



MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

2024 FALL NEWSLETTER

Hi there! Welcome to the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program Seasonal Newsletter.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program (MSCCP) is an educational program that promotes the conservation of our local marine environment by influencing active stewardship within our community. This program is housed at the Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, MS.

Check out what we've been up to!

ANNUAL MS COASTAL CLEANUP EVENT



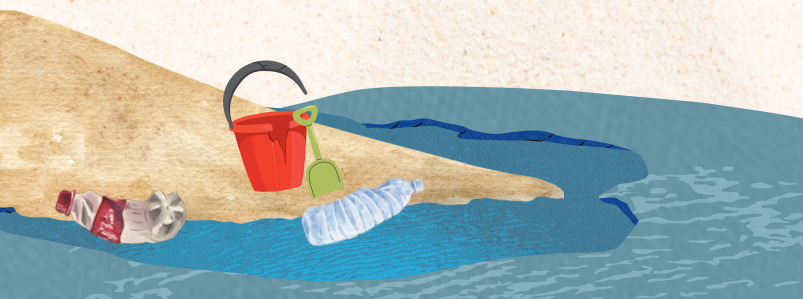
On Saturday, October 19th, **697 volunteers** took to the beaches for the **2024 Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup**. There were 10 different cleanup site locations spanning from Pascagoula to Bay St. Louis where volunteers cleaned almost **2,000 pounds of trash and debris!** The top 5 items found were cigarette butts (8,333), plastic pieces (6,085), food wrappers (2,094), foam pieces (1,856), and glass pieces (1,578).

Data from this cleanup contributes to the *International Coastal Cleanup* event.

This cleanup takes place annually on the third Saturday in October and concludes the MSCCP scheduled cleanup season.

The 2025 Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th, 2025.

2025 ANNUAL CLEANUP



SPONSORS IN ACTION

We want to give a special thanks to these program sponsors for volunteering in our Annual MS Coastal Cleanup Event!



PORTS AMERICA



PORTS AMERICA

Ports America volunteers helped community volunteers clean up close to home at the Jones Park site in Gulfport.

CHEVRON



Chevron volunteers helped community volunteers cover a larger portion of the beach in Pascagoula.



INGALLS SHIPBUILDING



Ingalls Shipbuilding volunteers did their part by running their own cleanup site in Pascagoula!



MSCCP IN THE CLASSROOM

Reducing litter and marine debris starts long before a beach cleanup. While cleanups are important to collect data and the types and possible sources of that debris, the cycle will never end if we do not stop it at its source. A critical step toward this end is education.



MSCCP visits classrooms in K-12 schools as well as community organizations to teach students about the hazards associated with marine debris and ways to reduce the amount of waste we produce in our daily lives. Students then filter water samples for microplastics and observe them using a microscope.



Contact Program Coordinator, Evelyn McQueen, to schedule a visit or for more info.

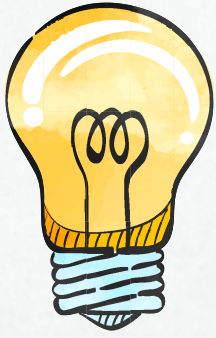
EVELYN.MCQUEEN@MSSTATE.EDU

INLAND CLEANUPS

The **Mississippi Inland Cleanup Program**, in partnership with **SWAPS** (Sustainability with Awareness and Prevention Solutions), has been bringing prevention and removal strategies to school-aged children in Coastal Mississippi counties. So far this year, **84 volunteers** in Jackson and Harrison Counties have collected **145.02 lbs. of litter**.

**MS INLAND
CLEANUP PROGRAM**





SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Small changes now will add up to big changes in the future.

Litter, especially **plastic**, is one of the **greatest threats to our natural environment** today. It affects everyone and everything—including you! Mismanaged litter often travels via waterways (watersheds, rivers, oceans, etc.) as marine debris.

Marine debris is any solid, man-made material that is intentionally or unintentionally disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment and is an increasingly dangerous pollution issue we are facing both locally & globally.

MAKE THE SWITCH FROM SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS TO REUSABLE OPTIONS

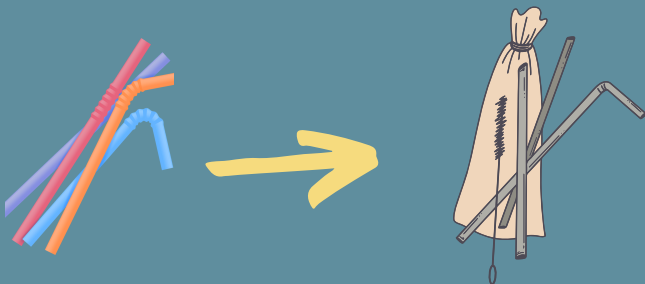
SWAP YOUR SINGLE-USE BOTTLE TO A REFILLABLE ONE



SWAP YOUR MASS-PRODUCED PLASTIC LOTION BOTTLE TO A DIY LOTION TIN



SWAP YOUR PLASTIC STRAWS TO A WASHABLE ONE



SWAP YOUR PLASTIC GROCERY BAG TO A COTTON ONE



SWAP YOUR CLING WRAP TO A BEESWAX WRAP



SWAP YOUR PLASTIC TOOTHBRUSH TO A BAMBOO ONE



WE WILL SEE YOU IN 2025!

Here are our upcoming events. All events have online registration volunteers must fill out prior to attending.

March 1st, 2025
Mardi Gras Cleanup
@ Ocean Springs, MS

July 5th, 2025
Star-Spangled Cleanup
@ multiple cleanup sites across the MS coast.

October 18th, 2025
Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event
@ multiple cleanup sites across the MS coast.

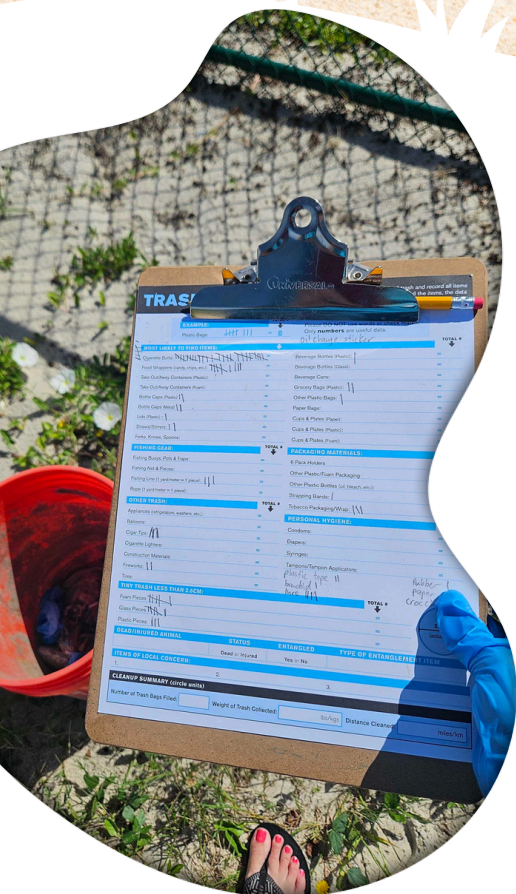
** Please note, weather happens! Therefore, all events are subject to cancellation.



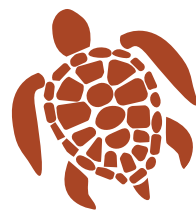
REQUEST A BIN INITIATIVE

Can't make it to one of our scheduled events? The MSCCP can provide groups with guidance and all the supplies they need to **perform their very own cleanup**. Our only requirement - volunteers **MUST** collect data! We do this at each of our cleanup events and we want to know how much and what types of trash you are picking up. Supplies provided include gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers, buckets, a first aid kit, hand sanitizer, hanging scale to collect weight, and data collection materials.

So far in 2024, **367 Request a Bin volunteers** have collected over **1,300 lbs. of litter** in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.



 [REQUEST A BIN INFO](#)



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Interested in being a sponsor? Checkout our website and click the "Donate" tab for more information!

mscoastalcleanup.org

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MISSISSIPPI SOUND ESTUARY PROGRAM

