

Litter-Free Mobile



Litter isn't just unsightly and expensive to clean up. It's bad for local tourism. It's bad for our fisheries. Litter also impacts our water quality because everything that lands on a parking lot or in a roadway eventually winds up in our rivers and waterways. We also know that a littered area destroys community pride, reduces property values and can also contribute to blight and crime.

However, Litter can be stopped. Awards are given to communities across the country for being the cleanest city in their state, or even the nation. We are ready for Mobile to become one of those award-winning, Litter-Free cities.

Here is how we're going to do it:

Organized Approach

This campaign is a unified and focused approach to litter that will start with education, focus on prevention, incorporate broad collection efforts and finishes with enforcement.

Education is key. Before moving on to any other topic, we must educate the major players on the impact, importance, opportunities, and penalties associated with litter. The focus of this effort will be on four target audiences: school children at every grade level; retail, restaurants, and businesses with a focus on those who create and/or collect litter on-site; commercial realtors and property managers; and City Employees.

The education component starts with this comprehensive **Environmental Education Program Guide**. It is filled with opportunities for students to learn from Mobile's best resources – our non-profit environmental leaders. It will help teachers at every grade level from every kind of school find a program and a partner that will fit their students. Strong educational programs can convince more community members to take ownership of the problem and work together toward a Litter-Free Mobile.

We are creating, along with partners, unifying educational messaging that incorporates information about litter's negative impacts — cost, blight leading to increased crime, water quality, flooding, quality of life, and more. Additional educational campaigns such as "Trash Blows, Stow It" and outreach to trash and garbage haulers can have an impact. Education cannot be a once and done. It will take constant reminders so please educate your neighbors, friends, children, and even parents to work for a Litter-Free Mobile!

Prevention is the second step of the plan, but it starts with an analysis of "Litter Hotspots" and what could solve the problem in those areas. If it's more trash cans, a dumpster, emptied trash cans, or better education, we want to implement those things in a significantly more targeted fashion. We will also study opportunities for increasing recycling as well as encouraging waste reduction at the source – restaurants, city buildings, etc. We will also continue to add screens and other devices on storm drains to catch litter before it enters our waterways.



Collection is the area in which the City of Mobile and all the partners are making the most headway. The City of Mobile cleans up litter when we see it, when we call 311, or when we learn about an illegal dumpsite. Through partners, grant opportunities and available funding sources, we have contracted with Osprey Initiative to install and maintain Litter Gitters in Three Mile Creek and Dog River as well as clean the City's litter trap on Bolton's Branch in Eslava Creek off of McVay Drive North. With the help of our partners, it appears that the City is on track to have cleaned up twice as much litter in 2020 in 2019 (2019 - ~30,000 pounds and 2020 - ~62,00 pounds).

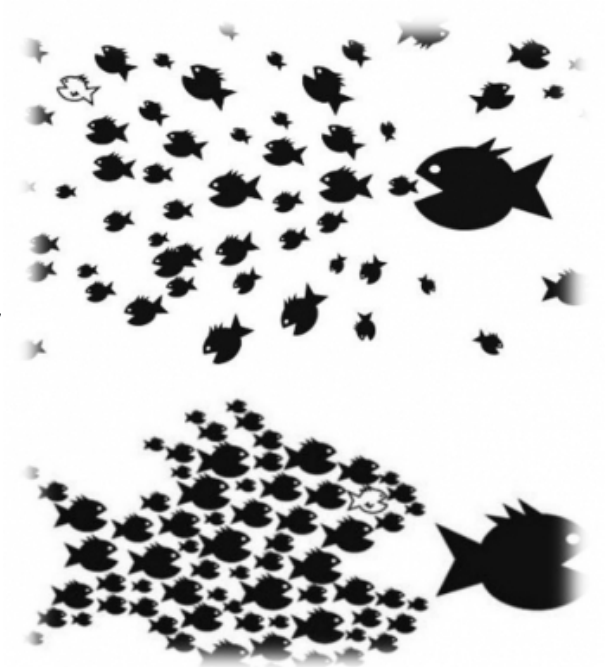
Click here for the [Litter-Free Mobile Collection Pilot Project](#)

Enforcement will always be our last option, but it is an important tool to put an end to chronic problems and bad behavior. We will target our monitoring on three major problems in our first year: repeated dump sites, private garbage pickup trucks that do not properly cover their trucks; and commercial premises with habitual trash problems. Everything in this field will still begin at the beginning with education so before we write a ticket, we will meet with violators to ensure they know the rules and have a chance to come into compliance. Voluntary compliance is always the goal.

All In:

The City of Mobile trying to pick up every piece of trash in the community is not the solution. Cities that have seen true success in tackling litter have used an “all of the above” approach. Engaging businesses, non-profits, schools, and local government to address litter will have a much farther reaching and, hopefully, more successful impact than other initiatives have in the past. “All in” means everyone using common messaging, sharing posts and stories regularly and combining efforts to reach as many people as possible. We want everyone to know how litter impacts our community and how to stop it.

Prevention methods require buy-in from businesses and citizens, so we must work together to find solutions that are both beneficial and cost-effective. With litter collection, sharing the load will make that load lighter, and everyone knows one of the biggest deterrents to littering is to get out and participate in a cleanup.



Ownership – One Mobile:



One Mobile is more than a slogan, it is who we are. When everyone takes on the responsibility of keeping our city clean, we will truly be making progress toward a “Litter-Free Mobile.” When we see litter, we should pick it up — even if we didn’t put it there. If it’s bigger than we can manage on our own, we should report it to 311.

We must be the change we want to see in our city.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

This program guide is a collection of all the environmental education opportunities available for K-12 students in the City of Mobile. Inside you will find the target age groups, program offerings, and contacts for those able to provide the learning experiences.

This is a collaborative effort among organizations committed to a Litter-Free Mobile.



Special thanks to the organizations ready to train and/or provide litter education resources:

Alabama Coastal Foundation

Mark Berte, Executive Director
mberte@joinacf.org
(251) 990-6002

Groundwork Mobile County

Barja Wilson, Executive Director
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(251) 709-0412

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Henry Perkins, Business Resource Manager
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(251) 431-6409

Dog River Clearwater Revival

Morgan Counts, Executive Director
morganc0517@gmail.com
(251) 802-0869

Keep Mobile Beautiful / Love Your Community

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Project Coordinator*
evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org
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Osprey Initiative, LLC

Ellie Mallon, Project Manager
ellie.mallon@ospreyworld.world
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Goodwill Gulf Coast Recycling Center

Sara Boccardo, Director of Sustainability
sboccardo@goodwillgc.org
(251) 375-4527

Mobile Baykeeper

Ilka Porter, Education & Outreach Director
iporter@mobilebaykeeper.org
(251) 433-4229

Additional Partners available for education, outreach, information, and support:

Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) • Jennifer Denson, Executive Director • jdenson@pepmobile.org • (251) 342-5575



The City of Mobile launched “Litter-Free Mobile” as an organized approach to address the litter plaguing our beautiful city streets and waterways. Litter can only be corrected taking a comprehensive approach that includes education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

The Education component starts with this booklet. It is filled with opportunities for students to learn from Mobile’s best resources – our non-profit environmental leaders. Teachers of every grade from every kind of school can find a program and a partner that will fit their students.

“We all have a responsibility to keep our community clean, and I believe we already have many of the pieces in place that will help ‘Litter-Free Mobile’ become a reality,” Mayor Sandy Stimpson said. “There is no shortage of groups already working toward this goal, and it’s the City’s job to connect and support them in those efforts while empowering businesses and residents to do their part as well.”

Excellent education programs can convince every community member to take ownership of the problem and lead to a Litter-Free Mobile. If you are interested in adding a program to this booklet, please email callaway@city-ofmobile.org. You can find more information on our website at www.cityofmobile.org/litter.

Here are some of the ways we’re working to address litter:

Education

- Provide consistent and routine messaging about the negative impacts litter has on our environment, economy, and quality of life to audiences online and in our local schools, businesses, and community associations.
- Highlight the positive actions local groups and businesses are taking to help prevent or collect litter in our community.

Prevention

- Develop better rules and regulations for managing litter and renewing our efforts to create less garbage and increase recycling opportunities for Mobilians.
- Rethink how the City works to prevent and respond to litter, which includes services like recycling as well as trash can and dumpster locations.

Collection

- Track and organize the work that is already being done to collect litter in our community.
- Target known litter “hot spots.”
- Increase the number of personnel dedicated to litter collection and litter enforcement throughout the City.

Enforcement

- Target repeat offenders to show that, if you dump litter on Mobile, there will be consequences.
- Expand our enforcement efforts and use better technology to detect and monitor areas routinely used as dumpsites.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

C U R R I C U L U M

Dog River Watershed 101



Audience: 3rd Grade, at St. Luke's, St. Dominic, and Gaillard

Summary: Students will learn about the environmental significance of the Dog River Watershed, the journey of how litter on the ground ends up in Dog River, and the importance of being a good river steward in your community. Presentation is approximately 15 minutes and best suited for individual classrooms.

Logistics: In-class presentation

Participation: Students will learn about the Dog River Watershed and the threat of litter.

Organization: Dog River Clearwater Revival (DRCR)

Contact: morganc0517@gmail.com
To schedule in advance, please include school name, teacher name, number of students, and preferred time.

Wartville Wizard



Audience: Kindergarten

Summary: A reading of the book, "The Wartville Wizard" will be presented to the class and after a brief talk about the problems of litter in our community. Participants will receive free educational materials. Program is approximately 30 minutes and is best suited for individual classrooms.

Logistics: In-class presentation

Participation: Students will be able to explain the problems of litter, how we can help reduce litter in the community and the best strategies for combating litter.

SCI.K.6.1: Define reduce, reuse, recycle, and impact.

SCI.K.6.2: Make a reasonable plan of possible solutions to lessen the human impact on the local environment (e.g., pick up trash around the school, create a reduced littering environment).

SCI.K.6.3: Describe ways to lessen the human impact on the local environment.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: Please email: evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org

Important Notes: Please include school name, teacher name, number of students and potential dates for presentations.

Gulf Coast Buddy Program



Audience: 1st - 3rd Grades

Summary: The Gulf Coast Bay Buddy Program is an educational program that teaches grade specific conservation concepts to students. The 1st grade topic is oysters. 2nd grade is on sea turtles. 3rd grade is ospreys.

Logistics: Teachers can show free videos from our website or can schedule volunteers to provide in-class presentations.

Participation: This program highlights the importance of a healthy environment and how students' choices can affect the natural world.

Organization: Alabama Coastal Foundation

Contact: www.joinACF.org



A Redfish Tale & Fish Slap



Audience: Kindergarten - 5th Grades

Summary: A fish's point of view about the impacts humans have on the health of the estuary and on the water throughout the Gulf. From shopping centers to backyards to beautiful estuarine environments, Jimbo's and Thibodeaux's quick assessments and laser focus creates a fast-paced adventure full of rich visual examples and humorous observations about how the actions of one and the actions of a society can change the health of our environment.

Logistics: Virtual

Participation: Teaches students about excess nutrients in Gulf Coast water and how small changes in behavior can have a dramatic effect on water quality, the impacts humans have on the health of the estuary and on the water throughout the Gulf.

Organization: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Contact: <https://www.mobilebaynep.com/what-we-do/k-12-educational-resources>



Michael Recycle



Audience: 1st Grade

Summary: "Louie" the litterbug puppet visits your classroom and presents the story of "Michael Recycle." Participants will receive free educational materials. Program is approximately 30 minutes and is best suited for individual classrooms.

Logistics: In-class presentation

Participation: Students will learn to waste less and reuse more. They will become environmentally aware of what they can do in their classroom and community.

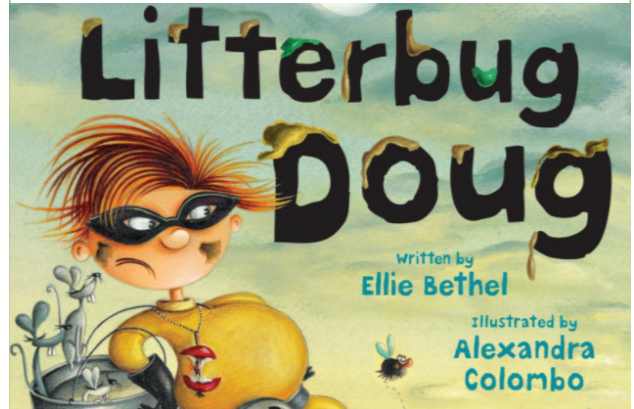
SS.1.1.7 Geography/Political Science: Identify ways to take personal action to protect the environment.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students and potential dates for presentations.



Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug



Audience: 2nd Grade

Summary: "Louie" the litterbug puppet visits your classroom and presents the story of "Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug." Participants will receive free educational material. This program is approximately 30 minutes and is best suited for individual classrooms

Logistics: In-class presentation

Participation: Students will learn to waste less and reuse more. They will become environmentally aware of what they can do in their classroom and community

SS2.1.6. Economics/Geography: Identify human-made and natural resources in our world.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students and potential dates for presentations.



SWAMP

(Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program)



Audience: 4th - 5th Grades

Summary: The presentation covers watershed basics, threats to water quality, and importance of clean water to our environment, economy, and quality of life.

Logistics: In-class or virtual presentation

Participation: Students will learn the importance of a healthy watershed, how their actions can impact water quality, and what they can do to protect it.

SCI.4.15 Analyze and interpret data to determine effects of weathering and rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, and vegetation using one single form of weathering or erosion at a time.

SCI.5.16 Collect and organize scientific ideas that individuals and communities can use to protect Earth's natural resources and its environment.

Organization: Mobile Baykeeper

Contact: Ilka Porter
iporter@mobilebaykeeper.org



Water Festivals



Audience: 4th Grade

Summary: Provide students with hands-on activities such as building a watershed, examining water pollutants, and understanding the need for recycling and proper trash disposal.

Logistics: Field experience

Participation: Water festivals teach students about our coastal food web, appreciating good water quality and the effects of human actions on aquatic ecology.

Organization: Alabama Coastal Foundation

Contact: www.joinACF.org

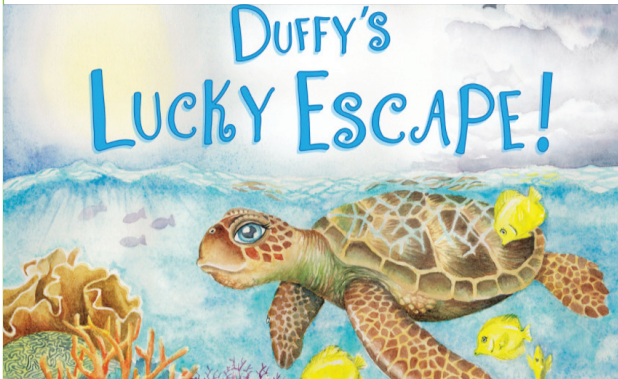


Alabama Coastal Foundation

Improving and protecting Alabama's coastal environment



Sea Survival



Audience: 5th Grade

Summary: Enjoy a visit from our staff as we read "Duffy's Lucky Escape!" This is a true story about a sea turtle who is rescued after mistaking a plastic bag and other trash in the ocean as food. We will discuss ways to reduce our dependence on single use plastic and its harmful effects on the environment.

Logistics: In-class presentation

Participation: Students will learn to identify single use plastic, reduce waste and reuse more. They will become aware of changes they can make to help the environment and the importance of eliminating marine litter.

SCI.5.10.2 Identify ways individuals and communities can protect the environment and natural resources.

SCI.5.11.2 Identify different types of pollution in the environment.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students and potential dates for presentations.



Alabama Coastal Kids Quiz



Audience: 5th Grade

Summary: Helps fifth grade students learn about various topics related to Alabama's precious coastal environment. In addition, teachers have fifteen opportunities to receive \$100 in support of classroom instruction. Teachers must register individually to participate in this online education resource.

Logistics: Virtual

Participation: Coastal Kids Quiz provides five topic rounds each school year: Oysters, Weather, Watersheds, Insects, and Sea Turtles.

Organization: Alabama Coastal Foundation

Contact: www.joinACF.org





MIDDLE SCHOOL

C U R R I C U L U M

Osprey Initiative's Education Program



Audience: 6th - 8th Grades

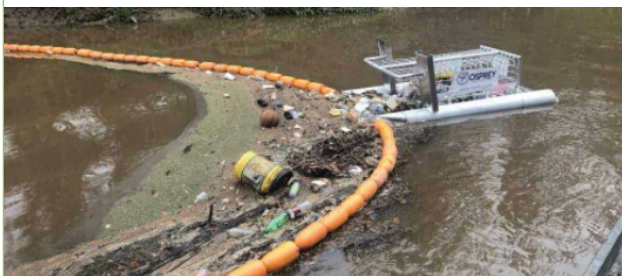
Summary: Osprey Initiative's Educational program focuses on informing the next generation of the movements and impacts of litter within their communities. By explaining where the floating litter comes from and how to properly recycle and dispose of it, the next generation will become more environmentally conscious with their choices.

Logistics: In-class presentation or field experience

Participation: To understand the negative effects of littering/ floating litter and how they can be part of the solution.

Organization: Osprey Initiative

Contact: Ellie Mallon
ellie.malon@osprey.world



Love Your Community



Audience: 6th - 8th Grades

Summary: Community cleanup event. Create a cleaner community, assist in helping to deter litter, promote volunteerism, help create a healthier and safer environment. Registered schools will be given cleanup supplies, including safety vests, litter grabbers, gloves and trash bags. All participating groups will earn hours after submitting photos and litter collection totals for their time-banking team online at www.loveyourcommunity.com.

Once time-banking thresholds have been reached the group can plan a project to use the grant funds earned. Depending upon hours, grants range from \$500-1,500.

Logistics: Field experience

Organization: Love Your Community

Contact: coordinator@loveyourcommunity.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students, number of supplies requested and potential dates for clean-ups. Register each school or team online at www.loveyourcommunity.com.



SWAMP

(Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program)



Audience: 6th - 7th Grades

Summary: The presentation covers watershed basics, threats to water quality, the importance of clean water to our environment, economy, and quality of life.

Logistics: In-class or virtual presentation

Participation: Students will learn the importance of a healthy watershed, how their actions can impact water quality, and what they can do to protect it.

SCI.6.15 Analyze evidence to explain how changes in human population, per capita consumption of natural resources, and other human activities affect Earth's systems.

SCI.7.6 Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence regarding how resource availability impacts individual organisms as well as populations of organisms within an ecosystem.

Organization: Mobile Baykeeper

Contact: Ilka Porter
iporter@mobilebaykeeper.org



Great American Cleanup



Audience: 6th - 8th Grades

Summary: Community cleanup event

Logistics: Field experience

Participation: Create a cleaner community, assist in helping to deter litter, promote volunteerism, help create a healthier and safer environment. Registered participants will be loaned cleanup supplies, including gloves and trash bags. All participating groups will receive a Certificate of Appreciation upon returning photos and litter collection totals.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: hello@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students, number of supplies requested and potential dates for clean-ups.



A Redfish Tale & Fish Slap



Audience: 6th - 8th Grades

Summary: A fish's point of view about the impacts humans have on the health of the estuary and on the water throughout the Gulf. From shopping centers to backyards to beautiful estuarine environments, Jimbo's and Thibodeaux's quick assessments and laser focus creates a fast-paced adventure full of rich visual examples and humorous observations about how the actions of one and the actions of a society can change the health of our environment.

Logistics: Virtual

Participation: Teaches students about excess nutrients in Gulf Coast water and how small changes in behavior can have a dramatic effect on water quality, the impacts humans have on the health of the estuary and on the water throughout the Gulf.

Organization: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Contact: <https://www.mobilebaynep.com/what-we-do/k-12-educational-resources>



Where Does Your Recycling Go?



Audience: 8th Grade

Summary: Come tour the Mobile County Recycling Center, operated by Goodwill Gulf Coast, located at 450 Hitt Rd, Mobile, AL 36695. Students will be given a presentation on the importance of waste diversion and then have the opportunity to tour the facility to see how materials are collected and processed. The total duration is typically an hour and there is no cost.

Logistics: Field trip

Participation: Students will be allowed to see what really happens when they "throw something away" or recycle something to further educate themselves on recycling and becoming more environmentally friendly.

SCI.8.3.2 Research how natural resources are used to make synthetic materials. **SCI.8.3.3** Describe how the production and use of synthetic materials impact the environment.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful & Mobile County Recycling Center

Contact: evelyn@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students and potential dates for field trip tours.



HIGH SCHOOL

C U R R I C U L U M

Coastal Alabama Service-Learning Program (CASL)



Audience: 9th - 12th Grades

Summary: Engages high school students in coastal environmental service projects that relate to their learning experiences and academic interests.

Logistics: Field experience

Participation: CASL encourages students to be a part of cleanups and other service projects.

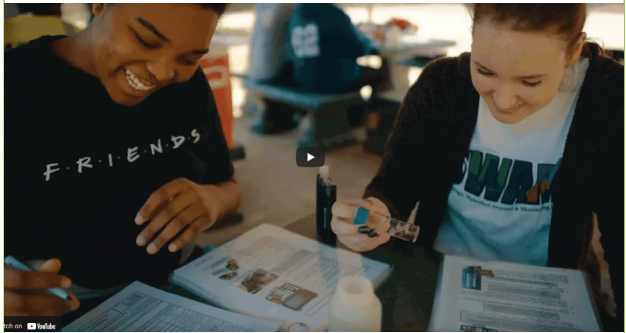
Organization: Alabama Coastal Foundation

Contact: www.joinACF.org



SWAMP

(Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program)



Audience: 9th - 12th Grades

Summary: The presentation covers watershed basics, threats to water quality, the importance of clean water to our environment, economy, and quality of life.

Logistics: In-class or virtual presentation

Participation: Students will learn the importance of a healthy watershed, how their actions can impact water quality, and what they can do to protect it.

Alabama Course of Study:
Environmental Science #6, 7, 10, 11, 13,14, 15

Organization: Mobile Baykeeper

Contact: Ilka Porter
iporter@mobilebaykeeper.org



Great American Cleanup



Audience: 9th - 12th Grades

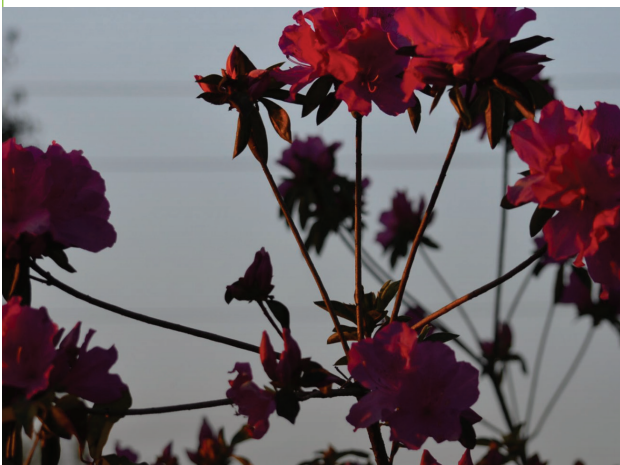
Summary: Community cleanup event

Logistics: Field experience

Participation: Create a cleaner community, assist in helping to deter litter, promote volunteerism, help create a healthier and safer environment. Registered participants will be loaned cleanup supplies, including gloves and trash bags. All participating groups will receive a Certificate of Appreciation upon returning photos and litter collection totals.

Organization: Keep Mobile Beautiful

Contact: hello@keepmobilebeautiful.org
Include school name, teacher name, number of students, number of supplies requested and potential dates for clean-ups.



Groundwork Mobile County



Audience: 8th - 12th Grades

Summary: The Green Team is Groundwork Mobile County's signature youth development and job skills training program for individuals ages 14-24 in the areas of environmental conservation, historic and cultural preservation, community engagement, and neighborhood revitalization work. GWMC is committed to combating litter and the negative effects that it has on our neighborhoods and local waterways. Green Team members and volunteers conduct regular clean-ups, monitor water quality, and partner with various local environmental groups and organizations to help create a clean water future for Mobile County residents.

Logistics: In-class presentation and field experience

Participation: To become environmental stewards and to provide work opportunities.

Organization: Groundwork Mobile County

Contact: Barja Wilson
info@groundworkmobile.org



Notes