

PITCH-IN CANADA'S NATIONAL CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROGRAM

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Welcome back! To all of our Scouting and Guiding Friends,

First, **THANK YOU** to our many groups that took advantage of our spring clear out campaign by shipping in all their collected cell phones and accessories. **We are back to our "regular" shipping procedure with a minimum of 50 cell phones per box, or packing slip.**

Our top collectors for the summer months were:

- **Top collector: 75th Midnapore Scouts, Calgary (326)**
- **Runner Ups: 5th Hamilton Scout Troop, Hamilton
4th Stevensville Guides, Niagara Falls
333rd Markham Scout Group, Markham
Girl Guides of Canada, Oshawa Division**

[Thanks to our top collectors and everyone who worked hard during the summer!](#)

As the fall registration process gets into full swing it is a great opportunity to add a reminder note at the bottom of registration packages, or newsletters home, listing collection box locations, collecting coordinators, or even potential dates for future collection drives.

Our top collectors recommend getting the ball rolling early on by planning your cell phone collection campaign at the beginning of your groups' calendar year. Set goals as to how many cell phones you would like to collect, and strategize ways that you can reach out into your community and collect these cell phones before they are tossed into the waste basket.

Try integrating the cell phone collection program into existing group fundraisers such as bottle drives or bake sales. Add an extra paragraph to your notices, flyers, or posters including that you will be collecting used cell phones for recycling at the same time, this will help you increase your fundraising success!

The National Cell Phone Collection Program is an excellent program for your group to fundraise for upcoming activities, camping supplies, and even Jamborees! But equally important to the core of our program is the promotion of environmental education. Both Guiding and Scouting include in their programs the teaching of environmental stewardship to all of their members. We suggest that the program be compared to the no trace camping units

where as campers we want to leave behind the smallest possible trace of our stay, and as consumers we want to lessen our impact on the environment. Cell phones contain many toxic materials such as arsenic, mercury, lead, copper, zinc and brominated flame retardants, which we want to keep out of our landfills! Such toxic landfill waste has the potential to create threats to human and animal health, as well as the environment if it is released into the air and groundwater supply.

If you have any questions, stories, or tips that you would like to share with the other program participants please contact me, at misha@pitch-in.ca. I am looking for your success stories to share and inspire others so please write in with how you and your group are making a difference in your community.

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