

## “How to Petition” Tips

Here are a few tips to help you have a fun, successful experience gathering signatures to protect our forests from clearcutting.

### 1. **Inform yourself:**

- Read the factsheets found in our Petition Toolkit available online
- Check out our coalition website at [http://Stop ClearcuttingCA.org](http://StopClearcuttingCA.org)
- Watch Short video by Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uf3yv2GMj2E>

### 2. **Plan a Petition Location:** Pick a central location and time where many people will be gathering or walking by. You may prefer to choose a public location like a farmers market, City Park, a busy trailhead, a library, a college campus, or other community gathering place. Make sure you ask permission from the location (if necessary). Other suggestions: meetings of like-minded groups, for example: Sierra Club chapter, Audubon Society, hiking club, or other community groups.

### 3. **Invite friends or family to join you.** Invite a friend or fellow team member to help you. Getting a few people to join you will make the event more enjoyable. Kids can have fun collecting signatures too!

### 4. **Gather essential props:** Download and print petitions and factsheets. If you desired, order bookmarks in English or Spanish from [forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org](mailto:forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org).

Bring clipboards and pens. If possible, a small table is helpful to use for handouts, etc. You can also use a basket instead of a table. We can also send you hard copies of handouts and the petition. Don't forget to bring along some snacks and water too!

### 5. **Make a sign:** If you like, on a large paper or board, write some annotation of why you are there, for example, “**Speak for the Forests: Sign Here to Stop Clearcutting in California!!**” Use your imagination!

### 6. **Day of event:** Have fun!

- Always be polite and most of all, friendly.
- Make sure to smile and approach people with respect.
- Practice your speech in front of a mirror or with a friend who is petitioning with you. This will alleviate any awkwardness and make you more comfortable talking to potential signees.
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. **And be** conscious of the weather regarding sun exposure and temperature and dress appropriately.
- Bring lots of petitions, pens, several clipboards, water and snacks

- Don't get upset if people ignore you! Simply move on to the next person.
- Feel free to engage the person in conversation as long as the main points of the petition are hit.
- If a question is asked that you don't know the answer to, don't make anything up. Tell the person you will research the answer and get back to them, as long as they leave a form of contact.
- If you have more than one clipboard, you can get multiple people to sign at once.
- Make sure you have backup pens just in case!
- Pass out handouts if people want more information.
- Take a picture of you gathering petitions!
- Most importantly, have fun!

Collect as many signatures as you can. When collecting signatures, make sure that each petition signer fills out all the necessary information. Such as their signature, their printed name, their residential street address, their ZIP code and the date signed. Ask people to print legibly so we can read their name and contact information.

6. **Email:** a photo and a description of your petition gathering to [forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org](mailto:forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org) or post to [Facebook.com/StopClearcuttingCA](https://www.facebook.com/StopClearcuttingCA).
7. **Mail:** your petitions by to:  
c/o Clearcutting petition  
Loma Prieta Chapter Office  
3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite 204  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

*For more information, questions, and to request hard copies of materials and/or photos, please contact [forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org](mailto:forests@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org).*