



MISSISSIPPI
COASTAL CLEANUP
PROGRAM

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2026 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 11th, **208 volunteers** braved the heat for our 2026 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 put chicks at risk for predation and entanglement.

During this cleanup, **over 500 pounds** of debris and trash were collected, filling over 70 bags. The top 5 items found were **fireworks (8,462)**, **cigarette butts (1,438)**, **plastic pieces (1,038)**, **other plastics (809)**, and **food wrappers (743)**.



508.36
LBS OF TRASH

208 VOLUNTEERS



70 BAGS
OF TRASH



8,462
FIREWORKS



CMEP TEACHER WORKSHOP

This June, MSCCP joined numerous other amazing programs in a Coastal and Marine Extension Program Teacher Workshop. During this workshop, MSCCP staff presented on our educational opportunities to a diverse group of teachers. They examined microplastics under a microscope and then headed outside for a short boat trip to Deer Island for nurdle patrol and a cleanup!

12 teachers braved the heat and collected **26.67 pounds** of debris and trash.

REQUEST A BIN



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, and data collection materials.

So far in 2025, **420 Request a Bin** volunteers have collected **703 lbs. of litter** in Harrison and Jackson Counties.

[REQUEST A BIN INFO](#)



STUDENT NATURALIST CLEANUPS

This year, we coordinated two cleanups with the Student Naturalist Program Summer camps, one of which was a German/American hybrid camp with POCACITO. Through these efforts, **47 volunteers** removed **35.4 pounds of litter** from Deer Island.


47 VOLUNTEERS


35.4
LBS OF TRASH



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **Ship Island Cleanup**
August 8th | Petit Bois Island
- **Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event**
October 17th | Locations across the MS Gulf Coast

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

[EVENT CALENDAR](#)



See you at the beach!



SAVE THE DATE **2026 ANNUAL COASTAL CLEANUP**
OCTOBER 17
8-10 AM

LOCATIONS
ACROSS THE
MISSISSIPPI
GULF COAST

**JOIN US FOR A VOLUNTEER-
POWERED BEACH CLEANUP!**
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

[MSUCOASTAL.COM/COASTAL-CLEANUP](https://msucoastal.com/coastal-cleanup)

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