

Volunteer Information Guide

Invasive Plant Removal Day

Hosted by: **James River Association**

*Please contact the James River Association for the **meetup location, date, and time**.*

This guide serves as an overview of what to expect and expectations of volunteers.

What to Bring

- **Reusable water bottle** – Stay hydrated while protecting the planet (no plastic, please!).
- **Light snack** – Fuel up with something easy to carry.
- **Gardening gloves** – Protect your hands during plant removal.
- **Wear long sleeves, pants, and protective footwear** – You'll be walking through brush, dirt, and possibly uneven ground.
- **Bug spray & sunscreen** – Optional, but highly recommended.

What to Expect

- **Arrival time:** Be on time so all are aware of the expectations.
- **Morning briefing:** Instructions will be given on-site about *which plant species will be removed*.
- **Trash bags will be provided** for disposing of removed plants.

Volunteers with Children

We love seeing kids get involved in conservation! For everyone's safety:

- **Children must always remain with a parent/guardian or group lead.**
- **Do not allow children to run or wander near water or thick brush.**
- **Closed-toe shoes are mandatory** for all participants, including kids.

- Bring age-appropriate gloves and ensure your child understands basic safety rules.
- Keep younger children away from sharp tools or thorny plants.

Safety Guidelines for All

- **Follow James River Association lead's instructions.**
- Be cautious of uneven terrain, hidden roots, and wildlife.
- Do not ingest or touch unknown plants with bare hands.
- Use the "buddy system"

Certificates for Kids

- Parents, guardians, and group leads:
Download your child's Volunteer Certificate at [https://voiceoftheriver.org/resources/before the event](https://voiceoftheriver.org/resources/before-the-event).
- These certificates will be signed on-site by the Association Guide **but will not be available in printed form at the event.**

This is a great way to recognize their contribution and inspire environmental stewardship!

Questions? Need Help?

Please check in with any **James Association Guide or team leader** during the event. They'll be wearing identifying badges or shirts and are happy to help.

Provided by: LMR Class of 2025 | Environment Immersion Team

