

Litter lotto



Community
action



45 mins



Jump
straight in



Aim of activity

Litter is unpleasant to look at and can harm the local environment and wildlife. Take action to clean up your community, and have fun while you do it!

What you'll get out of it

- Care for your environment
- Make a positive change in your community
- Work as a team

What you'll need

- A safe local space that needs to be cleared of litter
- Sturdy gardening gloves, 1 per Patrol
- Litter-picking grabbers, 1 per Patrol
- High-visibility vests, 1 per girl
- Bin bags, 1 per Patrol
- Card or paper
- Pencils or pens

Note to Leader

Before undertaking this activity, ensure you have completed a risk assessment and checked that your chosen area is a safe distance from roads and other hazards and free from harmful waste. Ensure that girls are supervised throughout the activity and that parental permission is sought if necessary. Your local council may be able to lend you gloves and grabbers for your litter pick.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Stay safe



- No bare hands! Only girls with gloves and grabbers should pick up litter.
- Only pick up the items on your card. This means nothing sharp or dangerous (for example broken glass or syringes) and nothing unhygienic or harmful (for example dog waste).
- Always stay a safe distance away from roads and other hazards.
- Don't pick up items that are among other rubbish as you may accidentally pick up a harmful item.
- Stick together! Stay with your unit throughout the activity.
- Wear shoes or boots with thick, sturdy soles in case you step on anything sharp.

What to do

- 1 Get into your Patrols and find a place to sit together.
- 2 With your Patrol, make a litter picking bingo card. On paper or card, draw a grid of six squares. In each square, draw a different piece of litter you expect to find in your local area – for example a crisp packet or plastic bottle. Only include examples of litter you can pick up safely.
- 3 Now swap bingo cards with another Patrol.
- 4 During your litter pick, you'll tick off the items you find on this bingo card, scoring points as you go.
 - Score one point for each item you pick up.
 - Score three bonus points for ticking off a row of three boxes.
 - Score six bonus points for ticking off all the boxes on the grid.

5 With your Leader, discuss the safety rules opposite, making sure everyone understands them.

6 Put your high-visibility vests on and get ready to go outside. When everyone's ready, with a bin bag, gloves and grabber for each Patrol, go out together into your litter picking area, taking your bingo cards with you. You have 20 minutes to find as many of the items on your card as possible!

7 One person is in charge of using the gloves and grabber to put rubbish in the bag while the others search the area and tick off items on the card. Every time your Patrol bags a piece of litter, add a tick to the correct square on your bingo card. Don't stop at one of each item – if you see more, pick them up and add more ticks to your card. The more ticks you have, the more points you'll score! Remember, only pick up the items listed on your bingo card. If you see litter not on your card, just leave it for another Patrol.

8 When the time's up, the Guide in gloves should tie up your bin bag and put it into a bin.

9 Return to the meeting place, put the equipment away and wash your hands thoroughly.

10 Look at your bingo card and add up your points. Then hand your bingo card to your Leader, so she can announce the winning Patrol!

Take it further

Talk with your unit about whether you were surprised by the amount of litter you found.

- What kind of litter did you find most of?
- Why do you think people drop litter?
- Can you think of any ways to help prevent people from dropping it in the first place?