



Talking Points for Sweep Leaders

Welcome! We are grateful to be here with you! To ensure the health and safety of volunteers, Sweep Leaders and participants alike, Sweep looks different this year. Masks must be worn at all times, and a social distance of at least 6-feet must be maintained at all times, and 15-feet when announcements are being made.

By volunteering today as part of the 2021 Riverkeeper Sweep, you are part of the biggest volunteer effort to clean the Hudson River. Thousands of volunteers like you are taking part in over 125 service projects between New York City and the Adirondacks today. Thank you!

What is Riverkeeper? Riverkeeper is a 55-year-old member-supported non-profit organization that protects and restores the Hudson River from source to sea and safeguards drinking water supplies, through advocacy rooted in community partnerships, science and law.

The Hudson River is an amazing and inspiring waterway! The Hudson River watershed includes many rivers and streams that feed the river with freshwater. We all benefit from living near such abundant resources -- we must do our part to protect our Hudson and local waterways.

As our annual day of service, the Riverkeeper Sweep is a reminder that it's our responsibility to protect the river.

By volunteering today, you are making a strong statement that we care about the health of the Hudson River. To stay involved, please visit riverkeeper.org to learn about current issues, sign up for more volunteer opportunities, take action or make a donation. As a non-profit organization, Riverkeeper relies on donations from individuals like you to organize toward a healthier Hudson.

Please stay safe today! It's important to stay safe and be careful of hazards. Please take responsibility for yourself and any children you may have with you. Please take care to avoid slippery rocks, poison ivy, ticks and be aware of the potential for trash to include hazards, such as discarded needles. If you come upon an item that may be unsafe, don't touch it! Leave it and report it to the site leader. As a reminder, masks must be worn for the duration of the project, and a social distance of at least 6-feet must be maintained at all times, and 15-feet when announcements are being made.

Please recycle as much as possible. The more recyclables we separate out, the less goes to a landfill or incinerator. A good way to recycle is to separate recyclables from trash as volunteers pick it up.

- You can do this by pairing up, with one volunteer gathering recyclables and one gathering trash.
- Alternatively, you can grab two bags and use one for recyclables and one for trash.

Our brewery partnership looks different this year. Riverkeeper is proud to partner with 30+ breweries, cideries, and bars around New York City and the Hudson Valley. In the past, our brewery partners have generously donated a free beverage for each 21+ volunteer at one of three dozen participating breweries and bars. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unique challenges for our partners, and we would like to support them. This year, we suggest stopping by one of these breweries after your Sweep project and purchasing beers or ciders at full price to enjoy safely at home with family or roommates.

Please share your experience on social media using #RiverkeeperSweep, #ItCameFromTheHudson and tagging @riverkeeper.

Thank you for coming out to volunteer today; let's have a safe and successful project!

Other Considerations:

If your project involves the use of kayaks, canoes or other vessels: The water and air temperature should total 120 degrees or more to avoid the risk of hypothermia. If temperature or weather conditions present a risk, we urge you to postpone on-water projects. No volunteer should be allowed to participate if he or she lacks appropriate equipment or fails to demonstrate the experience necessary to stay safe.

If a volunteer asks you to certify community service hours: High schools, courts and other organizations require volunteers to certify their volunteer service. Please sign and date any letters or forms presented to you, after the individual has given his or her time. If volunteers need documentation but do not have the forms with them at the project, have them call or e-mail Jen at sweep@riverkeeper.org.

Photo Tips for the Riverkeeper Sweep

Thanks to all of you in advance for helping to document this incredible day and the wonderful people who are part of it. Please send your photos to sweep@riverkeeper.org – and please note the location (name of the community, name of project site) and the photographer’s name.

During the event, feel free to text any really great shots to Leah (914-715-6821) or Jen (585-943-7454). Please share your experience on social media using #RiverkeeperSweep, #ItCameFromTheHudson and tagging @Riverkeeper.

What to aim for (some ideas):

- Before and after shots, from the same vantage point, showing the dramatic impact you make.
- Group shot with the collected trash! (Have the sun behind you or coming from the side. Ideally, have the trash in the foreground, and some water or shoreline in the shot.)
- Action shots. Try to capture the energy, pride and enjoyment of the day, zeroing on people and their efforts.
- **The trash –**
 - Oddball finds: If you see an unusual item (lawn mowers, cars, a carousel horse and many toys have been known to turn up) please post it an post with #ItCameFromTheHudson along with #RiverkeeperSweep.
 - Most common trash. Try getting the bottles, wrappers, foam, etc. in the foreground with people behind, holding these items.

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