



We appreciate your time and energy, as well as your compassion for our community's neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. To prepare for the PIT count, please refresh yourself on the following tips.

## LOGISTICS

**[PIT Count date]:** Arrive at **[location]** by **[8:30pm]**. Depart for PIT count by **[10pm]**. Return surveys to **[location]** by **[2am]**

## BRING WITH YOU

- Weather-appropriate clothing, including layers
- Your vehicle, if you volunteered to drive
- Shoes: warm, sturdy, comfortable for walking, waterproof if possible
- Small backpack to carry survey items, snacks, water, and more clothing layers, if needed
- Flashlights and/or headlamp
- Cell phone (fully charged) and charger
- Energy and compassion; a good set of eyes (visual observation is key)

## PIT COUNT DOs AND DON'Ts

- **DO** lead with respect for the person and their dignity
- **DO** have a conversation with the people you encounter
- **DO** get consent before asking PIT count survey questions
- **DO** remember that you may be entering into someone's personal or private space
- **DO** respect people's time
- **DO** write down where you saw the person and what they look like. This will help us make sure that no one is counted twice.
- **DON'T** hand the survey to the client to complete alone, go through the survey with them
- **DON'T** take photos of or with the people you survey
- **DON'T** assume you know the answer to survey questions
- **DON'T** insert yourself into the person's story
- **DON'T** force people to answer questions if they don't want to
- **DON'T** make promises you can't deliver, such as promising services or housing resources.

## SAFETY

- ALWAYS stay with at least one other person.
- Maintain awareness of space around you – where other people are & ways to get in or out of the space you're in
- Remain standing. It's okay to squat down to speak with someone who is sitting or lying on the ground, but always maintain your balance.
- Stay in places that are lit, including alleyways. If you use a flashlight, be respectful (don't shine it in anyone's face)
- Prioritize your own safety. If you don't feel safe approaching someone or going somewhere, don't go.
- Do not transport anyone other than volunteers in your car
- If someone you encounter is not responsive when you approach, don't panic; they may be asleep and not want to be bothered. Check to see if you can see or hear them breathing, and (depending on weather) assess whether they have enough layers on and under them. If you are still concerned, say something like: "I'm sorry to bother you so late, but I want to make sure you are not in danger. Can you please say something so I know you are OK?"
- ALWAYS call 9-1-1- if you or someone else is in danger

For questions or concerns during the PIT count, call **[Contact Name]: [XXX-XXX-XXXX]**