

UNITE THE ARMIES

Guide to gathering signatures for Unite the Armies

So you want to save the world? Great! You will go far with a positive, polite, and decisive attitude, combined with knowing your stuff. Here's how to go about gathering signatures for our campaign.

Preferably, choose a place with clientele most potentially sympathetic towards efforts in favour of the environment; for example, organic food shops, fairs, and rallies.

Always ask shop managers or event organizers beforehand whether it is ok to gather signatures. Be polite.

When you ask for signatures, begin with a short and polite question, such as: "Would you sign an environmental petition I have here?" If they don't rush away, continue clearly, for example: "It's to say it should also be the duty of the armies to take care of the environment, globally. They could protect natural reserves from poaching and illegal cutting, clean polluted areas, transport equipment for environmental protection, help ensure water availability for people and life, and reforest desertified areas to alleviate climate change." You need not repeat that word for word or say all of that every time – simply present the idea of the campaign quickly in a way natural to you.

Remember that the above-mentioned examples of what the armies could do for the environment are just that, examples. The idea is for the army of each country to do what is most urgent in their own area; perhaps one day joint operations would be possible, which would make it possible to do good in a large scale. Removing plastic from the oceans is a good example of that.

You may also say the campaign has begun by two experienced professors (Eero Paloheimo and U.B. Lindström) writing an initiative to the United Nations suggesting this very thing, with the Green Association for the Preservation of Life (VESL, *Vihreä elämänsuojelun liitto* in Finnish, a small environmental organization in Finland) contributing to it. You can also say what is going on in the campaign at the moment; at least, there will always be an ongoing search to find cooperation among other environmental organizations to raise awareness of the fact that this is a doable option - all that is needed is political will, which we the people CAN have an effect on if our numbers are sufficiently great.

Always be polite and attentive; some people want to hear more, others sign more quickly. Speak clearly and shortly while answering any questions as well as you can. If someone shows signs of wanting to keep arguing though, you may want to agree to disagree so you can speak to the next person. Do as you wish, but remember not to take a "no" personally. People are sometimes slow to change their ways of thinking, but that doesn't justify looking down on them.

Remember to take along a GOOD pen or two!

<http://unite-the-armies.org>