

DUMPSTER DIVE 2010 RESULTS

Rhodes = 11 volunteers, MCC = 103 volunteers, Total volunteers: 114

Instructors sending students : Nango, Effland, Bass, Dinchak, Cheroske, Americorps, PTK,

Starting bags: 486 We only had time to sort through 385

Paper: 154.7 pounds

Plastic bottles: 1,174

Cups: 1,763

Glass: 13

Cans: 196

Total drink containers: 3,146

Plastic food containers: 165

Cardboard: 200

Plastic bags/wraps/foams: 521

Misc plastics: 78

Pounds of food: 106.4

Total barrels full of recyclables: four 90-gallon, six 60-gallon

90-gallon = 35 pounds

60-gallon = 25 pounds

Total pounds of plastic/cans/bottles recyclables: 290 pounds

All remaining TRASH fit into 31 very full bags.

WHAT WE WASTE:

WEEKLY:

Paper: $154.7 \times 5 = 773.5$ pounds

Plastic/cans/glass recyclables: $290 \times 5 = 1,450$ pounds

Total recyclables we landfill instead of recycle: 2, 223.50 pounds per week

Total recyclables EACH YEAR we landfill instead of recycle: 106,728 pounds

Food waste: $106.4 \times 5 = 532$ pounds

Food yearly: 25,536 pounds = 12.768 tons

What we pay to landfill our trash: approximately \$70/ton

Recyclables going into the trash: 106,728 pounds per year = 53.36 tons

**Total we are paying to send recyclables to the landfill:
\$3,735.20 per year**

**Total we pay to send wasted food to the landfill:
\$893.76 per year**

Yearly was measured x48 weeks.

These figures did not include the 99 bags of trash we did NOT have time to sort.

DIVE COMMENTS

- It brought me to realize that we need more education on how we could recycle more.
- Well it is gross sorting through everything but I like that the school does this.
- I missed the bulk of the dive but just the clean up was crazy with the amount of recyclable products that were trashed. You should make every student take part somehow.
- Awesome!
- Very dirty but fun. I found it educational but watch out for fish hooks.
- It was awesome and a fun way to raise awareness!
- Fun. Lots of interaction with other groups. I'm more knowledgeable about recycling now.
- Great idea, but it smells.
- Gross, but effective and worthwhile.
- It was actually a lot of fun.
- I thought of it as a great experience to see not to just throw stuff away. Always keep a second thought before throwing something away. You should do this event more often.
- Loved it! Will help next year, it's a great cause.
- It was fun in a weird way. Very informative actually seeing the trash and recyclables instead of just statistics on how much waste there is.
- I did not know a lot of everything in the trash could be recycled. I think it's great!!
- It's interesting to see what was thrown away and to figure out where on campus the bags of trash came from.
- I thought it was very interesting. I saw a lot of things our campus can improve on. Many of the trash bags barely contained any trash; most of them had recycling in it. I think a video should be done and show the difference so it can be shown in classes all year not only once a year.
- It was really discouraging but I think everyone volunteer here got the message. Now I'm just wondering how I can spread the word and reduce my own waste. That's the

real challenge...leaving this event with the implications of what I just saw! You should tell the staff what they need to recycle and even ask the teachers to bring it up in class.

- People are way too wasteful. Found lots of food with only one bite out of it and lots of mostly full drinks.
- There was a lot of trash. Mostly everyday things that people don't realize that it piles up quick.
- It was disgusting. 😊
- Wow I didn't know there were so many people who don't even take the time to at least recycle a water bottle. The school should make more announcements on recycling on and off campus.
- Loved it!
- It's an awesome activity! It should be done four times a year at school.
- It was very eye opening. I came to help my girlfriend and found I was helping the world.
- It seemed as if too many people complained during the event, but it was absolutely simple.
- The dumpster dive is a great way to demonstrate how much we actually waste. Most people don't think about it. It was amazing to see how much could be recycled that was thrown in the trash. We need more encouragement for the students to recycle.
- Cool.
- Eye opening! Never think that you can add to such a mess.
- I am never going to throw away a half finished soda can or bottle again.
- It was a good experience. Brings a lot of light on the subject of waste and recycling.
- It was interesting, dirty, and fun. I liked hanging out with classmates.
- It was great, highly informative and eye-opening, but gross.
- Pretty fun and interesting to know what people throw away.
- This is my first time in this event and I enjoyed it. It shows me how much stuff is wasted.
- Fun but not very sanitary.
- I felt that dumpster dive really raised awareness about how much people at MCC do not recycle.

- I think it's an easy way to help out and take care of our environment. Sometimes people don't help because it's not so easy to get out and sort through.
- I have been made aware!
- This is a great way to show people what is thrown away.
- It was awesome, a great experience!
- It was really interesting. I also realized how gross we really are. I would definitely come back if I didn't have a class.
- It was gross and disgusting but very educational and inspiring.
- It's nice to see so many people care about recycling. A lot of people don't seem to realize that there is a finite amount of resources on this planet, so reusing them isn't just a good idea, it should be the law.
- It was great!
- Awesome. Gross, but awesome.
- It was interesting to see what people threw away.
- This is a good activity.