



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

Volunteer clean-up events, organized by neighborhood associations, not only help keep neighborhoods clean, but are also the source of great community pride. They provide a wonderful opportunity for bringing neighbors together and building lasting relationships, while encouraging volunteers to continue in their efforts to beautify and improve their community.

When planning a volunteer clean up, the first step is to contact the **Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Community Affairs – Customer Service Unit – at least three (3) weeks in advance** of the clean-up. Activities may include removing trash, tires, as well as other debris and litter from public areas and streets. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will loan you cleaning tools and supplies for the clean-up and collect the bagged debris.

How to get started:

Contact the DSNY Customer Service Unit – (646) 885–DSNY at least three (3) weeks in advance of your planned clean-up event.

The DSNY will:

- Review your plan (see below).
- Provide cleaning supplies (i.e. gloves, trash bags).
- Arrange for short-term, free loan of DSNY cleaning tools (brooms, shovels, rakes).
- Coordinate with the local Sanitation district and identify an appropriate location where the DSNY can collect bagged and bundled trash, litter, debris, etc.



Prepare Clean-Up Event Plan

Make sure your event plan identifies:

- Clean-up area(s): a sidewalk, a street segment, or other public area(s)
- Clean-up tasks: how many volunteers will you need? how will you organize the volunteers, and what will the volunteers do?
- Debris to be cleaned (i.e. litter, loose rubbish, pieces of lumber etc.)
- What cleaning tools and supplies will you be requesting?
- Alternative event date (i.e. a rain date)

Publicize Clean-Up Event

To maximize volunteer turn-out, you may want to publicize your clean-up event in several ways, such as:

- Placing articles in a neighborhood newsletter and local newspapers
- Posting fliers in neighborhood stores
- Writing letters and making phone calls to your local community board, business and community leaders
- Making announcements at worship services and other community meetings
- Recruiting one volunteer per block to go door-to-door shortly before your clean-up event to provide a final reminder



Celebrate Accomplishments

Recognize the volunteers:

- List their names in neighborhood publications
- Bring cameras to take “before-and-after” photos
- Record videos to capture volunteers in action improving your neighborhood
- Share your photos and videos with DSNY via customerservice@dsny.nyc.gov
- Schedule future clean-up events to follow up on your success
- Establish annual events to make community clean-ups a regular part of your neighborhood's social fabric