Volunteer Guide

Thank you for volunteering with Adopt Your Street! Here you will find all of the necessary information to get started with your cleanups and continue them throughout the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Sandi Smith, 410-213-2297 ext 106.

You may begin these steps once you receive confirmation from a Maryland Coastal Bays Program staff member that you are an officially recognized Adopt Your Street volunteer.

**Step One: Organizing your group and setting dates**
Pick a date that works for the majority of the volunteers in your group. Weekend mornings or weekday evenings generally work the best. Publicize this date and get firm commitments from your volunteers.

It helps to get a contact sheet before your first cleanup to directly reach out to your volunteers.

**Step Two: Developing a cleanup plan**
Once you have decided on a date and mobilized volunteers for your street cleanup, consider:

- Are there sensitive habitats or sand dunes that shouldn’t be touched?
- Determine the boundaries of the cleanup area. It helps to have volunteers start the furthest point and work their way back.
- Are there any safety issues to consider? Where is the traffic? Dangerous areas?

**Step Three: Gathering materials**
Must haves:

- Gloves (reusable gloves, preferably!)
- Pencils
- Litter data forms
- Bags or buckets to hold trash
- First aid kit

Optional (but helpful!) items

- Camera or cell phone for pictures (share your results with us!)
- Clipboards (Easy DIY clipboards: cut hard cardboard and use a binder clip)
- Create a sieve for small items (Easy DIY sieve: cut the bottom of a plastic milk jug and put holes around the top)

*Maryland Coastal Bays will provide gloves and trash bags for the International Coastal Cleanup*

**Step Four: Staying safe**
Stress the following safety tips with your volunteers:

- DO NOT touch suspicious, sharp, or potentially hazardous items
• DO NOT pick up dead animals
• DO work in safe areas that are well lit, well ventilated, and do not have a lot of traffic passing through

**Step Five: Recording and reporting data**
Assign scribe duties to a volunteer. Before the trash enters a trash bag, ensure that the scribe records the type of trash and number of items. After the cleanup is over, please enter the data onto our website at www.mdcoastalbays.org.

**Step Six: Share your cleanup!**
Share your photos and results by posting pictures on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other forms of social media (with consent!) Tag #AdoptYourStreet, #OceanCitySurfClub, and #mdcoastalbays!

**Step Seven: Plan your next cleanup**
Thank all of your volunteers and get them excited for their next cleanup!

Here’s a fun Ocean City fact:
*There is an anchor located on the OC Boardwalk that was recovered from a shipwreck off of Assateague Island. It weighs 2.5 tons!*