

## Who Should Adopt?

Many types of groups participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program including school, civic, business, professional, religious and social groups. Some sections of highways are adopted by individuals and families.

NCDOT reserves the right to refuse any group adopting a section of highway when the adoption may create a safety hazard for DOT employees or the public, jeopardize the Adopt-A-Highway program or prove counter-productive to its purpose.



Temple Hill United Methodist Church  
Ronda, NC

## How To Adopt!

Call **1-800-331-5864** for more information about adopting a highway or submit an application online from our Web site. When calling, you will be given the name and telephone number of the local Adopt-A-Highway coordinator for your county. Your local coordinator will get you started in the program.

## Safety

Before collecting litter for the first time, all volunteers must receive adequate safety training. Local Adopt-A-Highway coordinators provide a safety video that every group member must view before participating in a cleanup. NCDOT has established the following rules to help ensure the safety of everyone participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program:

**Age restrictions:** Volunteers must be at least 12 years of age. Those between the ages of 12 and 17 must be supervised adequately by adults who are 21 years of age or older.

**Proper clothing and equipment:** During cleanups, all volunteers must wear orange Adopt-A-Highway safety vests provided by NCDOT. Volunteers also should wear heavy work gloves, substantial shoes or boots and brightly colored clothing that covers the arms and legs. Volunteers never should wear or bring along items that could distract motorists or impair a driver's or volunteer's vision or hearing.

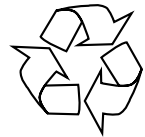
**Safety procedures:** Volunteers must work facing oncoming traffic, keep off the roadway and stay at least five feet from the edge of the road surface. Cleanup groups should work only along one side of the road at a time. Litter pickup sessions should be scheduled for daylight hours and discontinued during inclement weather. Volunteers should avoid overexertion, watch their footing and stay clear of mowing operations, construction and maintenance work. Watch for snakes, stinging insects and poisonous plants. To avoid injuries from broken and jagged objects, trash bags should not be overfilled or compacted.

**Hazardous objects:** Volunteers never should pick up discarded syringes, needles or other hazardous objects. When these items are encountered, contact the local Adopt-A-Highway coordinator who will arrange for safe collection of these hazardous items.

**Parking:** Vehicles must be parked clear of the roadway and on the same side of the road where volunteers are working. Whenever possible, group members should carpool to the cleanup site to reduce the number of vehicles parked along the road.

## Recycling

NCDOT strongly encourages Adopt-A-Highway volunteers to recycle trash collected during cleanups and provides blue litter bags for recyclable items. Groups can obtain information about how, what and where to recycle from their local coordinators. Aluminum cans, by state law, may not be put into landfills and therefore should be recycled. After a pickup, volunteers deposit all recyclable items at a recycling station. Any money obtained for the recycled materials can be used by the group.



Students of Saint Mary's High School  
Raleigh, NC

**Office of Beautification Programs**  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1540 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1540  
Tel 800-331-5864 Fax 919-715-2554  
[www.ncdot.org/~adopt-a-highway](http://www.ncdot.org/~adopt-a-highway)

## How does it work?

There are 59 Adopt-A-Highway coordinators statewide who oversee the program in their local areas. The local coordinator works with groups to adopt available sections of state-maintained highway.

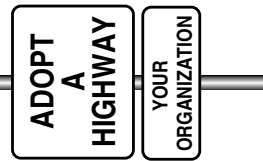
Each adopted section of highway is approximately two miles long. Volunteer groups sign contracts with NCDOT agreeing to remove litter from their adopted stretch a minimum of four times each year (once every three months). Heavily-traveled roads may require additional pickups.

NCDOT posts signs at each end of the adopted section with a group's name to show its participation in the program. NCDOT also provides safety training, safety vests and trash bags. In addition, NCDOT removes the trash-filled orange bags from roadsides following a pickup.

Initially the adopted highway is contracted for four years. A group may keep its adopted section of highway indefinitely if the contract is renewed at the end of each four year period and the required number of pickups is done.

**Adopt-A-Highway**  
**Office of Beautification Programs**  
NC Department of Transportation  
1540 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1540

FIRST CLASS MAIL



# Adopt-A-Highway Program

Office of Beautification Programs  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

## Adopt-A-Highway Program

Created in 1988, the N.C. Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program is a volunteer-driven, cleanup organization committed to reducing roadside litter and keeping North Carolina's highways clean.

Administered by the department's Office of Beautification, the program is a fine example of state government working with citizens to improve the cleanliness and quality of life in communities statewide.

The Adopt-A-Highway program is instrumental in fighting the increasing litter problem in our state. Adopt-A-Highway volunteers save taxpayers approximately \$4 million annually in roadside cleanup costs. North Carolina has one of the largest anti-litter programs in the nation with 6,000 participating groups and 120,000 volunteers statewide. These volunteers have adopted 12,000 miles of state-maintained roadsides.

YOUR GROUP