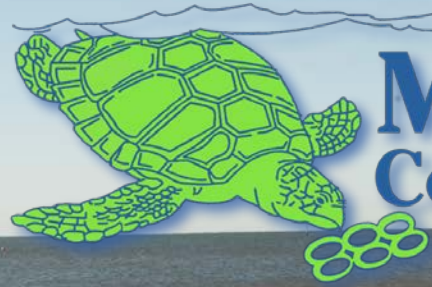




MISSISSIPPI STATE
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EXTENSION



Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

Volunteer's Handbook

WELCOME TO THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP!

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!



WE RECOMMEND *YOU* BRING:

- Water (preferably in a reusable bottle!)
- Closed-toe shoes
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Gloves
- An enthusiastic attitude!

WE WILL PROVIDE:

- Data cards and clipboard
- Pencils
- Bags
- Surgical gloves
- First aid
- Hand sanitizer

Volunteer Instructions

1. The **first thing** to do upon arrival is identify your site captain and **sign in**.
2. You must be **18 years or older** to sign in. An adult must accompany minors. If you are in a group, only one person needs to sign in for the group.
3. Volunteers should work in pairs or small groups.
4. Each pair or group of volunteers will receive 1 data card, 1 pencil, 1 clipboard, gloves, and no more than 3 trash bags from your site captain.
5. Begin the cleanup!
6. After you are finished cleaning up, your pair or group will turn in the completed data card to your site captain to receive your lunch cards. (Lunch will be provided 11 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Data Collection

1. Complete a data card for your first bag of trash. You may fill out additional data cards for each additional bag of trash, if desired, but only the card for your first bag is required.
2. Be sure to include on the **front** of the data card:
 - Your cleanup site name
 - Number of people working in your group (# of adults / # of children)
3. Be sure to include on the **back**:
 - Tally and total count of items found
 - Estimated distance walked/cleaned
 - Estimated weight of your trash bag
 - Number of bags collected by your group

Ask your site captain if you have any questions about data collection.

Lunch Sites

Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Tickets are required to receive lunch.** You will receive tickets from your site captain after you have completed your cleanup.

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

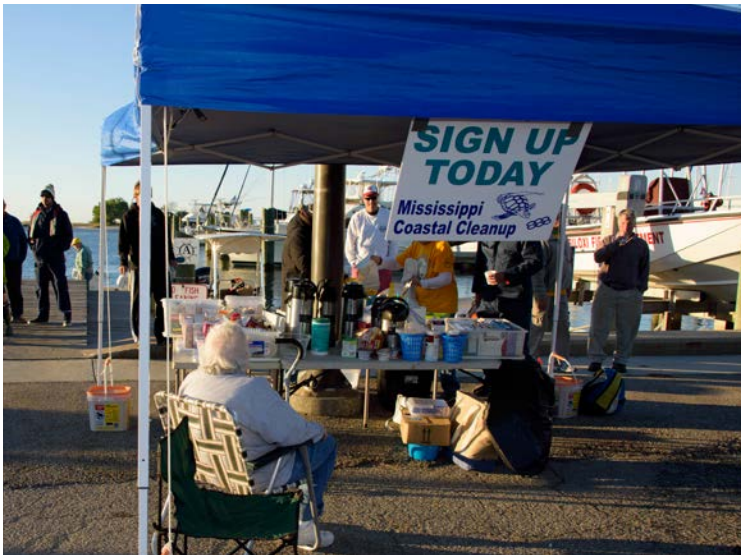
Prizes will be drawn *at the lunch locations*. To be eligible for the drawing, volunteers must turn in half of their lunch ticket and *be present* at lunch sites during lunch hours to win. The prizes are:

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

Thank You!

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program annually engages thousands of volunteers, removes tons of trash, raises marine debris awareness, and educates people about marine debris prevention and impacts across the Mississippi coast. This program would not exist without sponsors and volunteers like you! Thank you for all your hard work and support!

If you have any other questions, please visit our website www.mscoastalcleanup.org to access our frequently asked questions (FAQ) or to contact us.



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