



SEWISC Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon

TEAM SAFETY & TRAINING INFORMATION

Thank you for leading the way for our annual **Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon**! Taking the proper precautions can prevent accidents and injuries. You will need one qualified leader for every 50 adults or every 25 young people.

Safety is everyone's job on the workday.

Keep your team members safe

- Before the work day, advise your volunteers to dress for outdoor, grubby work. Long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy footwear are essential. They should also bring a water bottle, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Safety glasses can also protect against tree and shrub branches.
- Start the work day with a safety talk. If your work area includes [poison ivy](#), your talk should include identifying characteristics. Remind team members that it is the oil that causes the reaction so gloves can protect your hands but rubbing your gloves or sleeves on your face or arms or touching your pants or socks can spread the oil. Avoidance is the best prevention. Wash your clothing after the workday to remove the oil.
- As a team leader you should bring a first aid kit, and invite someone with CPR and first aid training to join you for the event.
- Encourage participants to drink BEFORE they are thirsty, eat BEFORE they are hungry, and rest BEFORE they are tired.
- Ticks can be anywhere on plants, and they can land anywhere on the team members. When the workday is done, encourage volunteers to check for ticks on exposed skin or apparel. Ticks can take up to 7 hours to find a spot to burrow. Remind volunteers to check for ticks from head to toe and take a shower when they get home.

Make sure they correctly pull the right plants

- Download and print these identification sheets to share with your team before starting your work day event: [Garlic Mustard Fact Sheet](#), [Dame's Rocket Fact Sheet](#)
- Pulling can begin as soon as garlic mustard and dames rocket is identifiable. **All pulling must stop once seed pods have formed**, to avoid spreading the seed. If seed pods are developing, the bagged material should be disposed of in a landfill or burned to avoid seed spread. The competition officially ends June 30, but you may need to stop pulling before that date.
- Instruct your team to **knock and shake soil from the roots of all plants before bagging**.
- Label the bags as "Invasive Plants – approved by DNR for land filling"

Please contact Jill Hapner with any questions: Jill.Hapner@sewisc.org

Ready. Set. PULL!