



Fountain Creek Watershed District Presents:
CREW LEADER TRAINING

An Overview of Tasks, Tips, and Safety



Welcome!

Thank you for
choosing to lead a
crew this year.

- 2014 = The inaugural Creek Week! Organized by the District's Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)...Happy 13th Anniversary Creek Week!



Fountain Creek Watershed District Staff



➤ Alli Schuch - Executive Director



Fountain Creek Watershed District Staff

- Mary Wilson - Watershed Outreach Coordinator
- Jordan Witteveen - Administrative Assistant
- Hadit Poveda-Morales - Assistant Watershed Outreach Coordinator
- Steve Rodriguez - Operations Manager
- Susan Finzel - Pueblo Outreach Coordinator
- Creek Week Steering Committee - thank you!



In 2025, we celebrated our
12th Anniversary!



FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.

Creek Week Impacts



FACTS & STATS

70 cleanup crews
~1,500 Volunteers
Worked ~500 hours
To fill ~1,705 bags
=
~16.5 tons of litter
and debris removed!



FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Thank you!

2026 CREEK WEEK SPONSORS



CREEK CHAMPION
\$5,000+



WETLAND WARRIORS
\$2,500 - \$4,999



STREAMSIDE SUPPORTERS
\$1,000 - \$2,499



FRESHWATER FRIENDS
\$1 - \$999



**ADDITIONAL
SUPPORTERS**





1. Before your cleanup:

Crew Leader Resources

Youth/waivers

Optional add-ons

How to be a super star

2. During your cleanup:

General Safety

Water, sharps, tires, cigarettes

Trash plan

3. After your cleanup:

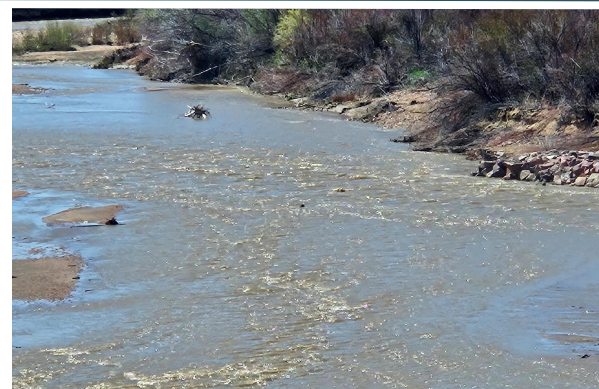
Mandatory survey

Call for photos





1. BEFORE YOUR CLEANUP





Crew Leader Resources

Please read ahead of time

[2026 Cleanup Checklist](#)

[2026 Safety Guidelines](#)

[2026 Group Risk and Release Form](#)
(only to be used day-of)

CREW LEADER TRAINING VIDEO



<https://www.fountain-crk.org/crew-leader-instructions>

YOUTH (5-17 yrs)



- Youth volunteers need to have a parent/guardian signature.
- Ratio is 1 guardian per every 4 youth.
- Walk-up's: youth must have parent sign waiver. Take a picture and email us the completed group waiver (given at materials pick up or available on our website).



Tips for Delegating

- More hands make light work!
- Assign an Asst. Crew Leader
- Young people aged 5-17 years must have a parent or chaperone (21+ years) with them at the event.
- Share the name and phone # of the Leader and Asst. Leader(s) with all crew members.
- Send out workday location and time 'reminder' 24 hrs. in advance.



Search for the “Fountain Creek Watershed Biodiversity Survey”



Optional Resources

Clean Swell

- Ocean Conservancy's ocean trash data collection app. Trash data you collect will be added to worldwide data to help guide solution's of ocean trash problem.

iNaturalist

- Citizens collect data to document the flora and fauna in the Fountain Creek Watershed. Collected data will be important for future research, projects, and SoCo fauna/flora knowledge

GOCOS

- Use this app to report code enforcement violations including garbage, trash, and pet waste. Find dumpsters and fill potholes. 24/7!



GOCOS: A Guide

➤ Website:

[https://coloradosprings.gov/](https://coloradosprings.gov/CreekWeekTrash)

[CreekWeekTrash](#)

1. Click "Start a Request"
2. Fill out details - make sure to take good pictures, don't stack bags, and include trail/park/open space name if relevant
3. Create an Account using Google or a password/username OR log in if a returning user.
4. Submit!

➤ App:

1. Click "Start a Request"
2. Search "Creek Week Trash Collection"
3. Click "Make Request"
4. Fill out details - make sure to take good pictures, don't stack bags, and include trail/park/open space name if relevant
5. Create an Account using Google or a password/username OR log in if a returning user.
6. Submit!



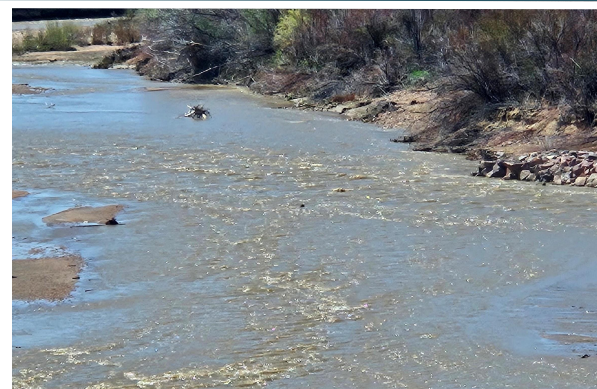
How to be a Super Star Crew Leader



- Scope out your site before you go
- Hydration
- Snacks
- Photos
- Prizes!!! 3 categories from FCWD...more info to come.
- Livestream parts of your cleanup on Facebook/Instagram!
- #CreekWeek
- #FountainCreekWatershedDistrict
- Theming/costumes
- Have a post-clean up crew party...have a Hydration Celebration!



2. DURING YOUR CLEANUP





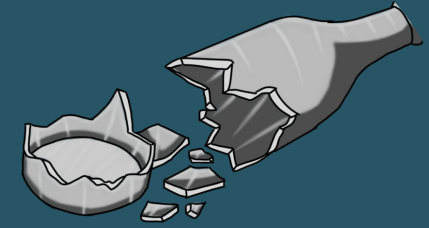
****Your kit will include some staple cleanup supplies, but if people have their own, they may want to bring them. This helps us keep Creek Week sustainable into the future.**

Notes on Safety

- Always Work in Pairs
- Wear Bright Colors or Safety Vest
- Prepare for the elements
- Use Gloves
- Ask crew members to bring additional gloves, trash grabbers, and buckets with handles if they have them at home.
- A wagon is helpful for hauling supplies



Safety Cont'd



Water

- Use your best judgement
- Utilize the GoCOS! app
- Take a photo
- Report location to organizer
leaders (719) 426-7536
- When in doubt, leave it alone and
move your crew members away
- Stay clear of swift water
- Utilize your tools and
grabbers
- Do not wade in cloudy
water
- Work with a partner



Sharps Disposal



- Please do not use hands
- If skin contact is made with a needle, immediately sanitize the area and seek medical attention
- Report the location/incident to organizers (719) 426-7536
- Call 911 for immediate help

Fire Station #1 - 29 S. Weber St

Fire Station #2 – 314 E. San Miguel St

Fire Station #3 – 922 W. Colorado Ave

Fire Station #4 – 2280 Southgate Rd

Fire Station #5 – 2830 W. Colorado Ave



Tire Safety

- Tires filled with water are heavy. Carefully drain before picking up and hauling.
- Work with a partner and stack for loading later.
- Tires are good hiding places for Rodents, Spiders, and Snakes
- ALWAYS kick a tire before grabbing it!





Cigarette Waste

- #1 littered item in the U.S.
- Includes: extinguished cigarettes, filters, rolling paper, inner foil, and outer plastic packaging (not cartons).
- Use a smaller bag or plastic container
- Use Terracycle to send in cig. waste. Visit: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/cigarette-waste-recycling> for more info.
- This is an “extra credit” option for those who choose to do so. Crew Leaders are responsible for mailing them in afterward.



Trash Plan

- Whenever possible, use a public dumpster (such as at a park).
- Please DO NOT pile bags and trash. Arrange them so they are easy to pick up.
- You can also ask your post-cleanup celebration site if you can use their dumpster.
- In Colorado Springs, you can use the GoCOS! App or website.
CHECK YOUR AREA AHEAD OF TIME ON THE APP!
- Tie full bags and place at the edges of trails, paths, or roadways – to be easily seen!
- Keep track of: # bags filled, strangest/most common littered item



3. AFTER YOUR CLEANUP





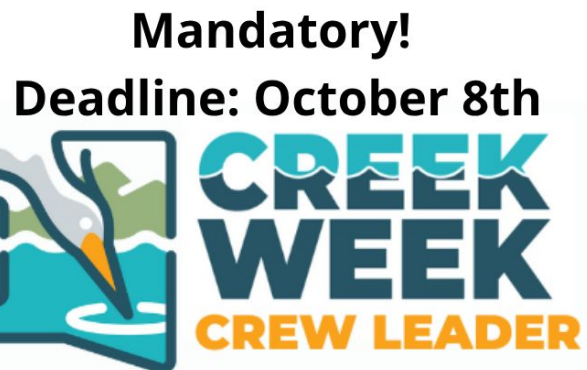
What We Need From You

1. Fill out the mandatory post-cleanup survey for Crew Leaders! Send Crew Member survey out. **Suggestion:** do this right after your cleanup while it's fresh!
2. Take Photos and Email them to fountaincreekoutreach@gmail.com
3. Keep your supplies! Use them for future events (thanks to our generous sponsors).



2026 Creek Week

Post-Cleanup Surveys





Prizes for:

1. Best Before and After Photos
 - Shows impact!
2. Best Group Photo
 - Cleanups = Community
3. Strangest Thing

Email photos to fountaincreekoutreach@gmail.com



*“Great
Expectations”
(credit: Kristin
Wehde)*



*Hog Mask
(credit: Kristin
Wehde)*



*Heavy Metal
(credit: Graeme
Cloutte)*



CREEK WEEK 2026 HYDRATION CELEBRATIONS

➤ Have a Hydration Celebration at one of our Brewshed® Alliance partners!

➤ Must take a photo from your cleanup and turn in to receive your discount

Show your bartender a photo from your cleanup to redeem your offer!



Free pint



BOGO beer



\$2 off beer



\$1 off beer



Free flight with purchase



\$50% off first beer or 10% off total bill (10/4 only)



\$1 off beer



50% off beer or 15% off food



\$5 pints



\$1 off beer (9/27-10/4),
\$1 off sandwiches (10/4 only)



\$4 pints



\$1 off beer



\$2 off 4-shot sampler



Select beer \$5



\$1 off beer



BOGO flagship beers (9/28-10/4)



\$1 off beer



As a token of FCWD & the Brewshed® Alliance's appreciation, Creek Week Cleanup Crews are invited to revel in their hard work by enjoying exclusive discounts at these local businesses.

Pre-Creek Week Fun on 9/23



GET CRAFTY FOR THE CREEK

September 23, 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Concrete Coyote Community Park

Help us get ready for Creek Week 2026 by decorating cleanup supplies and other items with our partners at Concrete Couch and Hey Neighbor! Free decorating and cleanup supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own if you have any. RSVPs requested to fountaincreekoutreach@gmail.com but walk-ups welcome!



A 501(c)3 nonprofit since 2003 in the Pikes Peak Region



HEY NEIGHBOR
• love where you live •



**Contact
us!**

- Website: www.fountain-crk.org
- Email: fountaincreekoutreach@gmail.com
- Phone: (719) 426-7536

Save the Date for Great American Cleanup 5/1/27!

THANK YOU!

