

## **Service Learning Project- School Yard Clean Up**

Duration: 60-80 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will learn how their actions impact Ottawa's freshwater and the environment
- Students will be able to describe the characteristics of a healthy environment, including clean air and water, and how a healthy environment enables living things to meet their needs

Background:

Service learning provides an authentic educational experience, where students can both learn and apply their learning in real-world contexts. It is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach community responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Materials:

- "We Are Water Protectors" book
- Gloves; 1 set per student
- Garbage bags; 1 for every 5 students
- Permission forms to be sent out ahead of field trip (if needed)
- Photocopies of the back certificate from the book
- Photocopies of the tally sheet; 1 for every 5 students
- Writing utensils

Procedure:

1. Read "We Are Water Protectors" book
2. Ask students why water is important and how we can protect it.
3. Ask students if they have ever seen garbage on the ground outside. How does it get there?
4. Discuss what happens when garbage doesn't end up in the garbage can. How does it impact people? What happens if garbage ends up in our waterways? How does it impact the plants and animals?
5. Discuss with students what they can do to stop garbage from getting into the environment. What can we do to help clean up garbage that is already on the ground?
6. Give each student a set of gloves. Have students gather in groups of five and give each group a garbage bag, a tally sheet, and a writing utensil.

7. Gather in the school yard. Have students spread out and pick up litter that is on the ground. Have students count the pieces of litter and mark it down on their tally sheet.
8. Return to the classroom for a debrief. How much garbage did you find? What kind of items? How did you help protect the environment and their local freshwater? How can we continue to protect the environment in the future?
9. Talk about the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and how thousands of volunteers are helping to clean up their community each year. What happens when a lot of people work together to solve a problem? (Resource: <https://shorelinecleanup.org/ca>)
10. Give each student a copy of the “Water Protector” pledge from the back of the book to fill in and take home. They are on their way to becoming a Water Protector!

Extension: Tally all results from students and make a bar graph.