

Clean Pittsburgh Stewards: Ways to Engage with Pittsburgh Cares

I. Administrative

1. Visit the Pittsburgh Cares site, and read the [Nonprofit Partnership Overview](#). Fill out the agency overview to be approved to post events to the site.
2. If necessary, meet with a Pittsburgh Cares staff member.
3. Post any projects to the calendar at least two weeks prior to the event.

II. Strategies for Partnering

1. Know your target volunteers: If you have a lot of heavy work (clearing out a landfill) that needs to get done, instead of putting the event on the calendar, you might want to contact the Campus Cares Program Manager, Beth Grubbs (bgrubbs@pittsburghcares.org). If it is just picking up trash, specify that it can be family oriented. If your date is flexible, that also helps in recruiting groups.
2. Know the best dates: Key dates include: CMU 1000+ Day (end of March); Earth Day (April 22 or weekend before/after); Hands on Pittsburgh (1st weekend in May); United Way Days of Caring Campaign (Sept. and October - though it is easier if you are a UW donor eligible organization); and Pitt Make a Difference Day (October)
3. Look for partners: If there are nonprofits in your neighborhood, see what work they need done and how they could use volunteers. That way, half of the volunteers can work outside on a community clean up and half can work inside or outside with another organization. Or, you can split the day. Good partners include senior centers, food pantries, after school program locations, etc. When looking to place groups, it is nice to give the volunteers options, instead of having just one volunteer activity, especially if the task is not always fun, like picking up trash can be, or strenuous, like clearing a dump site.
4. Follow-Up: You all obviously know this, but follow up is key. Write thank you notes or emails to the volunteers and to Pittsburgh Cares for securing the volunteers for your event. That way people will feel like their work was valued...obviously pictures are always appreciated!
5. Have fun: Especially if the volunteer group is students (and don't underestimate the work of youth, try to make it fun by having a competition for who can pick up the most bags of trash, who covered the most ground, or give them different tasks to do as part of a trash treasure hunt. Engaging the local businesses/other nonprofits is also great! When people come into your community, particularly if they don't normally go to your community, educate them about what is going on, who makes up the area, etc. When people are educated, they are more likely to engage.