



Tips to successfully #TakItHame

BEFORE YOUR EVENT

PICK A DAY AND GATHER SUPPORT

Invite people to join you at your chosen location. Advertising on Facebook groups, WhatsApp or other social media is a good way to let folk know. Perhaps get support from other groups and individuals to make this a community event. Even a few people can make a difference!

CONTACT THE LANDOWNERS

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code recommends that “if you are organising an event, it is good practice to liaise with the relevant land managers.” If you are struggling to find out who owns the land, you could try searching on the ‘Who Owns Scotland’ website – some basic information may be available there.

DO A RISK ASSESSMENT

This is meant to be an enjoyable event and you don’t want anyone to get injured. Risk assessments are important as they help to create awareness of potential hazards and risk. We have produced a template for this which is included here.

BRIEF YOUR GROUP

It is important to let participants know what to expect before the event. Make sure they know what to wear and what to bring with them (appropriate gloves for litter picking) as well as refreshments and so on. If it’s a large area you’re covering, maybe allocate sections to individuals or small groups.

TAKE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT

You may need litter pickers, but certainly old gloves and strong bin bags at the very least – Mountaineering Scotland has branded, reusable #TakItHame bags for this purpose. Take a first aid kit, and know how to use it. It would be helpful to recommend that participants bring hand sanitiser with them – some people may be allergic to different types so it is best if they bring their own. You may also want to wear hi-vis vests if you’re near a busy road. Please also take lots of photos of your event and share on our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages, using the #TakItHame hashtag.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

As a member of Mountaineering Scotland, either via a club or individually, you are already provided with combined liability insurance protection for your climbing, hill walking and mountaineering activities.

ON THE DAY

Be prepared to look beyond the line of the path you are following. On exposed paths you will be unlikely to find much litter as it will have been blown away by the wind. Check the lee side of the route and look in shrubs and bushes and in cracks in rocks where litter may get trapped. You are likely to find items where people usually stop for a rest and a snack! You are likely to find more rubbish at lower levels – by car parking areas and alongside routes to and from them.

Please be aware of wildlife and try not to disturb animals or damage plants. It is best to not remove features such as logs, stones and weeds – these are often valuable habitats for smaller animals.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE THREE KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE:

- Respect the interests of others
- Care for the environment and
- Take responsibility for your own actions.

DISPOSING OF LITTER

Please try to recycle as much as possible, by separating the waste collected. Your Council may also agree to collect your litter after your litter pick if you contact them first. They may be able to advise on where to borrow litter pickers if you require them.

TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

Did you find anything interesting or weird? Was there a particular brand or product that made up a lot of your litter?

Please record where you went, how much you collected and what you collected and email the results and photos to access@mountaineering.scot

Tag Mountaineering Scotland in your social posts and use the **#TakItHame** hashtag.

- **Twitter:** @Mountain_Scot
- **Instagram & Facebook:** @mountaineeringscotland

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