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The river is a classroom - Thank you for helping us

The task of cleaning trash from rivers can seem both overwhelming and never-ending. People joke about “job security” while working on river clean-ups because our society’s stream of litter seems endless.

One obvious example is how bottled water has become a common product in our everyday lives. I’ve heard countless people at cleanups say they’ll never again buy water in single-use plastic bottles. Heck, after spending just a couple of hours on shore picking up hundreds of plastic bottles, we don’t have to preach to anyone about their harm to the rivers environment.

HUNTING FOR TRASH

But something both good and strange has happened recently up and down the Missouri River. It has become harder to find trash!! And we’ve heard from fellow “river rats”—people who have used the Missouri River for years—that the river is visibly cleaner. This observation offers a wonderful sense of accomplishment. It also challenges us to evolve our programs.

(NOTE: The facts and figures showing our accomplishments in the first six months of 2014 are printed on the opposite side of this page).

So River Relief is growing and moving in new ways to create a better river environment for everyone. And one wonderful way is education—getting people out on the river to learn how their lives are connected to this marvelous natural resource.

EXPERIENTIAL - ENVIRONMENTAL - EDUCATION (E³)

We have taken a huge leap this year into the field of E³ by hiring an education coordinator. Alex Prentice started the job on April 1st and he’s jumped in with complete commitment. As a full-time staff member, Alex is focusing attention and resources on the unique outdoor education program River Relief can provide with our boats, equipment and our expertise on the water. His presence has allowed River Relief staff to concentrate on other tasks and projects. The river is a well-equipped classroom, and we look forward to inviting more students and educators alike, to learn from this amazing gem of a river.

Please, stay in touch with River Relief and spread the word as we grow. Check out our website at www.riverrelief.org, and then tell your friends!!!

On behalf of River Relief, let me express our sincere gratitude for your support.

- **Jeff Barrow, director, Missouri River Relief**

Missouri River Relief

2014 Mid-Year Results



www.riverrelief.org

- Jan. 1** River Road Clean-up
Cooper's Landing, Easely, MO
- Feb. 12** The Untouched Floodplain Clean-up
(Away Team) St. Louis, MO
- Feb. 26** Old Plank/River Road Clean-up
Cooper's Landing, Easely, MO
- March 15** Confluence Trash Bash
(Away Team) St. Louis, MO
- March 29** Pick Up Boonville
(Away Team) Boonville, MO
- April 5** Project Blue River Rescue
(Away Team) Kansas City, MO
- April 10** Central Methodist Service Day
Glasgow, MO
- April 12** Clean-up Columbia
(Away Team) Columbia, MO
- April 26** Clean-up at the Confluence
St. Louis, MO
- May 2-3** UMKC Clean-up & Campout
Orrick, MO
- May 7** U.S. Army Corps Clean-up
Providence Bend
- May 17** Missouri River Clean-up
St. Joseph, MO
- June 7** Leavenworth & Weston
Missouri River Clean-up
- June 8-9** U.S. Army Corps Clean-up
Kickapoo Bend, Weston, MO
- June 14** Current River Clean-up
(Away Team) Round Spring, MO



1 Film Festival



2 River Races



Education

{435 Students & Teachers}

{17 Big Muddy Speakers Series}

{8 Learning Festivals & Booths}

{5 Educational River Trips}



15 Clean-ups

{784 Volunteers}

{55 River Miles}

{26 Tons}



2,617 People Introduced to the Missouri River

{Volunteers, Students & Attendees}