have hand cleaner for volunteer use, if needed.

- The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society is always recruiting volunteers to adopt small areas in their own neighbourhoods to clean on a regular basis. If you feel you would like to help us keep Mission clean on your own, or with your family, we invite you to register with us. We'll have everything on hand to get you started.