

# *Cleaning up our Coast, “one bag at a time”*

These 15 colored drawings, from elementary school students living in Harrison County, celebrate the 2018 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
**EXTENSION**

Save the Beach! 



Tracks from trucks

Since 1988, thousands of volunteers have gathered each fall to remove millions of pounds of trash from Mississippi's coastline, waterways, and barrier islands.

Become a volunteer or sponsor for the annual event, organized by the Mississippi State University Extension Service and Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force: visit [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org) today!



**M**ississippi Coastal Cleanup features thousands of volunteers who pick up tons of trash. During the 2018 cleanup, 2,649 volunteers picked up over 10 tons of litter from more than 30 sites stretching 50 miles along the coast. Cigarette butts, plastic bottles, and food wrappers made up most of the garbage removed from Mississippi's coastline, waterways, and barrier islands.



Walmart

water

I help my community by picking up trash!

The Mississippi State University Extension Service partners with the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force to organize, promote, and lead the annual event, which Extension has coordinated for the past 2 years. Extension provides education that empowers people to make informed decisions about their families, jobs, and the environment.

Help keep the beach  
Clean!



**O**n the day of the 2018 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, community members came together at 8 a.m. The campaign is usually held each October to avoid the potential impacts of hurricane season. Generous sponsors offered lunches to the volunteers on-site.

# Help Clean The Ocean



**A**long with more than 20,000 beverage bottles picked up, volunteers also collected almost 60,000 cigarette butts at the 2018 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. Altogether, over 20,000 pounds of trash were collected, including discarded beverage cans, plastic and paper bags, and cups and plates.



*V*olunteers received trash and recycling bags, along with data cards, to remove and report litter. The data cards allow volunteers to describe what they find so the sources of marine debris can be determined. Pollution-prevention and pollution-education campaigns are then developed for the state, region, nation, and world.

Keep Calm

and

Save Sea Turtle's



**V**olunteers covered more than 50 miles of Mississippi's coastlines, waterways, and barrier islands as they collected the litter polluting the Gulf Coast. Extension specialists are developing corresponding educational programming to promote the importance of proper trash disposal and demonstrate methods for reducing and properly disposing of trash.



Some of the most-found trash items included cigarette butts and plastic bottle caps. These materials can be extremely harmful to wildlife on land, in the air, and in the water. When out in the environment for long periods of time, these items can break up into smaller pieces that wildlife can mistake for food, leading to the introduction of plastics into the marine food web.



*M*ost Mississippi Coastal Cleanup volunteers wore gloves to avoid the sharp edges of some garbage, as well as foot protection in water to protect their feet from cuts from shells. When volunteers discovered trash that was too heavy to lift comfortably, they contacted their zone captains to arrange for removal.



Help  
Clean the  
beach. 

Anyone who registered online for the 2018 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup will receive an automatic email notification to sign up for the 2019 cleanup, to be held Saturday, Oct. 19. People who want to be added to the list may sign up at [www.mscoastalcleanup.org/contact-us](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org/contact-us).



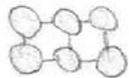
*T*he Mississippi Gulf Coast is home to some of the nation's most productive finfish and shellfish waters, as well as their supporting coastal wetlands. The coast is rich in natural resources, so protecting and maintaining those lands and waters through the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup protects those resources for future generations.

Keep The Beach Clean!



**T**he Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is an important part of the International Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by Ocean Conservancy. By removing garbage from the Gulf Coast, volunteers are benefiting the environment and setting a positive example of good environmental stewardship. This volunteer effort is one of the largest in the state.

Help Clean  
our beaches

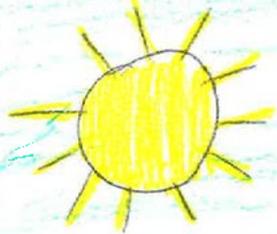


While the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup effort attracts thousands of volunteers each year, Extension and Task Force organizers want to stop littering before the trash reaches the water. Take the pledge to Keep the Coast Clear at [www.oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/outreach-education/skip-the-straw/](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/outreach-education/skip-the-straw/) to help stop trash at its source.

Please help clean our  
beach



**M**ake a difference, one bag at a time! Every October, thousands of concerned citizens take to the streets and beaches all along the Gulf Coast to pick up trash that can pollute our waterways and endanger the lives of countless animals. Won't you join us on Oct. 19? Sign up today at [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org)!



Save Our  
Beaches



clean up



If you're really passionate about cleaning up the Mississippi Gulf Coast, contact Extension's Coastal Cleanup Program team. They can give you supplies to help you do your part to keep the coast clean. Go to [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org), click on Contact Us, and connect with Extension professionals who are as passionate about clean air, land, and water as you are!

The *Mississippi Coastal Cleanup* would not be possible without the support of our sponsors.

*We thank*

Chevron Pascagoula Refinery | Waste Management | The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint | Mississippi Department of Marine Resources | Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Ocean Conservancy | Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant | WXXV 25 | Domino's | Ship Island Excursions | Port of Gulfport | The Nature Conservancy | Domino's | Singing River Electric | Chemours | Allen Engineering and Science | *and* Airbus.



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