

Beach Adoption FAQs

Can I adopt a mile of beach if I'm cleaning it by myself?

Yes, you can adopt as an individual, although we recommend asking your friends to help you. It is beneficial to have at least one additional person to track the trash items on a data card, while one person is picking up trash, and more people can carry the bags to the trash cans.

Do I choose a mile of beach or am I assigned one?

We encourage you to choose a mile of beach on your own. Ideally, you should choose a beach that you already frequently visit. However, if you can't decide on a beach to adopt, please contact us to help you find one. Please understand that the beach you choose may already be adopted by more than one group, however we can help you find another one.

Will I be the only adopter for my stretch of beach, or will there be other volunteers at my adopted area?

Most areas have only one official adopter designated. However, there are some areas where we have multiple adopters, particularly along the Galveston Seawall and Bolivar Peninsula. If all parties are in agreement, we will sometimes allow multiple adopters, particularly in these high tourism areas. Having multiple adopters means there are more people cleaning those beaches throughout the year.

Also, during official Adopt-A-Beach coast wide cleanups, all public beaches will have additional volunteers cleaning the beach, so you may have other groups accompany you on your designated beach.

What is the minimum age requirement to participate in the beach adoption program?

There is no minimum age requirement as long as anyone under the age of 18 is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or chaperone. We require all volunteers who participate in an Adopt-A-Beach event to sign a registration/liability waiver form, and if they are under 18 years old, they must have a parent or guardian sign for them.

Can I adopt more than one mile of beach?

Yes, there is no limit to how many beaches you can adopt. Often, large groups will adopt in two mile increments. Please understand that each adopted section must be cleaned three times each year for two years.

Who is in charge of my local beach?

Generally, state and local governments are responsible for managing public beaches. These authorities can be found at the city, county, state and federal level. The main contact for your adopted stretch of beach is your local site coordinator. You will be given his/her contact information when you become an adopter. Please work with them prior to your cleanups to ensure that your trash bags are removed from the beach after you are done.

Do I need to contact someone before my cleanup to let them know I'm going out to the beach?

We recommend you contact your local site coordinator before your cleanups, and any time you have a question about your adopted beach segment. If you are unsure about who to contact, please call the Adopt-A-Beach office at 877-TXCOAST (892-6278). The coordinator can instruct you on where to leave your trash bags once you are done cleaning the beach. We also recommend that you visit your beach beforehand, especially if you are new to the area, to familiarize yourself with local information such as parking requirements, bathroom facilities, pet policies, etc.

Do I need to bring my own supplies?

If you need supplies, contact your local site coordinator or the Texas Adopt-A-Beach program at least two week before your event, so we have plenty of time to get you supplies. Trash bags, non-latex gloves, data cards and pencils are provided for volunteers.

If my mile is located within a park which requires an entrance fee – or in an area that requires a beach permit – must I pay to enter the park or buy a beach permit?

Most local beach authorities waive the entrance fee and beach permit requirements on our official beach cleanup days in April and September. However, if you are asked to pay a fee or purchase a permit – either on an official beach cleanup day or at a time you are out to clean you mile – please show your Cleanup Summary Report and cleanup supplies, or your membership card, as proof you are there to clean the beach.

Where do I put the filled trash bags?

Before you head to the beach, you should contact your local site coordinator to tell them about your scheduled cleanup. They will direct you on where to leave your bags so they can be picked up by local trash crews. If you are not able to reach your site coordinator prior to the event, locate a trash receptacle at or near your location, and place your bags in and around the receptacle once finished cleaning the beach.

What if it is raining on the day of my cleanup?

The decision to continue your cleanup is up to you. Most groups will clean the beach during light rain. In the case of thunder and lightning, we highly recommend that you cancel your visit and reschedule your trip. We encourage all adopters to always make the safety of your volunteers your first priority.

What if I find a dead animal or hazardous waste, like a syringe, on the beach?

If you find a stranded or dead sea animal on the beach, please do not touch it. Contact the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network **800-9MAMMAL** (800-962-6625). If you find any kind of hazardous material on the beach, please do not pick it up. Make note of where the material is located, and then contact your site coordinator and let them know. They will contact the proper authorities to dispose of it. Please view our safety video for more safety tips.

Will I get a beach sign with my group's name on it?

Beginning July 1, 2015, there will be a \$100 sign fee for new adopting groups requesting a sign with their name and beach location. The Adopt-A-Beach program will have your sign designed and printed, and will work with local governments to have them installed. For groups that have adopted segments of state or national parks, erecting a sign may not be possible. Please contact our office for further information.

My sign was vandalized. Can it be replaced?

If an Adopt-A-Beach sign is vandalized, stolen or destroyed by storms, the Adopt-A-Beach program will pay to have it replaced the first time. However, if it happens again the group will have to pay to have it replaced. New signs will be made and installed when the Adopt-A-Beach program deems it necessary to change out the signs.

If you still have questions about adopting a stretch of beach, please email us at beach@glo.texas.gov or call 877- TXCOAST (892-6278).