
The Great LA River CleanUp

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration FAQs

Do I need to pre-register online? Do I need to pre-register my children?

Yes, we require all volunteers to pre-register for the event and agree to the digital event waiver. For children under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must register the child online and agree to the event waiver on behalf of the child. For kids under 16 years of age, the parent or guardian must also supervise the child for the duration of the event. All registered volunteers will receive a CleanUp Starter Kit (available at a local REI or sent by mail) with the essentials to participate and **MUST** be brought with participants to the event site: two trash bags and a pair of plant-based disposable gloves.

How do I pre-register online?

Visit folar.org/cleanup to select a CleanUp site and register through Eventbrite.

Is there a registration fee?

Absolutely not! Our Great LA River CleanUp is always a free event, but this year, volunteers are encouraged to consider making a suggested donation of \$10 to help cover the cost of your CleanUp Starter Kit.

I want to bring a group to the CleanUp – how can I do that?

That's great! Every group member needs to register themselves online and agree to the digital event waiver. Attendance at CleanUp sites will be limited to 50 people per site or per time shift, so encourage your group to register early to ensure that you can all attend the same site or time shift.

Event FAQs

Will FoLAR provide CleanUp supplies?

Yes, but supplies will **NOT** be available at CleanUp sites. Instead, all registered volunteers will receive a CleanUp Starter Kit (available at a local REI or sent by mail) with the essentials to participate: two trash bags and a pair of plant-based disposable gloves. Volunteers **MUST** bring these supplies to their CleanUp site and use them to collect trash.

When will I receive my CleanUp Starter Kit?

CleanUp Starter Kits will be available for pickup at REI starting Saturday, May 22. Be prepared to show your confirmation email when picking up. Mailed CleanUp Kits will start to be sent out at the end of May and depending on your event date.

What resources will be available at CleanUp sites?

Hand sanitizing stations will be available on site.

What resources will NOT be available at CleanUp sites?

CleanUp supplies, water stations, and porta-potties will **NOT** be available on site this year, as part of our COVID-19 safety protocols.

What COVID-19 safety precautions is FoLAR taking?

Masks and social distancing will be required at all CleanUp sites. To ensure a contactless and physically-distant event, CleanUp supplies, water stations, and porta-potties will not be available on site. Instead, volunteers should bring and use the supplies they receive in their CleanUp Starter Kit, pack their own water bottle, and use the bathroom beforehand. Attendance at CleanUp sites will be limited to 50 people per site or per time shift, and hand sanitizing stations will be available on site. Read more in our [COVID-19 Guidelines & Safety Protocols](#).

What should I wear and bring?

Volunteers **MUST** wear the FoLAR Neck Gaiter provided in their CleanUp Starter Kit as proof of registration, double-layer masks covering their nose and mouth, close-toed shoes, and clothes they don't mind getting dirty. Volunteers **MUST** bring the provided trash bags and gloves in their CleanUp Starter Kit and are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle, as drinking water will not be available on site. Don't forget to put on some sunscreen!

I prefer to conduct my own Self-Guided CleanUp. Where should I dispose of my trash?

Self-Guided volunteers are expected to pack out their trash with them and dispose of it properly. If you are going to the River for your CleanUp, be aware that there are not trash cans along the River, so it is recommended that you dispose of your trash in your home dumpster or trash bin.

Do I have to go in the water or get wet?

Not at all! Volunteers are encouraged to stick to the Riverbanks, islands, and sandbars. Be careful walking across rocks - they are very slippery.

What if it rains?

For safety reasons, we cannot be in the River channel if it rains within a 72-hour window of the CleanUp day. If this happens, the event will be canceled and FoLAR will notify all participants by email.

Can my company sponsor the CleanUp?

Absolutely! Sponsor support is not only critical to helping us put on this event; it ensures we're able to do our work year-round of advocating for an equitable and climate-resilient Los Angeles River and empowering the next generation of River stewards through our one-of-a-kind environmental education program. Check out our [Sponsorship Deck](#) and contact sponsorships@folar.org for more information.

Safety FAQs

What COVID-19 safety precautions is FoLAR taking?

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Is it safe to go into the River channel?

There are of course inherent risks to cleaning an urban River, but FoLAR is pleased to say that we have been organizing our CleanUp for over 30 years with few incidents. This year, volunteers are encouraged to review our safety tips, available on our website, prior to their CleanUp day to ensure a safe and fun experience out on the River.

Does anyone spray herbicides or pesticides in the LA River?

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contractors spot-apply herbicide by hand-held sprayer to non-native vegetation in the LA River channel areas only where vegetation cutting/removal has occurred. The herbicide is Roundup Custom, which is an EPA- and DOD- approved aquatic herbicide. The USACE states that the US EPA, based on long-term toxicological tests, has classified glyphosate as Category E for evidence of non-carcinogenicity in humans – the most favorable cancer rating for pesticide active ingredients and one that few other products meet. They have determined the risk is sufficiently low that there is no significant risk of unreasonable adverse effects to humans or aquatic organisms under normal use conditions (including the Corps' application technique), and studies on mammals, fish, and birds indicate that these chemicals do not bio-accumulate in the food chain. Nevertheless, best practice is to use gloves while in the River and picking up trash, and to wash your hands and take a shower after your CleanUp.

I'm concerned about the homeless encampments in the River. Is it safe to participate?

Yes, it is safe to participate. FoLAR is working with SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide outreach services to unhoused individuals living in and along the River prior to and during the event. In addition, SELAH and LAHSA representatives will be available at CleanUp sites to answer any questions or concerns volunteers may have. Volunteers are expected to treat our unhoused neighbors with compassion, dignity, and respect, and should refrain from disposing of their belongings.

What do I do if I find toxic or hazardous waste in the River?

Please refrain from picking up any toxic or hazardous waste, including feces, needles, dead animals, etc. If you come across any toxic or hazardous waste, please alert your CleanUp Site Leader, who can help with properly disposing the waste.

If the question you have is not listed here, please email contact@folar.org or call our office at 323.223.0585.