



Connecticut River Conservancy's CHILD SAFETY GUIDELINES

*The following was modified from Girl Scouts of America
Safety Activity Checkpoints*



Prepare for the Activity

- Communicate with parents/guardians. Inform them about the activity, including details about safety precautions and any appropriate clothing that may be necessary.
- Follow your organization's/school's activity approval, certificates of insurance and guidelines. Make arrangements in advance for all transportation and confirm plans before departure.
- Have kids plan the activity. Keeping age appropriate abilities in mind, encourage kids to take proactive leadership roles in organizing details of the cleanup.

Arrange for transportation and adult supervision. The recommended adult-to-youth ratios are:

Two adults to every:

- 6 youth between the ages of 5 & 6
- 16 youth between the ages of 7 & 10
- 20 youth between the ages of 11 & 14
- 24 youth between the ages of 14 & 18

Plus one adult to each additional:

- 1-4 youth between the ages of 5 & 6
- 1-8 youth between the ages of 7 & 10
- 1-10 youth between the ages of 11 & 14
- 1-12 youth between the ages of 14 & 18

Activity specific guidelines

Create guidelines specific to your cleanup site covering such things as safety precautions, proper dress, if and how deep youth are allowed to wade into the water and places that are off limits.

Respect the environment

The purpose of the cleanup is to leave the site cleaner than it was before your group gets there. Leave no trace principles apply.

Prepare for emergencies

Be sure to have a way to contact emergency services if necessary; be aware that cellular phone service may be reduced in some remote areas and know what information you will need to provide to emergency dispatch about your location.

On the Day of the Activity

These checkpoints include important final reminders on the day of the activity. Not every category is listed here:

- **Get a weather report.** Be prepared in the event of a storm with lightning, have a plan for precautions to take, and make sure everyone in the group knows the plan.
- **Use the buddy system.** Divide youth into teams of two. Each youth is responsible for staying with her/his buddy at all times, warning of danger, giving immediate assistance if safe to do so, and seeking help when the situation warrants it. Youth are encouraged to stay near the group or buddy with another team of two, so in the event someone is injured, one person cares for the patient while two others seek help.

For more information please contact our Source to Sea Cleanup Coordinator, Stacey Lennard, at 413-772-2020 x211 or via email at cleanup@ctriver.org. Visit us online at ctriver.org/cleanup.