

Form B - Safety Rules and Guidelines for Volunteers

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST ADHERE TO THESE SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES (unless stated as optional)

A. Planning

1. Volunteers must follow current guidelines set by the CDC and NCDHHS regarding COVID-19 precautions including but not limited to maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask or cloth face covering and proper sanitation practices.
2. Must be at least the minimum age with proper supervision by an adult and parental/guardian signature to participate (6 yrs. old for Storm Drain Marking, 10 yrs. old for Stream Cleanup and 8 yrs. old for Water Quality Monitoring).
3. Furnish a signed Liability Release form for each participant. Furnish adequate supervision by one or more adults 21 years of age or older for every 12 participants who are under the age of 18.
4. Follow directions and obey all safety rules and guidelines.
5. Conduct a safety meeting to review this document for all participants prior to each event.
6. Be aware that restroom facilities may not be available at the event location. Bring water and stay hydrated.
7. Do not work in inclement weather. Reschedule Stream Cleanup events until 72-hours after any storm event, and 24 hours for Storm Drain Marking events to ensure dry surfaces. Complete all events during daylight hours.
8. Make sure that you have permission if event is on private property.
9. Groups should carpool to the project location if possible while still following CDC guidelines pertaining to COVID-19, and park on the side streets if marking a busy roadway.
10. Allow ample space for each person to work safely. Do not work alone.

B. Potential Hazards to Be Aware of to Protect Your Safety

1. Be alert for snakes, ticks, stinging insects and poisonous plants.
2. Avoid contact with noxious weeds and areas where herbicides were applied.
3. Never drink the water at the site. Bring drinking water if needed, however, no drinking or eating during the Water Quality Monitoring.
4. Stay out of the stream as much as possible. Never wade in swift or high water.
5. Watch your step! Do not walk on unstable stream banks, or rocks. Stream bottoms are slippery, can contain deep pools or sink holes, and can also have sensitive habitats that should not be disturbed. Be aware of wet rocks, hills and slopes.
6. Watch for hidden/sharp or broken objects. Use caution when handling trash bags containing broken or sharp objects.
7. Do not pick up trash or walk on bridges, on overpasses or in tunnels or culverts.
8. Do not remove what appear to be hazardous material/substances or dead animals. Notify the Environmental Educator if you encounter hazardous objects or holes, guy wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground.
9. Do not conduct activities in or near water that appears to be badly polluted or is posted against swimming. Please call the Stormwater Hotline at 704-282-4515 to report suspected stormwater pollution.

C. Clothing and Personal Protection Equipment

1. Volunteers are required to wear a mask or cloth face covering when they may be within 6 feet of other people.
2. Dress appropriately for the expected weather conditions. All programs take place outdoors.
3. Wear safety vest provided for Stream Cleanups and Storm Drain Marking.
4. Wear light-color clothing that covers arms and legs. Wearing hats, bug repellent or sunscreen is optional.
5. Wear appropriate clothing that may get wet and dirty. During cold months, dress warmly with layered clothing. During warm months stay hydrated, take breaks and avoid overexertion.
6. Wear closed-toed shoes with sturdy tread. Boots or waders are optional for Stream Cleanups.
7. Wear gloves provided for Stream Cleanup and Storm Drain Marking events. Wear gloves and safety glasses provided during Water Quality Monitoring sampling and tests. The Dissolved Oxygen TesTabs® are hazardous if swallowed or if they come in contact with skin or eyes.
8. Wash your hands with soap when you are finished and dispose of all of your trash properly when you're done.

Disposal

1. Do not throw anything in the water including rocks, stones, mud, plants or debris.
2. Dispose of all reacted test chemical in the designated waste bucket as directed by the Environmental Educator.
3. Leave no trash or any other materials behind. Dispose all materials, including, but not limited to water, other liquids, human fluids, food, or trash as directed by the Environmental Educator
4. Use caution when handling trash bags containing broken or sharp objects. Use proper lifting and bending techniques.
5. Place trash bags where they can be easily retrieved by sanitation personnel and well clear of roadway traffic.
6. Do not squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries from broken or jagged objects can result from this practice).

D. Volunteer Must Not:

1. Use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during any volunteer events.
2. Push, shove, or roughhouse at any of the event sites.
3. Bring pets or animals to any volunteer events.

E. In Case of Emergency

1. Have an adequate first-aid kit immediately available and cell phone to dial 911 in an emergency.
2. Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route from the work area and have transportation immediately available in case of emergency.