

Junior Get Moving!
Take Action Project Sample Sessions: Litter Zappers

Littering and trash are serious concerns in our communities. Not only does litter diminish the appearance of our neighborhoods, it can be dangerous for people and animals. Birds can die from our litter by swallowing plastics or getting their heads trapped in plastic pop can rings. Ground water can become contaminated from litter and lead to dangerous drinking water. Sometimes, communities hold cleanup days in particularly littered areas. While cleanup days can be wonderful projects, they should be considered as supplements to activities that approach the problem of littering preventatively. When girls become Litter Zappers, they focus on trying to stop people from littering instead of cleaning up after them.

Session 1

Go Green Girl!—*What can you do to reduce, reuse and recycle?*

Litter Watch—*choose an area to observe*

Session 2

Litter Watch Results—*analyze litter watch results*

Litter Zapper Campaign Plan—*design an anti-litter campaign*

Session 3

Campaign Away!—*launch anti-litter campaign*

Session 4

Litter Zappers Unite!—*celebrate*

Session 1: Go Green Girl!

Objective: Encourage girls to think about reducing, reusing and recycling.

Time Allotment: Varies Materials Needed:

- Go Green Girl Toolkit and Patch Program

Prep Needed:

- Check out the Go Green Girl Toolkit and Patch Program at GirlScoutsRV.org and become familiar with the information.

Discussion:

Create a discussion based on the following questions:

- Where do we see garbage?
- Who puts it there?
- Is there a fine for littering in your community? How much is it? How many people actually get fined?
- How many people pay their fines? Call the local police station to find out.

Session 1: Litter Watch

Objective: Analyze the littering patterns of a particular area. Time

Allotment: 30 minutes Materials Needed:

- Copies of Litter Watch Survey (at end of packet)

Discussion and Activity:

1. Explain that girls will be choosing an area in the community to conduct a "litter watch."
2. Each girl can pick an area, small groups can share an area or everyone may want to watch an area individually with adult chaperons.
3. Visit the area as a group or explain the following steps to be done individually:
 - A. Walk around and take note what items are being littered, if any.
 - B. Count the number of trashcans and recycling bins.
 - C. Investigate who is responsible for the trashcans and recycling bins.
 - D. Investigate how often they are picked up.

Note: This can be a one-time visit or repeated visits in regular intervals to determine when littering occurs.

Session 2: Litter Watch Results

Objective: Share and analyze results of Litter Watches.

Time Allotment: 15 minutes Materials Needed:

- Method of recording results visually on a chalkboard or large pieces of paper

Discussion:

1. Ask girls to share the results of their Litter Watches.
2. Make a master chart of all the different kinds of litter. Add up and see what kind of littering happens the most.
3. Make a list of the places that don't have trash or recycling receptacles. Was there anything surprising or unusual there?
4. Was there a place with no litter? Did that place have enough receptacles that were maintained and not overflowing? Girls may want to present a Sparkling Clean Award to the people who maintain the best place.

Session 2: Litter Zapper Campaign Plan

Objective: Design a campaign based on the results of the Litter Watches.

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: Method of recording results visually on a chalkboard or large pieces of paper

Discussion:

Develop a campaign based on the following questions.

1. What kind of littering happens the most?
2. Where does that litter come from originally?
 - Suggested Action: Make posters about littering and ask to put them in the places where litter originates. Be sure to have girls tell the business or group that they are not accusing them of littering; girls would just like to inform customers about littering and encourage them to think about being responsible when they purchase the product.
3. Were there enough trash and recycling receptacles?
4. Could girls donate new receptacles to the area?
 - Suggested Action: Investigate who is responsible and ask if donating receptacles is a possibility. Girls may want to paint them cheerful colors.
5. Were girls surprised how clean the area was?
 - Suggested Action: Plan a Sparkling Clean celebration. Investigate who is responsible for keeping the place clean. Present them with a Sparkling Clean Award and encourage them to keep up the good work!

Session 3: Campaign Away

Objective: Carry out the campaign. Time allotment: 10 minutes

Sharing Circle:

Take action based on the campaign questions in the previous session. Share with each other the successes of the campaign. Make alterations if necessary.

Session 4: Litter Zappers Unite!

Objective: Reflect on the results of the campaign.

Time Allotment: 30 minutes

Site Visit and Sharing Circle:

Visit one of the Litter Watch sites after the campaign has been implemented. Have a Litter Zappers Unite celebration. Each girl should share one way in which she will be personally responsible for not littering and one thing she learned that surprised her.

Litter Watch Survey

Where _____

When _____

Who _____

Litter Checklist

Make a mark for each individual item of litter you see.

_____ Paper

_____ Newspaper

_____ Flyers

_____ Food Wrappers What kind of food? _____

_____ Cans

_____ Glass

_____ Cardboard

_____ Clothing

_____ Cigarette Butts

_____ Other _____

How many trash receptacles are there? _____

How many recycling receptacles are there? _____

Are they usable or overflowing? _____

Have there been any changes in the type of litter you see? If there is a change, what is it and why might it have happened?