

Supplemental File 1 - Pre- and post-survey questions

All questions were mandatory, and it is specified in which survey the question was asked and when it was a single-choice question.

The following statements are about your motivation to participate in Clean Rivers. Per statement you can indicate to what extent it is a motivation for you to participate as a volunteer. (*pre- and post-surveys*)

Likert scale: Totally disagree – disagree – neutral – agree – totally agree

I participate in Clean Rivers, ...

...because I am disturbed by the litter in nature and on the streets

...because I live(d) close by the Maas or the Waal

...because I like to recreate near or on the water

...because I like to volunteer

...because this way I can help to tackle the plastic soup

...because I am interested in the kinds of litter that is present in the rivers

...because I like to join a bigger movement to improve the world

...because I want to commit myself to a better environment

...because I like to be outside

...because it is part of my tasks/responsibilities I have at my work/association

Other reason(s) to participate in Clean Rivers: (*open question, pre- and post-surveys*)

What is your most important motivation to participate in Clean Rivers? (*single choice, pre- and post-surveys*)

Because I am disturbed by the litter in nature and on the streets

Because I live(d) close by the Maas or the Waal

- o Because I like to recreate near or on the water
- o Because I like to volunteer
- o Because I am interested in the kinds of litter that is present in the rivers
- o Because I like to join a bigger movement to improve the world
- o Because I want to commit myself to a better environment
- o Because I like to be outside
- o Other reason, namely...(open answer)

As a river litter researcher you are going to collect data that will be used for scientific research. Per statement you can indicate to what extent it is a reason for you to fulfill the role as researcher in Clean Rivers. (pre- and post-surveys)

Likert scale: Totally disagree – disagree – neutral – agree – totally agree

I want to become a river litter researcher, because...

- ...because I like to contribute to scientific research
- ...because I am interested in the performance of scientific research
- ...because I hope to learn about conducting scientific research
- ...because it would be fun to do scientific research
- ...because with the results litter can be tackled at the source
- ...because my contribution can help to force governments or companies to take measures against litter
- ...because it is important to collect as much information as possible about litter in the rivers

Other reason(s) to become a river litter researcher: (open question, pre- and post-surveys)

What is your most important motivation to become a river litter researcher? (*single choice, pre- and post-surveys*)

- Because I like to contribute to scientific research
- Because I am interested in the performance of scientific research
- Because I hope to learn about conducting scientific research
- Because it would be fun to do scientific research
- Because with the results litter can be tackled at the source
- Because my contribution can help to force governments or companies to take measures against litter
- Because this way I can help to tackle the plastic soup
- Because it is important to collect as much information as possible about litter in the rivers
- Other, namely... (*open answer*)

Below you will find a couple of statements regarding your attitude towards nature. Per statement you can indicate to what extent you agree or disagree. (*pre- and post-surveys*)

Likert scale: Totally disagree – disagree – neutral – agree – totally agree

- My relationship to nature is an important part of who I am
- People have the right to use natural resources in any possible way
- I feel very connected to all living things and the earth
- I always think about how my actions affect the environment
- Conservation is unnecessary because nature is strong
- My ideal vacation spot would be a remote, wilderness area
- The thought of being deep in the woods, away from civilization, is frightening
- I enjoy being outdoors, even in unpleasant weather
- I don't mind if some plants- and animal species become extinct

Below you will find a couple of statements regarding your attitude towards natural science. With natural science we mean the knowledge of and research on nature and nature conservation. Per statement you can indicate to what extent you agree or disagree. (*pre- and post-surveys*)

Likert scale: Totally disagree – disagree – neutral – agree – totally agree

- I actively seek out stories about natural science in the news.
- I am likely to attend a lecture or course about natural science
- I am knowledgeable about natural science
- I use knowledge of natural science to evaluate claims made about natural science
- I pay attention if a natural science news item crops up in a media source I am already following
- I use knowledge of natural science in everyday life
- I am interested in news about natural science
- I am interested in science

Below you will find a couple of statements. Give yourself a grade per topic that represents your knowledge about that topic. Grade 1 means very little knowledge and a 10 a lot of knowledge. A 6 or higher is sufficient. (*pre- and post-surveys*)

- Causes of litter
- Consequences of litter for nature
- The extent of pollution by litter in the Netherlands
- Ways to act sustainable in daily life
- The OSPAR-declaration
- The process of a scientific research
- The use of protocols (like observation schedules and tally sheets) during scientific research

What is your gender? (*single choice, pre-survey*)

Female

Male

Other

What is your year of birth? (*open question, pre-survey*)

What is your highest level of education? (*single choice, pre-survey*)

None

Primary school

VMBO (*secondary school*)

HAVO (*secondary school*)

VWO (*secondary school*)

MBO (*vocational training*)

HBO (*university of applied sciences*)

WO (*research university*)

Other, namely... (*open question*)