

KCMB's Adopt-A-Highway Program



YOUR AWARD WINNING AFFILIATE

January 2010

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

KCMB's Adopt-A-Highway Program enlists citizen volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. While saving taxpayer dollars, the program provides recognition for participating companies and organizations, brings the environmental and monetary costs of littering into public awareness and promotes civic responsibility and pride. The volunteers of the Adopt-A-Highway program serve as visible reminders to the public that we are all stewards of the land.

Georgians are proud of our beautiful state, but unfortunately, our roadways are becoming dumping grounds for illegal litter. The same state

that inspired poet laureate Sidney Lanier to write of its beautiful rivers and trees is being threatened by litter, which is unsightly and expensive to remove. Roadside litter also poses a serious threat to motorists and wildlife.

Please help clean up our state by volunteering with our Adopt-A-Highway Program, a partnership between the Georgia Department of Transportation, Keep Georgia Beautiful and Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful. The following information will help you and your group get started so that you can join hundreds of volunteer groups already cleaning up Georgia's roadways. Thanks for helping Keep Georgia Peachy Clean!

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Any civic-minded organization, business, individual, family, city, county, state or federal agency is welcome to volunteer in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Children aged twelve to fifteen years must be supervised by adults at a rate of one adult for every three children. Children under the age of twelve are ineligible for participation in the program.

To show the community that you are doing your part to clean up Georgia, for state highways, GDOT will erect a sign with the Adopt-A-Highway logo and your group's name after your first pickup. (The state program is on hold until further notice due to funding).

For county highways / roads, KCMB will erect a sign with

the Adopt-A-Highway logo and your group's name after your first pickup.

Sorry, but logos, insignias, slogans, phone or fax numbers, Internet addresses, ham radio IDs or directions are not allowed.

Signs will be placed at the beginning of your adoption project area on both sides of the road. The schedule of sign placement and the size, content and location are at the discretion of GDOT, KCMB and Murray County.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Each volunteer group adopts at least a one-mile stretch of highway and agrees to remove litter from both sides of the road at least four times a year for a two-year period. The filled litter bags are often left on the side of the highway for pickup or may be dropped off at the KCMB recycling center. KCMB will submit a status report to the GDOT within one week of a pickup.

A volunteer group may also participate in the following additional activities:

- Contribute wildflower seeds to be planted in your adopted site
- Develop and implement a program to educate the public and help foster public awareness about litter prevention and improve the appearance of the adopted highway
- Remove graffiti





Adopt-A-Highway volunteer Sloane Stafford checks in at the KCMB recycling center before she picks up her mile.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Carefully read all the terms and conditions of your permit.

1. Organize your group and get commitments before you submit your permit application
2. Contact KCMB to determine whether a particular site is available for adoption or can, if you prefer, recommend

a suitable site for you

3. Complete the permit application and submit it to KCMB

Please be aware of these conditions pertaining to your permit:

- Permits may be renewed every two years
- You cannot transfer your permit to others

- You, KCMB or Georgia DOT may cancel anytime you are unable to meet the permit requirements

Permits may be temporarily suspended by Georgia DOT for safety reasons.

The Georgia Department of Transportation manages over 18,000 miles of primary and secondary highways and tollways, which serve as the front yard for Georgia and its communities. During 2004, the Department spent a staggering \$14,000,000 to remove roadside litter.

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE

- We loan you safety vests which must be worn by all participants while volunteering
- We provide you with free trash bags and dispose of the trash you collect and leave bagged at predeter-

mined locations in your adoption area

- We waive the permit fee for Adopt-A-Highway groups
- We provide and install your recognition signs
- We provide a safety

training slide show

- We waive insurance requirements for volunteer participants

ADOPTABLE AREAS

Conventional state and federal routes may be adopted, as well as a limited number of interstate interchanges. Check with KCMB to determine what roads in your area are available for adoption.

Areas that Cannot be Adopted

The following areas are not available for adoption:

- Areas that are already adopted (you can be put on a waiting list for these areas on a first-come, first-served basis)

- Mainline interstate or limited access highways
- Areas where the speed limit is more than 55 mph
- Areas where access is unsafe
- Areas that are safe only with traffic control
- Areas where the shoulder of the road is too narrow

- Areas where visibility is too restricted
- Areas where construction is under way or planned
- Areas that have heavy traffic or the traffic is too close to the work area
- Areas where the terrain is too rugged or where the vegetation is too dense

In the above situations KCMB will be happy to find you a more suitable, safer area to adopt.

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR **TOP** PRIORITY

Because roadways are dangerous places, all volunteers should be mentally alert while picking up litter. Besides using good common sense, all members should be in good physical condition, including sight and hearing. There should be one supervising adult for every three children aged 12—15. **Alcohol use is prohibited on GDOT right-of-way.**

Plan For Safety!

- Review safety precautions. Prior to each activity, complete the participant waiver form and have each participant sign it. Save it for your records.
- Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags beforehand. Estimate the amount of time for your pickup and agree on a meeting place when you're finished.
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles parked on the side of the road. Be sure to park in a safe spot as far from the road as possible and all on the same side. Be careful not to park in an area that would obstruct motorists' views, such as on a curve in the road.
- Bring along an adequate first-aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency. At least one person in your group should know CPR.
- Bring a cell phone.
- Obtain emergency contacts for each group member and bring their phone numbers with you.
- Don't overexert yourself. Bring along a supply of water and take breaks.

Safe Work Habits

- Wear your yellow safety vests at all times.
- Work only during daylight hours during good weather. During the hot summer months, it's a good idea to restrict your work to morning hours.
- Make sure the litter pickup signs are displayed and close them after pickup is complete where applicable.
- Work only on one side of the road at a time.
- Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.

- Do not wear headsets. They could prevent you from hearing traffic or other hazards.
- Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag. Broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries.
- Do not pick up syringes or hypodermic needles, animal carcasses or heavy, large or hazardous materials. Flag these items and notify KCMB.
- Do not "horse around" or do anything to purposely distract drivers.
- Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds.
- Avoid insects such as fire ants, yellow jackets, wasps, etc. Also, be aware of and avoid animals such as snakes, possums and raccoons.
- Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, bridges, overpasses or retaining walls that could be dangerous for workers.

Safety Gear

- High-visibility vests*
- Trash bags*
- Leather thick-soled boots or shoes
- Light colored clothing, brightly colored hat
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirt
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- First aid kit
- Cell phone

*provided by KCMB



Please review the safety presentation, sign the safety release form and return to KCMB. This needs to be done only once by participants unless requirements change.



We have a long way to go because participation in Georgia's Adopt-A-Highway program, initiated in 1989, is declining, as it is throughout the U.S.



Adopt-A-Highway volunteers Linda and Larry Robertson pick up litter on behalf of the First Baptist Church.

Your Award Winning Affiliate

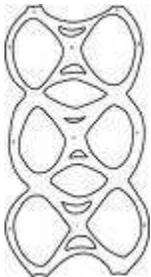
KEEP CHATSWORTH-MURRAY BEAUTIFUL

Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful

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Our Mission

To engage individuals to take greater responsibility and pride in their community while becoming stewards of the environment.

Our Focus

Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful strives to change behaviors and improve the community through:
Litter Prevention: Defining litter, identifying the cause, reducing it, organizing clean-ups and properly handling discarded waste in our community.

Waste Reduction & Recycling: Reducing the impact of solid waste in our communities through integrated programs including source reduction and reuse, recycling and education about landfills, composting and waste-to-energy.

Beautification: Improving the visual aspects of our community through programs that beautify and naturally clean our environment including community gardens, restoring vacant lots, highway beautification and graffiti prevention.

Our Guiding Principles

As a leader in community improvement, KCMB is guided by these principles:

Education: This is the key to encouraging positive behaviors toward community improvement.

Individual Responsibility: Improving communities, their environment and quality of life all begins with personal responsibility – individuals becoming more engaged as citizens and stewards of the environment.

Public-Private Partnerships: Broad-based community alliances are essential to achieve sustainable community improvement.

Volunteer Action: By engaging volunteers we extend the reach of our education and multiply the impact of our actions.

LITTER LIFE SPANS

Plastic bag	10-20 years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Plastic 6-pack cover	450 years
Styrofoam cup	over 500 years
Glass bottle	one million years



Murray County High School Student Council volunteers on a scheduled pick up.