



Keep Scotland  
Beautiful

Your charity inspiring action for Scotland's environment

# Scout Leaders guide

## Upstream<sup>®</sup> Battle

Find out what you can do to stop  
litters journey from #Source2Sea

In partnership with:



# Tackle marine litter as part of your Scout Group.

Marine litter pollution is one of the biggest challenges facing the environment, and has an effect on everything from flooding to air quality and even our food.

80% of marine litter comes from land; washed into gutters, blown into streams, lost down drains, it makes its way into waterways and eventually to the sea. We must stop this cycle of litter and prevent it from entering the sea in the first place.

## What can you do?

You can join Scout Groups across Scotland to conduct a litter survey and clean up in your local area to contribute to Keep Scotland Beautiful's national data-set helping tackle marine litter.

1

Identify an area & [sign up online.](#)

2

Record the litter & clean up.

3

Share what you find on our [online platform.](#)



This activity counts towards:

Environmental Conservation  
Activity Badge

Scouts World  
Challenge Award.

Community  
Impact Badge.



80%

Marine litter comes from land.

12.7m

tonnes of plastic enters the marine environment every year.

88%

of people living in Scotland believe the amount of litter in rivers is a problem.





# Why record litter data?

**Citizen science is an data collection survey designed by Keep Scotland Beautiful. You will help count the litter you find on a waterway near you and report it.**

With this Keep Scotland Beautiful is building Scotland's first comprehensive river litter data-set. This data-set can help us to understand exactly what we need to do to target and support those responsible for littering to clean up their act, inform decision making and, ultimately reduce litter locally.



# How to record litter data with your group

You can log your data through a [survey](#) before uploading it to the [members site](#), or input your litter data directly online.

The members site allows Leaders to easily assess a Scouts hours towards a badge, especially if they are completing a badge at home.

## Health & Safety

All activities must be safely managed. You must complete a thorough [risk assessment](#) and take appropriate steps to reduce risk. Use the [safety checklist](#) to help you plan and risk assess your activity.

**Near water:** Manage groups carefully when near water. The [guidance on activities near water](#) will help you to keep your group safe.

**Dark:** Provide some light, so the environment isn't completely dark. Everyone must be able to see others and move around the area safely.

**Animals and insects:** Be aware of the risks before interacting with animals. Be aware of anyone with allergies, and make alternative arrangements for them.

**Heavy and sharp objects:** Never lift or move heavy or sharp objects. Wear gloves at all times.

You'll probably need more adult helpers than usual. Your risk assessment should include how many adults you need. The young people to adult ratios are a minimum requirement. When you do your risk assessment, you might decide that you need more adults than the ratio specifies.

Think about extra equipment that you may need to take with you, such as high visibility clothing, a first aid kit, water, and waterproofs. Throughout the activity, watch out for changes in the weather and do regular headcounts.

**Remember, you will first need to create and account with Keep Scotland Beautiful before starting your activity!**



We support the ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for Scotland's environment. We work with you to help combat climate change, tackle litter and waste, restore nature and biodiversity and improve places.



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