



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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DRAFT

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### **22<sup>nd</sup> Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup Sept. 27**

*Volunteers can now register online, show their pride with Adopt-A-Beach license plates*

AUSTIN — The 22<sup>nd</sup> Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup will be held Saturday, September 27 at 11 sites in the Coastal Bend.

For the first time ever this year, volunteers can register online at [TexasAdoptABeach.org](http://TexasAdoptABeach.org). And true lovers of Texas beaches can show their pride by showing up at the fall cleanup with their very own Adopt-A-Beach license plates, which feature an adorable surfer tot with his board on a litter-free Texas beach.

“For 22 years now Texans who care have come out to pick up trash left by those who are careless,” said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. “These Adopt-A-Beach license plates let the world know you care.”

Volunteers can register online or at any of the 11 local sites starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, September 27. Volunteers will be given data cards, gloves, pencils and trash bags. Volunteers are advised to wear closed-toe shoes and bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water.

Texans who can't make it to the beach but still want to support the volunteer effort can make a tax-deductible donation online at [TexasAdoptABeach.org](http://TexasAdoptABeach.org). Sponsorship levels range from \$25 to \$25,000.

When Adopt-A-Beach volunteers first started their work in 1986, most of the trash on Texas beaches came from offshore vessels that dumped it overboard. Data collected by Adopt-A-Beach volunteers helped pass an international shipping treaty that banned dumping trash into the sea.

Now, about 70 percent of the trash on Texas beaches is left behind by average beachgoers. But that trash isn't being left behind by anyone who's ever spent a day picking up other people's beer cans, cigarette butts and used diapers off the beach, Patterson said.

“Take your kids to an Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup and I promise you they'll never again look at litter the same way,” Patterson said.

— more —

The Adopt-A-Beach license plate costs just \$30 in addition to regular vehicle fees, with \$22 used to support the Texas coast. For an extra \$40 you can even personalize your Adopt-A-Beach plates. The cost of license plates is considered a tax-deductible donation.

To order your plate today, go to Texas Online at [www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com) or contact your local tax office.

Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup check-in sites in the Coastal Bend are:

- Rockport—Aransas County  
Check-in: Rockport Beach Park beachfront pavilion  
Contact: Tom Staley  
361-729-2213, ext. 134  
[tom.staley@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:tom.staley@texasadoptabeach.org)
- Aransas Pass/Redfish Bay—Nueces County  
Check-in: Lighthouse Lakes Park, 4 miles east of Aransas Pass on Highway 361  
Contact: Lois Huff  
361-882-3439  
[lois.huff@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:lois.huff@texasadoptabeach.org)  
Richard Gonzales  
[Richard@gulfmex.org](mailto:Richard@gulfmex.org)  
361-779-7351
- Sunset Lakes Park-San Patricio County  
Check-in: Sunset Lakes Park on Highway 181  
Contact: Stacy Stork  
361-777-0461  
[stacy.stork@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:stacy.stork@texasadoptabeach.org)
- St. Jo Island/Port Aransas - Nueces County  
Check-in: 8:00 a.m. – Fisherman’s Wharf, 900 Tarpon St.  
Contact: Bruce Reynolds  
361-749-0215  
[bruce.reynolds@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:bruce.reynolds@texasadoptabeach.org)  
**\*Limited access – reservations required**
- Port Aransas—Nueces County  
Check-in: Avenue G at the beach  
Contact: Bruce Reynolds  
361-749-0215  
[bruce.reynolds@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:bruce.reynolds@texasadoptabeach.org)
- Mustang Island State Park, Corpus Christi—Nueces County  
Check-in: 17047 State Highway 361  
Contact: Paul Eubank  
361-749-5246

[paul.eubank@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:paul.eubank@texasadoptabeach.org)

Juan Sanchez

361-749-5246

[juan.sanchez@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:juan.sanchez@tpwd.state.tx.us)

- Corpus Christi Beach—Nueces County  
Check-in: Texas State Aquarium  
2710 North Shoreline Blvd.  
Contact: Kristin Ralls  
361-881-1321  
[kristin.ralls@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:kristin.ralls@texasadoptabeach.org)
- Cole Park (Kids Place), Corpus Christi—Nueces County  
Check-in: 1526 Ocean Drive  
Contact: Daiquiri Richard  
361-855-2888  
[daiquiri.richard@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:daiquiri.richard@texasadoptabeach.org)
- North Padre Island, Corpus Christi—Kleberg County  
Check-in: Padre Balli Park Office, 15820 Park Road 22  
Contact: Shirley Bralley  
361-548-5986  
[Shirley.bralley@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:Shirley.bralley@texasadoptabeach.org)  
Jim Needham—Surfrider Foundation  
361-825-2708  
[james.needham@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:james.needham@texasadoptabeach.org)  
Todd Dwyer  
361-853-9877  
[todd.dwyer@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:todd.dwyer@texasadoptabeach.org)
- Padre Island National Seashore—Kleberg County  
Check-in: Malaquite Visitor Center, 20420 Park Road 22  
Contact: William “Buzz” Botts  
361-949-8068  
[buzz.botts@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:buzz.botts@texasadoptabeach.org)
- Baffin Bay—Kleberg County  
Check-in: Kaufer-Hubert Park, FM 628  
Contact: Susan Ivy  
361-595-8591  
[susan.ivy@texasadoptabeach.org](mailto:susan.ivy@texasadoptabeach.org)

## DON'T FORGET!

- Pick a site and call the site coordinator or register online at [www.texasadoptabeach.org](http://www.texasadoptabeach.org).
- Pre-register large groups with the site coordinator or online on or before Wednesday, September 17th.
- Wear sunscreen, shoes, sunglasses and a hat.
- Bring plenty of drinking water.
- Check in by 9 a.m.
- Do not disturb the habitat of nesting shorebirds.
- For your safety, stay off the dunes.
- We'll clean rain or shine!

Mark your calendars to participate in our Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

**WHO:** About 10,000 Texans who care about Texas beaches  
**WHAT:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup  
**WHERE:** Twelve sites in the Coastal Bend  
**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, September 27  
**WHY:** To keep Texas beaches clean and healthy

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