



Mississippi Coastal Cleanup



Site Coordinator's Handbook

Annually since 1988, volunteers just like you have been making a difference by removing tons of marine debris from our Mississippi coastlines. The **Mississippi Coastal Cleanup** is a partnership between the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force. Our purpose is to facilitate cleanup events like this, while also raising awareness of the impacts of marine debris on the environment and providing information on ways we can reduce marine debris.

Marine debris is human-made litter, scattered across the entire ocean, that is swept along by currents and accumulates most noticeably along coastlines. It is estimated that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic weight in the ocean than fish weight. With those huge quantities of marine debris in the oceans, it's easy to see that marine debris poses a threat to us all. Everything—from the environment to the economy, from fishing to human health and safety, from microscopic plankton to

the giant blue whale—is impacted by the abundance of marine debris in the ocean.

The purpose of this handbook is to help guide you through all aspects of the **Mississippi Coastal Cleanup**; refer to it if you have any questions throughout the cleanup. Thank you for volunteering to make a difference. This day is much more than just picking up trash. It's an opportunity for a community to join together and inspire others to help take care of our coastal environments!



Supply Checklist

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Table <input type="checkbox"/> Chairs <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chest (if desired) <input type="checkbox"/> Ice (if desired) <input type="checkbox"/> Canopy/tent for shade (if desired) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (if desired) <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable, protective shoes <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and hat <input type="checkbox"/> Camera/smartphone for photos |
|--|---|

WHAT COASTAL CLEANUP WILL PROVIDE FOR YOUR SITE:

Signs/Forms	Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 sign-in sheet packet ■ 1 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup yard sign ■ 1 volunteer instruction sign ■ 1 sponsorship poster ■ Water (at limited sites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 roll of tape (to be used for signs) ■ 1 five-gallon bucket for sharp objects ■ 1 first-aid kit for minor scrapes and cuts ■ 1 bottle of hand sanitizer ■ Fluorescent flags (to mark hazardous material and entangled animals, live or dead) ■ High-visibility Coastal Cleanup T-shirt ■ Supplies for volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data cards • Pencils • Gloves • Trash bags • Clipboards • Lunch tickets

Setup

1. Your team should arrive at the site at 7 a.m. to set up.
2. Set up table(s), chairs, water, and a tent (if needed).
3. Post the following signs:
 - a. Mississippi Coastal Cleanup yard sign
 - b. Volunteer instruction sign
 - c. Sponsorship poster
4. Set up volunteer supplies (trash bags, data cards/clipboards, pencils, gloves, thank-you gifts, and meal cards) for distribution.

Sign-in

SIGN-IN SHEET AND LIABILITY-RELEASE FORMS

- The sign-in sheet also serves as the liability-release form. Please have all adults over 18 sign the sign-in sheet and have a guardian sign for anyone under the age of 18. One person can sign in for an entire group as long as they record the number of individuals in their group.
- Remind all parents that small children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

SUPPLIES TO DISTRIBUTE TO EACH VOLUNTEER OR SMALL GROUP AT SIGN-IN:

- 1 data card (Spanish cards are available)
- 1 pencil
- 2 pairs of gloves
- No more than 3 trash bags
- 1 clipboard

GIFTS TO DISTRIBUTE AFTER VOLUNTEERS HAND IN COMPLETED DATA CARD:

- 1 meal ticket (see lunch sites below)

Instructions for Volunteers

Refer volunteers to the volunteer instruction sign.

1. Volunteers should work in pairs. One should fill out the data card while the other holds the trash bag and picks up debris.
2. Show volunteers how to fill out the data cards.
3. Volunteers will document their first bag of trash only on the data card and then turn in the completed card when they're finished cleaning up.

Lunch Sites

Lunches at all sites are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are required.

HARRISON COUNTY

Barksdale Pavilion at Jones Park

Sponsored by RPM Pizza and the Gulfport Rotary Club

HANCOCK COUNTY

Washington Street Pavilion Burger Cookout

Sponsored by Office of Congressman Steven Palazzo and the Bay-Waveland Rotary Club

JACKSON COUNTY

MGCCC Jackson County Campus, Estuarine Education Center

Sponsored by The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint

Prize Drawings

Prizes will be drawn *at the lunch locations*. To be eligible for the drawing, volunteers must turn in half of their lunch ticket and *be present* at lunch sites during lunch hours to win. The prizes are:

- Jackson County: Paddleboard (courtesy of Paddles Up)
- Harrison County: Kayak (courtesy of Everything Kayak)
- Hancock County: Kayak (courtesy of Everything Kayak)

Zone Instruction

Hazardous Materials	Marine Life	Trash Disposal	Tires
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do not dispose of or collect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-gallon buckets • 55-gallon drums • Car batteries • Any other strange debris as it may contain hazardous chemicals ➤ Mark the hazardous waste with the fluorescent flags provided. ➤ Contact your coordinator to report the location and type of waste. ➤ Sharp objects (glass, needles, etc.) should be placed carefully in the 5-gallon bucket provided at your zone. ➤ Wear work gloves when picking up objects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immediately notify your coordinator of the location of a stranded sea turtle or marine mammal (dead or alive). ➤ Mark any live or dead entangled sea life with a fluorescent flag and call your county coordinator. ➤ Dead fish (not entangled in debris) do NOT need to be flagged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trash bags should be placed in the dumpster at your site. ➤ If your site does not have a dumpster, contact your coordinator for instructions. ➤ Harrison County beach volunteers should place their bags along the sea wall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tires should be placed next to dumpsters— NOT inside them. ➤ Tires must be separate from bagged trash for recycling.

State and County Coordinators

Region	Name	Email	Phone
Statewide	Eric Sparks	Eric.sparks@msstate.edu	228-546-1025
Hancock County	Christian Stephenson	c.stephenson@msstate.edu	228-467-5456
Harrison County	Kelly Griffin	kelly.griffin@co.harrison.ms.us	228-214-1405
Jackson County	Al Brimm	al.brimm@foster-brimm.com	228-218-9520
Barrier Islands	Bill Barley	bill_barley@nps.gov	228-230-4118

Data Reporting

Your coordinator will provide you with a summary card to record the results of the data cards collected from volunteers. Summary cards and sign-in sheets must be returned to coordinators in a timely manner for accurate data reporting.

The following information must be emailed or called in to your city or county coordinator by noon on the day of the cleanup:

- Number of volunteers at your site
- Number of miles covered
- Number of black bags collected
- Any unusual debris found
- Number of clear bags (recyclables) collected

TIP: Recruit a team of volunteers during sign-in to collect completed data cards from volunteers and compile the numbers on-site.

Unused Supplies

All unused supplies, forms, and completed data and summary cards must be returned to your city or county coordinator immediately following the cleanup. Please consult with your city or county coordinator to find out where to return these items.



Publication 3064 (05-17)
MASGP-17-015

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Produced by Agricultural Communications.

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Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. GARY B. JACKSON, Director