

The Activity:

Community Spring Clean

Land of Adventure

Ancient Rome



The Ancient Romans invented sanitation and piped water supply. Towns and cities had strict laws on pollution. Those found dumping waste into waterways or public places were fined. This is still the case today, but we have more litter nowadays due to the huge amount of packaging and plastic which are dumped in public places.

Plan**Planning: Sixer Council**

Environment Climate Change

- Can we make a difference to Climate Change by cleaning up the local Environment
- Do we want to make it a Community event or do it ourselves
- How much time will it take

Plan

Which Travel Cards could we use?

Sarah's **Green** Travel Card – Community

Turas - Make posters advertising the Spring Clean

Taisteal - Write a small notice with details to go in the local papers and on the local radio

Tagann- Contact the local Tidy Towns committee and ask about a public park, green area, river bank or beach that needs to be cleaned up



Sean's **Orange** Travel Card – Respect for Nature

Turas – Check to see if there are public signs for littering

Taisteal – Check to see if there are public litter bins available

Tagann- Make a list of the plants and wildlife in the area who are at risk because of the pollution

Explore: Our Environment

Litter is **always** caused by people.

It is waste in the wrong place which ruins the appearance of our cities, towns, villages and countryside. Tens of millions of euros are spent every year on cleaning the streets in Ireland and trying to prevent people from dumping their waste illegally.

Litter such as broken bottles and cans left lying around public areas can easily result in an injury, while food litter can attract rats and flies, which spread disease. Litter can also kill wildlife such as fish, birds and small animals.



Climate Change

By taking part in the National Spring Clean, Cub Scouts will have real and measurable benefits for our environment.

For example:

- For every aluminium can collected and recycled enough energy is saved to run your television for three hours!
- For 1kg of recycled plastics collected, 1.5kg of carbon dioxide is prevented from being released to the atmosphere (the same amount of carbon dioxide released by toasting 30 slices of bread!)
- By recycling 1kg of paper, enough energy is saved to run an energy-saving bulb non-stop for two days!
- For 1kg of recycled glass, the saving is 300g of carbon dioxide

Preparation:

- Pick a place to do your Community Spring Clean. Pick any date in April for the event.
- Contact An Táisce via the online registration form (www.nationalspringclean.org/) to give details of the event. Once registered you will receive a clean up kit.
- The clean up kit will give tips on how to hold a successful clean-up event. Colour coded bags are provided for collection of litter that can be recycled.
- Recycling helps reduce the production of greenhouse gases and therefore climate change. You will also receive some plastic tabards to keep your clothes clean & some gloves to keep your hands safe & clean.
- Once you have a date and location for your event you should contact your Local Authority's Environmental Officer who will arrange the details for free rubbish disposal & recycling after the clean-up.



Do

- On the day of the event, Cubs to give out gloves and tabards. Assign a central location for the bags to be stored for collection.
- Take “Before” and “After” photographs so as to assess the impact of the event and to send to the local newspapers as well as An Táisce to obtain your certificate to hang in the Scout Den.
- Ask to be included in the Tidy Towns report to earn them extra points in next years competition.
- If members of the local community are involved, thank them for participating.



Review



Gather the Cub Scouts in their Sixes and with the help of a Scouter review the Spring Clean. Each Cub Scout can mark of parts of their travel cards which is relevant to their role in the activity.

Sarah's **Red** Travel Card – Community

Turas – Did members of the community reply to your posters?

Taisteal – Did people hear about the event on the local radio and read about it in the local newspaper?

Tagann – Did you get the local Tidy Towns committee involved?

Sean's **Orange** Travel Card – Respect for Nature

Turas- Do you think that more anti-littering signs are needed?

Taisteal- Do you think that there are enough litter bins in the area to deal with the amount of litter?

Tagann- How did you help make the area safer for wildlife and less harmful for plants? Would a Leave No Trace Sign improve the local area?

