

# The Pickup Artists

## Information Guide for: The Duke of Edinburgh Award: Volunteering



### Mission Statement

Our aim is to keep our towns litter free and recycle as much litter as we can, to prevent it from going to landfill or hurting wildlife. Our desired outcome is to educate all, focussing on Junior Pickup Artists and education through schools and community groups.

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***“Volunteering is all about getting out there and making a difference by helping others, the environment or your local community”***

(DofE handbook....getting started)

At the ‘Pickup Artists’ our philosophy is ‘Lets make a difference’. We are a group of like-minded individuals, passionate about caring for the local environment and wildlife and keeping it clean. We are an all inclusive group: no barriers to age, gender or ability and welcome anyone who can make a difference, no matter how small.

So what better way to fulfill your volunteering hours, than coming out with us and supporting your local community, helping to keep it litter free and protecting the beautiful wildlife and landscapes we are surrounded by here in Wyre Forest, including nature reserves, waterways and parks.

## **Who are ‘The Pickup Artists’?**

The Pickup artists were founded in January 2018 by a local Kidderminster resident called Michelle Medler, following a new years resolution she made to pick up 3 pieces of litter on her daily dog walks. After posting about it on social media, it soon became a group ‘Keeping Kidderminster and surrounding places clean’ and then ‘The Pickup Artists’. From a small number of followers initially, we now number 1276 members and have scores of volunteers out doing daily/weekly litter picks in their own “patch” or area. Group events run regularly and can be created by any member if they see a ‘grot spot’ that needs greater numbers to tackle it. We have adopted parts of the canal in Kidderminster and Stourport and clean them weekly, run weekly cleanups in Brinton Park, work in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council to help clean up the lower heathland of Hartlebury Common, as well as many other events. Michelle and Karen (our other moderator) are now ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ ambassadors and Michelle has recently been to the houses of Parliament to discuss litter and it’s impact on local areas. Karen runs the ‘Junior Pickup Artists’ educational programme, going into schools and local scouting groups and

delivering talks on littering and then taking groups of children out into their surrounding area to litter-pick. These have been a great success this spring and summer in conjunction with the 'Great British Spring Clean' initiative. All this work is done purely by volunteers. People like you and me, who want to get out there and make a difference in their community.

## **How do you complete your volunteering hours with us?**

It's really simple to volunteer with us.

Firstly talk to your DofE lead organiser to ensure you get their permission to use your work with us for your volunteering section.

Next, ask your parent/guardian to 'join' The Pickup Artists' online at [www.pickupartists.co.uk](http://www.pickupartists.co.uk) and/or log on to Facebook and join the Pickup Artists Facebook group.

The pickup artists primarily 'adopt' a patch of their own area and go out independently to litter pick it and keep it clean and tidy. This could be your street, local fields, park, or woodland. Wherever you can get to regularly. The DofE (bronze/silver or gold award) guidelines, ask that you volunteer a minimum of an hour a week (over 3 months for bronze, 6 for silver and 12 for gold). Obviously, how much more you do is up to you, but to allow us to assess your efforts, you must post a photo of the evidence of your litter picking and a description of the area cleaned on the Facebook group, whenever you go out.

We also ask that you attend a minimum of between 3 and 6 organised group events (depending on which award you are looking to achieve) where you and your parent/guardian will join in a community litter pick run by one of the three DofE leaders. This will enable them to meet you, talk through your volunteering objectives and allow them to correctly assess your hours when the time comes for your paperwork to be filled in. These events run regularly (often daily or weekly) so there are plenty for you to choose from that suit your schedule and travel plans. Again, photos will be taken on these days and posted on the groups Facebook page.

You can use all these photographs to upload onto the DofE website to evidence your volunteering so your school/local organiser/lead assessor can monitor your progress.

## **Our Assessor responsibilities**

- Our biggest obligation to you is to ensure we consider your safety and welfare at all times.
- We will endeavor to work with you to direct and/or provide suitable opportunities for you to carry out your volunteering hours
- We will complete your assessment paperwork for the DofE in a timely manner to allow you to produce the evidence for your award.
- We will ensure risk assessments are carried out on group activities you attend.
- We will ensure you and your parent/guardian understand the risk assessment and any safety measures the group leader puts in place for your safety.



## Safeguarding

When volunteering with the Pickup Artists, parent's/guardians must be aware that our volunteers are largely unvetted adults. Bearing this in mind we enforce the following rules when dealing with young people:

- The onus is on the parent/legal guardian to find a suitable volunteering environment and be happy that it is safe for their young person. We highly recommend that an adult accompany the young person when they're out litter picking in their own local area.
- At all group events, we ask that you accompany your young person at all times
- The group leader at events must be a 'vetted' adult (assessed through the Disclosure and Barring service). For the purposes of DofE assessments these adults are: **Cliona Snow, Michelle Medler and Karen Blanchfield only, at present.**
- Every group event will be risk assessed by the leader and the young person briefed on safety aspects relevant to the activity.
  - All safety wear provided (high vis jacket) must be worn on the litter pick. Care

must be taken of all equipment provided by the group, ensuring it's appropriate use.

- Any safeguarding concerns of the young person/accompanying adult must be communicated to the group leader as soon as practically possible so they can follow up on those concerns and take any appropriate action(s).
- As the group use open access social media to advertise our work and spread our message, photos of your young person may appear on the group's Facebook page. To this end, a permission form will be handed out at the first group event. If you do not wish them to appear in photos and don't want to sign this form, please make this clear to the group leader at the start of the event.
- For further information on our health and safety guidelines for litter picking please read:
  - <https://www.thepickupartists.co.uk/volunteers-health-and-safety/>

## **Follow-up**

If you are interested in completing your volunteer hours with The Pickup Artists then please contact us at:

- [the.pickup.artists@outlook.com](mailto:the.pickup.artists@outlook.com) or
- Message us on Facebook or
- Visit: [www.thepickupartists.co.uk](http://www.thepickupartists.co.uk)

Then download this booklet for your information and fill out the attached forms before attending the first event.

Hope to see you soon!

# Appendix A

## Quick Health & Safety Checklist

### **All volunteers must read this checklist**

- Please do not work alone, keep a member of the team in sight at all times.
- Wear the protective gloves provided at all times.
- Always use litter pickers provided to pick up litter.
- Make sure you can see all of the items of litter you are picking up.
- If you find a hypodermic needle (syringe) please leave it and tell the group leader who will arrange disposal. You can call the local council to arrange safe disposal.
- Do not enter the sea or any water.
- Do not pick up anything you think may be hazardous, e.g. a flare or munitions. Tell the team leader or call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
- Be careful of trips and falls on uneven ground, particularly slopes, sand dunes and rocky shores.
- Hygiene – avoid touching face, eyes, mouth whilst working. Wash hands before eating and drinking.
- Cover any cuts - all team leaders have first aid kits.
- Do not attempt to lift large or heavy objects which make you strain. Work with another to lift the items or tell the group leader who can arrange disposal with the local council.
- If your bag becomes too heavy tie it up, put it either in or next to a bin and start with a fresh bag in the hoop.
- Strong and covered footwear is advised and suitable clothing (e.g. warm / waterproof clothes in winter and sun cream / hats in summer). Finally, Remember; look out for yourself and others. Don't take risks and have an enjoyable time!

Name

Email

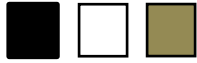
Please tick

I have read and understood the health and safety checklist

Thank you

The Pickup Artists

# Appendix B



## Photograph & film consent form

Image description:  
Event & location:  
Date:  
Lead officer:  
Lead officer tel.no:

Thank you for allowing us to take your photograph today. We now need your written approval to allow us to use your image and details.  
I give consent for The Pickup Artists to publish, republish or otherwise transmit still and moving images and audio of myself, for the purpose of:  
. The Pickup Artists publicity, fundraising and advertising materials, including printed publications  
Presentation and exhibition materials  
. The Pickup Artists, social media channels and digital communications  
. News media and their associated websites and social media channels including print, television and radio  
If you are signing on behalf of yourself please complete section 1, if you are signing on behalf of a young person under the age of 18, please complete section 2.

### Section 1

I am the person identified in the photograph(s), filming and/or recording.  
I understand the above request and give informed consent.  
Name:.....  
Telephone Number:.....  
Email Address:.....  
Signature:.....Date:.....

### Section 2

I am the parent / guardian of a young person under the age of 18 years old identified in the photograph(S), filming and/or recoding and I give informed consent.  
Young person's name:..... Young person's age:.....  
Signature of parent/guardian/carer:.....Date:.....

### Data protection

Any personal data you give to us, including photographic of film images, will be stored electronically and processed strictly in accordance with the General Date Protection Regulations (GDPR). It will only be used for the purposes you have consented to.  
Consent lasts for up to five years from the date of signing this form but you may withdraw your consent at any time by calling 01562 755079, emailing the.pickup.artists@outlook.com. Please give details of the date and event when your photograph/film was taken.

Photograph & film consent form

