

Source to Sea Cleanup TALKING POINTS

Please share these points with your group before you head out to clean:

Welcome to Connecticut River Conservancy's 30th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup! You are 1 of over 100 groups and over 2000 volunteers making an impact along the length of the Connecticut River and its many tributaries in all four river states (NH, VT, MA, & CT). That's a huge impact for our rivers!



Connecticut River Conservancy's

Source to Sea CLEANUP

Logistics & Safety Tips

- ☐ **Registration & Waivers** – has everyone checked-in? Please sign paper waiver if you didn't pre-register.
- ☐ **Safety First** – watch out for poison ivy, ticks, or unstable/steep/slippery banks. Use the **"buddy system."** Anyone going in water should wear a **life vest**.
- ☐ If you find **hazardous materials** (see ["HazMat Form"](#)) leave where they are, note locations. Report out on the HazMat Form and return form to group leader.
- ☐ Use **black bags for trash** and **clear bags for recycling**. Our goal is to recycle as much waste as possible.
- ☐ You may find **encampments** in the woods where people are living. Please be respectful. Announce your presence, ie: "We're here with Cleanup support!" Do not remove any tents or active dwellings unless they're completely abandoned; instead focus on clearing away what's obviously trash. Offer to leave trash bags if someone is there that doesn't want to be disturbed. Do not pick up needles/sharps – please report using the [HazMat Form](#).

Action Steps

- ☐ **Let's Tally our Trash!** Submitting a tally of the trash we find is one of the most important parts of the Source to Sea Cleanup. This data helps show the scope of the trash problem so we can advocate for solutions where they're needed most. Use the **enclosed paper form** or download the **CleanSwell app**. [Assign one person who's not cleaning up to record your data!]
 - **Paper tally users:** Record your items here and return home to input with our online form: [SourceToSeaCleanup.org/trash-tally/](https://sourcetoseacleanup.org/trash-tally/)
 - **Clean Swell users:** Be sure to turn location services on. When prompted for group name please type "CRC + our cleanup name".
- ☐ **Share your impact.** Submit your photos, artwork and stories via social media or directly to us. Visit sourcetoseacleanup.org/share-your-impact/
- ☐ **Share your Cleanup in a video story:** <https://sourcetoseacleanup.org/share-your-impact/#video>
- ☐ **Speak Up & Speak out:** Contact your state legislator about the trash you found. Encourage them to support legislation that stops trash before it starts. Visit ctriver.org/advocacy for more info on CRC's advocacy work.
- ☐ **Stay involved after the Cleanup:** Volunteer, attend an event, learn about our work: Visit ctriver.org.
- ☐ **Expand your impact & help keep our rivers clean and healthy all year** – become a member of CRC. You'll get a newsletter and info about river-related events – and the total cleanup results of your efforts today. **Make the time you invested today last ALL year!** Visit ctriver.org/donate.



Thank you for your efforts for clean rivers!

All our best, Stacey & Amanda (your Cleanup support staff) and the entire CRC crew ❤️