



**KEEP  
ARKANSAS  
BEAUTIFUL**

# SERVICE-LEARNING SHORT-TERM PROJECT

Grades 9 - 12

## Litter Hotspot Survey & Community Heat Map

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Students investigate where and why litter accumulates in a school, park, or neighborhood by conducting a field survey and creating a visual heat map.

### PURPOSE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This project helps communities understand litter patterns so prevention strategies can be targeted where they are most effective. Instead of reacting to litter, students provide data-driven insight that supports smarter placement of bins, signage, and outreach.

### STUDENT LEARNING BENEFITS

- Builds data collection and analysis skills
- Strengthens understanding of human behavior and environmental impact
- Introduces students to real-world environmental problem-solving
- Provides tangible data communities can use for action

### ESTIMATED TIME COMMITMENT

6–10 service hours over 1–2 weeks

### PROJECT STEPS

1. **Select** a campus, park, or community area to study
2. **Conduct** a litter survey and categorize litter types
3. **Record** locations and quantities of litter
4. **Create** a heat map showing litter concentration
5. **Analyze** causes and propose prevention strategies

### DELIVERABLES

- Completed litter tally sheet
- Community heat map
- Summary of findings and recommendations

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>
<b>Project Preparation &amp; Planning</b>	Thorough planning; clear organization and initiative	Adequate planning and organization	Limited planning or unclear organization
<b>Execution &amp; Accuracy</b>	Tasks completed accurately and completely	Tasks completed with minor errors	Incomplete or inaccurate work
<b>Data &amp; Documentation</b>	Detailed, well-organized documentation	Complete documentation	Incomplete or unclear documentation
<b>Community Impact &amp; Insight</b>	Strong understanding of purpose and community benefit	Clear understanding of project purpose	Limited connection to community impact
<b>Reflection &amp; Effort</b>	Thoughtful, insightful reflection; high engagement	Complete reflection; consistent effort	Minimal reflection or effort