



To commemorate Don't mess with Texas® (DMWT) upcoming 30th anniversary, DMWT is partnering with the Boy Scouts of America groups across the state to emphasize the importance of a clean-litter-free environment.

A partnership between Don't mess with Texas and the Boy Scouts will create a strong, sustainable experience as well as, an example for other youth organizations to follow by pitching in and doing their part. DMWT has an annual Trash-Off event for which the Boy Scouts are encouraged to participate in as part of this partnership. In addition, this year we will have various events across the state the troop can participate in.



BENEFITS:

Trash-Off Event

- For participating in a Trash-Off event, troops have the opportunity to earn a special 30th Anniversary DMWT patch for participating in the clean-up event(s).
 - Last year, in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful and the Adopt-a-Highway groups, there were 235 organized trash pick-ups across the state; more than 30,000 volunteers; 3,709 miles of highway cleaned; resulting in 1.4 million pounds of litter collected.
 - Public relations announcements will be going out regarding partnership and litter clean-up activities.



Trash and Treasure Hunt:

- Trash and Treasure Hunt events will be scheduled April through August. These events will be scheduled in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliates and area Convention and Visitor Bureaus. These will consist of a clean-ups, games and prizes at various locations across the state.
 - Promotional opportunities at each event.
 - Scouts have the opportunity to set up a booth.
 - Promoted on media relations materials and press events.

GOALS: Increase the number of youth keeping Texas beautiful, further reducing the likelihood of children developing the bad habit of littering as they get older. This partnership will increase awareness, reduce the amount of litter across the state, set the example that at any age, everyone makes the difference in keeping our environment litter free, and educate the public on the cost of litter pick-ups, youth and volunteer programs to help keep Texas beautiful!

HISTORY: In 1986, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) launched the Don't mess with Texas (DMWT) as a signature campaign designed to reduce litter on state maintained roadways. It is now one of the most recognized and well regarded slogans in the world.

TxDOT has a three prong approach to litter prevention, included are the "Don't Mess with Texas" public awareness campaign, the Adopt-a-Highway program, and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc. All three work towards a litter-free environment.

Each year DMWT sends out litter prevention messages designed to engage our target audience, 16-34 years of age, as well as the general public. Since 2006, the campaign has been increasing the reach with schools – reaching our youth. Our goal with our youth has been to prevent the negative behavior of littering. If we start educating our state's young people, we can prevent them from developing the littering habit instead of having to change that habit when they get older.

Last year, Fiscal Year 2015, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) spent an estimated \$31 million in litter pick-up costs. TxDOT continues to expand its programs by increasing awareness of its programs, developing more partnerships and engaging the public to become better stewards of the environment. In turn, these programs save taxpayers money by the reducing the amount of litter on our roadways.

Trash-Off Event Registration:

- Sign up to participate through Keep Texas Beautiful at <http://goo.gl/iASFo6>
- If your group cannot make the April 9th date, Trash-Off events are being held throughout the month of April or you can organize your own event at a date that fits your schedule. Events are listed on the Keep Texas Beautiful website to join another event already scheduled. Trash-Off events are being held throughout the month of April.
- Once you have completed your litter pickup, go online and record your accomplishment (number of volunteers or members in the group, bags picked up, etc.) at <https://goo.gl/uC16bd>.

SAFETY: The landscapes that makes Texas a unique place also poses safety dangers for volunteers while out on a clean-up, which is why safety is our number 1 priority. Everyone should take responsibility and be aware of their surroundings. There are several hazards that one may encounter while picking up litter, for that reason, we offer a safety video located at <http://goo.gl/i2QRy0>. In addition, here are some tips to keep safe during the Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off.

Do:

- Think Safety: Wear gloves; thick-soled, closed shoes; long pants or jeans; and long-sleeved shirts
- Wear Class 2 ANSI safety vests and bright colors for roadside cleanups. Make sure the vests are fastened closed so the reflective surfaces can be seen from all angles. These are bright fluorescent colored vests with reflective strips that velcro-shut in the front of the vest.
- Drink plenty of fluids and keep “quick energy foods” on hand
- Have a first-aid kit on hand
- Be aware of your surroundings and the potential hazards, such as traffic, ant piles, tree branches, poison ivy, bees and snakes
- Wear sunscreen and bug repellent
- Carry at least one cell phone per group
- Know emergency procedures; have location of the nearest emergency facility and how to call the police or an ambulance
- Use the “buddy system” by working in teams of two or three to maximize safety
- Keep hand sanitizer and/or pre-moistened towelettes on hand
- Take an occasional break and keep hydrated

Safety Tips continued:

Don't:

- Don't pick up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, old car batteries, condoms, animal carcasses or other unidentified, questionable objects
- Don't approach any animals on the side of the road or that you are not familiar with.
- Don't overstuff bags or put large sharp objects in plastic bags
- Don't attempt to move large objects such as rusted car shells, old household appliances or swing-sets; report these to your public works contact for removal – call your local fire or police department to report illegal dumping and for instructions on how to proceed
- Don't bring pets to events; they may distract participants or even detract from the cleanup
- Don't overdo it physically
- Don't pick up glass; if possible, sweep it into a bag or only pick it up if you have thick gloves to protect against injury
- Don't schedule cleanups during peak pedestrian or traffic hours
- Don't conduct cleanups during bad weather
- Don't conduct cleanups near or around construction sites

TxDOT District Contact List

District	Phone	Physical Address	Mail Address
Abilene	325-676-6800	4250 N. Clack Abilene, TX 79601	
Amarillo	806-356-3200	5715 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, TX 79110	
Atlanta	903-796-2851	701 E Main Street Atlanta, TX 75551	
Austin	512-832-7000	7901 N. I-35 Austin, TX 78753	
Beaumont	409-898-5731	8350 Eastex Freeway Beaumont, TX 77708	
Brownwood	325-646-2591	2495 Highway 183 N. Brownwood, TX 76802	
Bryan	979-778-2165	2591 North Earl Rudder Freeway Bryan, TX 77803	
Childress	940-937-2571	7599 US 287 Childress, TX 79201	
Corpus Christi	361-808-2300	1701 S. Padre Island Dr Corpus Christi, TX 78416	
Dallas	214-320-6100	4777 E Highway 80 Mesquite, TX 75150	
El Paso	915-790-4203	133301 Gateway West El Paso, TX 79928	
Fort Worth	817-370-6500	2501 S W Loop 820 Fort Worth, TX 76133	
Houston	713-802-5000	7600 Washington Avenue Houston, TX 77007	
Laredo	956-712-7456	1817 Bob Bullock Loop Laredo, TX 78043	
Lubbock	806-745-4411	135 Slaton Road Lubbock, TX 79404	
Lufkin	936-633-4321	1805 N. Timberland Drive Lufkin, TX 75901	
Odessa	432-332-0501	3901 East US Highway 80 Odessa, TX 79761	
Paris	903-737-9206	1365 N. Main Street Paris, TX 75460	
Pharr	956-702-6100	600 W. US Expressway 83 Pharr, TX 78577	
San Angelo	325-944-1501	4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, TX 76904	
San Antonio	210-615-1110	4615 NW Loop 410 San Antonio, TX 78229	
Tyler	903-510-9100	2709 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702	
Waco	254-867-2700	100 S. Loop Drive Waco, TX 76704	
Wichita Falls	940-720-7700	1601 Southwest Parkway Wichita Falls, TX 76302-0660	
Yoakum	361-293-4332	403 Huck Street Yoakum, TX 77995	