Mapping Checklist
Be sure everything is in your bag before leaving!

A  Your bag should contain:
- A camera with auto-shooting *(test it!)*
- TWO sets of FULLY CHARGED batteries
- 1500’ of string on a reel, no tangles
- At least one weather balloon in a protective ziploc *(two is best, or bring giant trash bags as backup)*
- Gloves to protect your hands from burn
- Duct tape AND clear packing tape
- Scissors or a knife
- Soft cotton string to tie everything together *(holds balloons better and cuts easier)*
- A soda bottle with wings:

Optional:
- A large kite (16 sq ft or more)
- A GPS or an iPhone or Android phone to get a latitude/longitude point *(so we can make it into a map)*

B  You also need HELIUM from:
- Louisiana Bucket Brigade HQ, 4226 Canal St, New Orleans
- Party City *(one $45 medium tank, $100 deposit)*
  - Party City *(9-9pm mon-sat, 11-6pm sun)*
    1545 Lapalco Boulevard
    Harvey, LA 70058-3300
    (504) 362-8008
  - Party City *(9-9pm mon-sat, 11-6pm sun)*
    3009 Veterans Memorial Boulevard
    Metairie, LA 70002-6046
    (504) 831-9944
  - Anywhere else, just bring > 50 cubic feet, but small enough to carry.

C  Finally, bring people:
- See GrassrootsMapping.org/volunteers
- Give them directions or carpool
- Teach them how, don’t do it all yourself

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Mapping Overview
A brief summary of the whole thing

Starting your trip:

🌟 Louisiana Bucket Brigade is hosting the equipment bags - go pick one up the night before and confirm that everything’s there.

🌟 Be sure to bring some new people - folks who will hopefully lead their own trips soon.

🌟 Charge batteries the night before!

🌟 Pick up helium at Party City - see Checklist for addresses.

While you’re mapping:

🌟 Try to map an area that’s been mapped before, so we can compare.

🌟 If you have a smartphone, enable the geotagging for the camera, and take a picture while you’re flying.

   🟢 This will capture a location; submit the photo with your data and we’ll be able to see where you were.

   🟢 To enable this on your iPhone, click the Settings icon > General > Location Services.

   🟢 For Android, in the Camera app, press Menu, then Settings > Store location. Wait for the green ‘GPS’ icon:

🌟 Before you go home:

🌟 Thank the boat captain! See if we could get another ride in the next few days.

🌟 Go over the checklist again to be sure you return everything.

🌟 Identify any potential trip leaders from your team, who could map on their own.

🌟 Leave a copy of your data with Louisiana Bucket Brigade.

🌟 Please make 3-5 reports on the Oil Spill Crisis Map (oilspill.labucketbrigade.org) when you get back from your trip!

   🟢 Reports boats deploying boom, dolphins swimming in oil or sheen on the water.

   🟢 Focus on what you see or smell, your location and capture pictures or video clips.

   🟢 Quick tip: simply take a picture of the GPS on the boat or write down the coordinates.

   🟢 Submit these reports online or when you return to LABB to drop off your equipment.

Keep safety in mind:

🌟 Wear protective gear when dealing with contaminated water/land.

   🟢 protective suit, oil resistant gloves, safety goggles, face respirator, slip resistant boots.

🌟 Don’t handle oiled wildlife unless you’re trained to do so!

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**A Basic usage:**

🌟 Test your camera before you leave!
🌟 Just turn it on; it should flash a red icon and start snapping!
🌟 You should see: “Intervalometer” and it should beep and snap a picture within a few seconds
🌟 If it doesn’t, take a picture normally, and it should start.
🌟 To turn the camera off when you’re done, just take out the battery.
🌟 After flights, check your photos to see if they came out.
  - The camera should be in “auto” mode, so exposure etc. should be fine.
  - If images are blurry there may not be enough light, or it may be too windy.

**B Troubleshooting:**

🌟 Check if the memory card is in the ‘Locked’ position. There’s a little slider; lock it. The script won’t run if it’s not locked, weird, huh?
🌟 If your camera keeps turning off by itself (either after a dozen shots, or sometimes in the middle of a flight) you need to charge the battery to 100%. If your battery is old, you may need a new battery.
🌟 If you simply cannot get it to start auto-shooting, try:
  - Turn the camera off
  - Turn it on in “Review” mode
  - Press Menu and go down to the last option, which should be “Firmware update”
  - Click OK and quickly switch into “Capture” mode
  - You should see the red CHDK screen and it should start. You may need to manually take a picture to start it.

**C When you get home:**

🌟 Save a copy of the images in a safe place: a CD/DVD or backup drive
🌟 Then send us the pictures and we’ll publish them. Choose:
  - Upload the data to [http://grassrootsmapping.org/upload](http://grassrootsmapping.org/upload)
  - Put a copy on a USB key or a DVD, and get it to:

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  LA Bucket Brigade, 4226 Canal St. New Orleans, LA ZIPCODE
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Kite or Balloon?

★ In general, kites are good in more than 15 mph and balloons in less than 10 mph wind. Check a weather website. Wind is highest at 2pm, lowest at dawn.

★ Kites are expensive but balloons require helium.

★ Kiting is hard. Learn from an experienced kiter, and try it closer to home before committing to a mapping trip.

Kiting

★ First get the kite flying. You need a large kite (more than 10 square feet, like a Sutton Flowform 16).

★ Get the kite in the air at least 50 feet and make sure it’s pulling more than 10 lbs consistently.

★ Make a loop (take some slack and knot it) and clip the camera in its rig onto the loop. Start your camera and let it up.

★ Keeping tension on the line, or pulling on it, makes the kite fly higher. Letting it out makes it drop, so do it slowly.

★ Walk around to cover a large area.

Balooning

★ If you’re using a trash bag, tape the bag shut carefully with clear packing tape.
  - Puncture it 2 inches away from the seam, so the tape won’t interfere with your filling.
  - Don’t do this on rough ground or you’ll puncture the trash bag.

★ Pull the hole over the nozzle of the tank. Bunch up some plastic around the nozzle and hold it tightly shut.
  - Watch out! Keep your fingers away from where the helium will come out!

★ Starting very slowly, inflate the balloon. It should be about 5 feet wide, and should pull strongly up, i.e. 2-3 lbs. Use your height as a size guide.
  - Have a friend hold the balloon in place while it fills. Don’t let it touch ANYTHING sharp!
  - Don’t let go of the balloon! Always have someone in charge of holding on to it tightly!

★ Tie off the balloon with a VERY good knot. Clove hitch recommended (youtube or google it). Practice this knot.

★ Make a loop 6 inches below the balloon. Test all knots, and connect the camera.

★ Turn on the camera and make sure it’s auto-shooting; listen for beeps.

★ Let the balloon rise as fast as you can; as soon as you resist it, the wind will blow it down.

★ Walk around to cover a large area.

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