



Beach Adoption FAQs

Do I choose a section of beach or am I assigned one?

We encourage you to choose a beach area to clean on your own. Ideally, you should choose a beach that you like and already frequently visit. However, if you can't decide on a beach to adopt, you can contact us to help you find one. You can also look on our online Beach Adopters map.

Will I be the only adopter for my stretch of beach?

Most areas have only one official adopter designated. However, there are some areas where we have multiple adopters, particularly along the Galveston Seawall and Bolivar Peninsula. If all parties are in agreement, we will sometimes allow multiple adopters, particularly in these high tourism areas. Having multiple adopters means there are more people helping to clean those beaches throughout the year.

Also, during official Adopt-A-Beach coast wide cleanups, all beaches will have additional volunteers out there cleaning, so you may have other groups accompany you on your designated beach.

What is the minimum age requirement to participate in the beach adoption program?

There is no minimum age requirement as long as anyone under the age of 18 is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or chaperone. We require all volunteers who participate in an Adopt-A-Beach official cleanup to sign a registration/liability waiver form, and if they are under 18 years old, they must have a parent or guardian sign for them.

Can I adopt more than one beach?

Yes, there is no limit to how many beaches you can adopt. Please keep in mind that each adopted section must be cleaned three times each year for two years.

Do I need to bring my own supplies?

If you need supplies we can send you some trash bags and gloves. Please give us at least two weeks advance notice before your cleanup so we have plenty of time to get you supplies. You can email us at beach@glo.texas.gov or call us at 877-TXCOAST (892-6278).

If my adopted section is located within a park which requires an entrance fee – or in an area that requires a beach permit – do I still have to pay to enter the park or buy a beach permit?

Local parks and governments have different rules. You may not need to pay a fee, but be prepared to pay for a park pass or a permit. The exception is on our official beach cleanup days held in April and September. On those days authorities typically waive the entrance fee and beach permit requirements.

Can I get sign on the beach?

At this time we are not installing new Beach Adopter signs. If there is still an existing Beach Adopter sign near the beach area you wish to adopt, it may be possible to add your group's name at a cost. Contact Adopt-A-Beach staff for more information. However, be aware that signs that are destroyed by storms and/or vandals will not be replaced.

Where do I put the trash bags when I'm done?

Ideally you should locate a trash barrel at or near your location and place your bags in and around it once you're finished cleaning the beach. If you have a lot of bags, and there is no receptacle, you can put them at the line of vegetation, but be sure to call your local site coordinator to let them know they're there. You don't want the bags washing away with high tide! The site coordinator will contact local authorities to make sure the bags get picked up. Your site coordinator's contact information can be found in your Beach Adopter packet.

What if I find a dead animal or hazardous waste, like a syringe, on the beach?

If you find a stranded or dead sea animal on the beach, please do not touch it. Contact the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network **800-9MAMMAL** (800-962-6625). If you find any kind of hazardous material on the beach, please do not pick it up. Make note of where the material is located, and then contact your site coordinator and let them know. They will contact the proper authorities to dispose of it. Please view our safety video on our website or the safety sheet that came in your Beach Adopter packet for more safety tips.

If you still have questions about adopting a stretch of beach, please email us at beach@glo.texas.gov or call 877- TXCOAST (892-6278).