



# MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

## 2023 SUMMER 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!

### Star-Spangled Cleanup

On Saturday, July 8th, 134 volunteers braved the heat for our 2023 Star-Spangled Cleanup! This cleanup is aimed at removing remaining firework debris from the beaches before it can be washed or blown into the Mississippi Sound. During this time, we also have our beloved shorebirds nesting making it a top priority to keep our beaches clean and free of debris. Overflowing trash bins and litter puts chicks at risk for predation and entanglement.

During this cleanup, **~1,000 pounds** of debris and trash was collected filling over 70 bags. **4,240 fireworks**, 2,557 cigarette butts, 953 food wrappers. *Holy firecracker...*



STAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP  
INFO

### Changing habits for a better environment – one swap at a time!

**SWAPS** is a four-module learning series that provides students with a broad understanding of litter and excessive waste issues faced by individuals, schools, and communities on the coast. Some of these topics include **microplastics in watersheds, food waste prevention, alternatives to single-use plastics, and getting involved in litter prevention and removal.** The goal of the SWAPS program is for students to take the lessons learned and share this knowledge with their families, friends, and community.

Since wrapping up our spring courses at two local high schools, Pass Christian and St. Martin, SWAPS has been involved in 14 events and classes, reaching over 550 people of all ages and backgrounds. This includes Jackson County Sand Jam, a Pass Christian Library plastic alternative DIY workshop, multiple Pascagoula River Audubon Center Summer Camps, and more.

**Everyone can take part in making their communities better by preventing litter and excess waste!** SWAPS is here to provide education and materials to help you succeed. For more information or to schedule workshops and classes please contact Elizabeth at [e.englebretson@msstate.edu](mailto:e.englebretson@msstate.edu)





## Mississippi Inland Cleanup Program hosts “Cleanup Crawl”!

This August, the MSICP kicked off their first inaugural “*Cleanup Crawl*”! Volunteers checked in to start their cleanup efforts at Biloxi First Friday, then followed a pre-mapped route through downtown to collect litter. Along the route, volunteers could stop at resupply stations to drop off trash, collect stamps on their punch cards, and grab swag at every stop. *Shout out to Shawn Harris for collecting all station stamps and winning the grand prize raffle!*



With 40 volunteers removing 80.31 lbs of debris from Downtown Biloxi, it was considered a great success! MSICP is looking forward to keeping this event as a yearly staple.

**Special thanks to our sponsors: Ocean Conservancy & #TeamSeas, Waste Pro, Café 871, Biloxi Mainstreet District, Mississippi State University Extension, and Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program.**

## MSU College of Veterinary Medicine cleans Biloxi Beach!



Students from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine on a trip with the Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security had a wonderful cleanup at Edgewater Mall in Biloxi. They removed over 40 pounds of trash from the beach! They have previously co-sponsored cleanups on the Mississippi Gulf Coast as well as cleanups around Starkville.

This group obtained beach cleanup supplies through our “Request a Bin” Initiative! We provide all supplies necessary for a successful cleanup and volunteers are able to do their cleanup when and where is convenient for them.

[REQUEST A BIN](#)



# REGISTRATION

## ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP

**Saturday, October 21st, 2023**

**Time: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.**



Every October, thousands of volunteers gather across the coast in efforts to rid our waterways, beaches and bayous of marine debris. The Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup takes place in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties. Each cleanup location will have a Site Captain stationed to provide volunteers with supplies and guidance during the cleanup event. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt for their participation. This cleanup marks the end of our cleanup season!

### CLEANUP LOCATIONS:

1. Waveland @ Garfield Ladner Pier
2. Bay Saint Louis @ Washington Street Pier & Boat Launch + *Research opportunity!*
3. Pass Christian Harbor
4. Long Beach Harbor
5. Gulfport @ Jones Park
6. Gulfport @ Ken Combs Pier & Boat Launch
7. Biloxi West Beach Boardwalk
8. Biloxi Lighthouse
9. Ocean Springs Front Beach @ Harbor end
10. Ocean Springs East Beach
11. Pascagoula Beach

### EVENT INFO & REGISTRATION



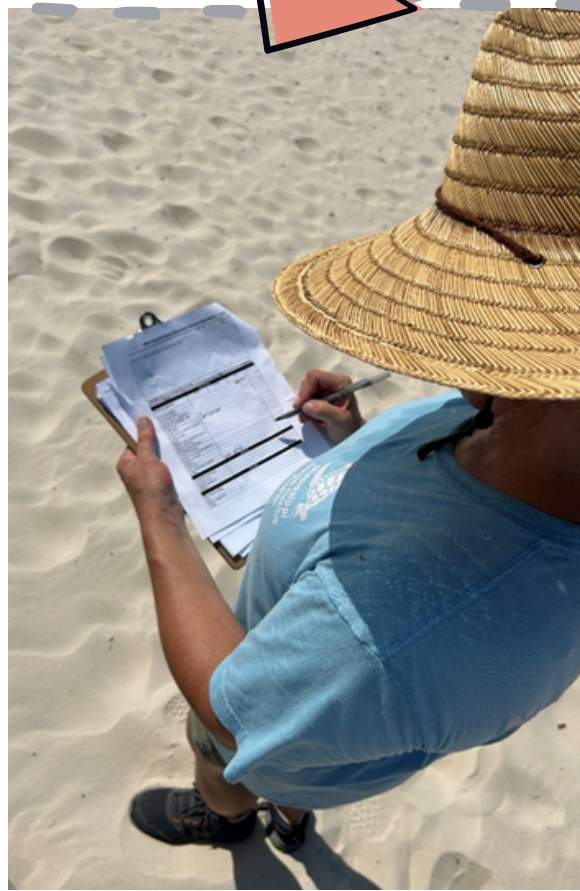
## CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Interested in participating in an active research project? Sign up to join the "Citizen Science Litter Sampling Survey"!

Volunteers will sign research consent forms, attend a short safety briefing, and then be asked to complete a study protocol. The nature of this study includes capturing volunteer motivations and perceptions.

For more information, please contact Jessi James @ [jaj322@msstate.edu](mailto:jaj322@msstate.edu)

*An option to participate in this survey will take place as part of the Washington Street Pier & Boat Launch site during the Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup event! Cool, science!*



## Upcoming Events

Here is our last event of the 2023 cleanup season!  
All events have online registration volunteers must fill out prior to attending.

**October 21st, 2023**  
*Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup*  
@ multiple sites across the MS Coast.



The MSCCP will be going through a program *glow-up* for 2024. As the program expands to include various initiatives (SWAPS, MS Inland Cleanup, Derelict Trap & Boat Removals), we are taking some time to revamp our volunteer efforts. Our team is working on new and improved ways to get volunteers involved with meaningful environmental stewardship.

We appreciate your patience while we navigate the coordination of volunteer efforts in the new year!

See you at the beach!



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