

# Staying Safe Outdoors & Online Waterway Clean-Ups & Litterati

## Staying Safe Outdoors

If you are picking up and photographing litter as a part of a waterway cleanup, please consider the following points and take extra steps to stay safe:

- Do not wade into the water, try to stay as dry as possible
- Avoid litter that may be sharp such as broken glass
- Be aware of your surroundings (wear a safety vest if you are near a road, be careful of steep slopes, beware of tripping hazards etc.,...)
- Avoid areas or times of the year where mosquitos are abundant
- Use the buddy system
- Do not try to pick up anything that might be too heavy or dangerous for any reason
- Wear protective clothing such as gloves and closed toed shoes
- Wear appropriate clothing such as long pants and a long sleeve shirt, where weather permits
- Bring water and be sure to stay hydrated
- Make sure to protect yourself from the sun (i.e., bring sunscreen and hat)
- Be aware of wildlife that may be in the area and do not touch or harass any wildlife
- Make sure you have permission to access the clean-up site
- Wash your hands when you are done

Make sure you comply with any requirements for cleanup volunteers to sign waivers.

## Staying Safe Online

### *What is Litterati?*

Litterati uses an interactive photography app for mobile devices to allow users to upload photos to a global map and database. You can go to [Litterati.org](https://litterati.org) to see the photos users have uploaded to the world map and digital landfill.

### *What Should I Know about Staying Safe Online Using Litterati?*

Litterati is a type of social media. When using any type of social media it is important to think about the information you are making visible to others online, especially for minors using social media. We recommend you consider the information and recommendations below when you use Litterati or when you are planning an activity for minors using Litterati. We recommend that this information is included in instruction, especially for minors on using Litterati. This information can also be used in a permission slips for using Litterati as a part of an activity with an educational institution or other organization involving minors.

### *How does Litterati Use Location Information and What Should I Know?*

In order to have your photo appear on Litterati's global map of pollution, your mobile device's location services must be turned on. Location services provides a GPS location to Litterati so that when your photograph is uploaded to Litterati, it will appear on a global map at the location where the photo was taken. The location where the litter is found is helpful for identifying pollution hotspots and answering other geospatial questions about litter in the environment. Turning on your location services also allows users around the world to see your photograph and where it was taken. Location services is a feature on mobile devices that can be turned on and off. You may turn your location services on to use Litterati and off again when you are done using Litterati if that is your personal preference. Refer to your mobile device's instruction manual for how to turn on and off location services. If you are a minor, check with your parent or guardian about using location services.

### *Your Online Profile*

Using Litterati or Instagram may require that you set up an online profile. Your profile username and the email associated with this profile may be displayed on Litterati with your submissions. If you do not wish for your real name or email to be visible online, consider creating an account with a user name that does not include any personal identifying information as well as setting up a separate email account to use for your Litterati or Instagram profile.