

Waste Volunteer Training Handout

Roles And Responsibilities

1. Focus on helping people sort their waste properly
2. Be friendly + helpful
3. Know your sorting stations: cycle through the event space and focus on the food scraps and recycling bins.
4. Pick litter off the grounds and remove contamination from bins.

Comfort And Safety

2. Dress appropriately (you'll probably get dirty)
3. Don't reach into bins unless you have gloves or a grabber.
4. Be aware of stinging insects. Be aware if anyone is allergic. Do they carry an EPI pen with them?
5. Avoid conflicts – If a person/group makes you feel uncomfortable, you can:
 1. let them throw it away
 2. leave the area if you feel unsafe
 3. Find another volunteer or coordinator (what is the event's safety protocol?)
6. Take care of your own needs. Bring snacks and water. Take breaks as needed.

Tricks Of the Trade

2. Smile and make eye contact.
3. Thank people for their efforts
4. Use positive language/avoid negative phrases. Give examples.
5. Role play with one volunteer as the attendee, and one as the volunteer. Give feedback. Ask questions. Without item specifics – just practice using language.

What Goes Where?

When in doubt, throw it out!

All material needs to be clean, empty and at least 2 x 2 inches

GLASS CONTAINERS	Food and drink containers Labels OK No! glasses, vases, pottery, mirrors
PLASTIC CONTAINERS	Rigid plastic containers only Don't focus on the number No - black plastic No - filmy plastic No - cutlery or straws
METAL	cans aluminum foil – crunch-up test pie plates
FIBERS	paper/boxboard/cardboard Pizza boxes okay without food waste (grease is fine) NO - wet or lined with plastic/wax. NO - paper cups
FOOD SCRAPS	Food scraps from anything edible NO - paper products NO - PRODUCE STICKERS! NO - <i>compostable</i> cutlery/cups/plastic containers