



Keep Carbondale Beautiful, Inc.  
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## Keep Carbondale Beautiful

# Adopt-A-Spot Informational Packet for Community Members

**Adopt-A-Spot** is a program designed for volunteer groups or individuals in a cooperative effort to clean, maintain, improve, and beautify our local environment. These areas include any unsightly public littered places that need our care for their improvement.

### Such areas include:

- an area around a school,
- public park or recreation area,
- places along rail tracks where litter accumulates,
- a neighborhood,
- a vacant lot, and
- public streets and by-ways.

### Reasons why people litter:

- Feel no sense of ownership of the property
- Someone else will clean up after them
- Trash has already accumulated in the area

### 7 Sources of Litter:

- Motorists (including boaters)
- Pedestrians
- Improperly containerized commercial refuse products (dumpsters)
- Improperly containerized household refuse
- Loading/unloading docks and areas
- Uncovered vehicles
- Construction and demolition sites

### Facts about Litter:

- Litter is the result of careless attitudes and improper trash handling.
- Litter is not only an eyesore; it is a safety hazard because it can be blown around by the wind and cause traffic accidents.
- Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to thoughtlessly add more.
- Litter is a threat to wildlife health.
- Litter impacts the economy by discouraging investment or development.

*“Keep Carbondale Beautiful initiates, plans, and directs cooperative efforts in litter control, recycling, community beautification, and environmental education.”*

## Policies

- At least one cleanup is to be conducted each month of the adopted spot.
- Only orange bags are to be used (for city collection purposes).
- Wear appropriate clothing. *No flip flops allowed!!*
- Keep Carbondale Beautiful strongly encourages recycling. To recycle your collected wastes please take to:

### **Southern Recycling**

300 West Chesnut.

Phone: 549-2880

Hours: 8:30am- 4:30pm Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-3:30pm Fri., and 8:30am-1:30pm Sat.

## Obtaining Materials

- Orange bags and latex gloves can be obtained at Keep Carbondale Beautiful office, located at Hickory Lodge 1115 W. Sycamore.

## Volunteer Documentation

- For proper record keeping of the Adopt-A-Spot program, volunteers must submit a final tally of: number of individuals, hours spent on cleanup, and number of bags collected.

## Scheduling a Cleanup

- Adopt-A-Spot groups must submit proposed cleanup schedules at the beginning of each semester. Cleanup schedule can be determined based upon group's discretion. Proposed schedule is based upon favorable weather conditions.
- **1 Mandatory Scheduled Cleanups** will be scheduled during the year. Adopt-A-Spot groups must register and participate in Keep Carbondale Beautiful's Spring Cleanup & Recycling Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of April). If Adopt-A-Spot groups cannot participate in these events, a cleanup must be scheduled within 1 week.

## Procedure for Cleanups

- Perform cleanup at location. Leave orange bags near the Adopt-A-Spot sign. If no sign exists, place bag at nearest street sign. Cluster bags together.
- Call **City Environmental Services** at **457-3275** to inform where bags are located. Be specific. Okay to leave a message.

## Obtaining a sign:

- To qualify for a sign, your group must have performed Adopt-A-Spot cleanups for at least six consecutive months before the sign will be granted.
- The City of Carbondale buys, makes, and hangs the adopt-spot signs. Keep Carbondale Beautiful will put the request in for a new sign, and from there it is the city's responsibility to see the signs are hung. Keep Carbondale Beautiful will maintain contact with the city to see progress of the sign being hung.

## Maintaining contact with Keep Carbondale Beautiful

- If/when your group has officer transitions; the new officer must contact Keep Carbondale Beautiful with updated contact information as soon as possible.

- Contact, regardless of activity, is necessary every two months. If Keep Carbondale Beautiful does not hear from your group, we will assume you have lost interest in the adopt-a-spot program and your location will be reassigned.

**Keep Carbondale Beautiful is located in Hickory Lodge at 1115 West Sycamore. For more information call 525-5525 or email at [keepcb1326@gmail.com](mailto:keepcb1326@gmail.com)**

**Student Development hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. For more information call 453-5714.**

### **Mandatory Cleanup Safety Rules**

**Safety is the #1 priority during this cleanup. No litter is worth risking your health.**

**All volunteers picking up litter must read and follow these safety rules to participate.**

**If your volunteer group needs assistance (first aid, trash bags, report suspicious materials, etc.) during the cleanup, please call 525-5525. If an actual emergency exists call 9-1-1.**

- All volunteers must be at least 11 years of age.
- Wear gloves and thick-soled, closed shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. NO FLIP FLOPS!!!
- Wear bright colors.
- Carry a cell phone to communicate with cleanup staff if necessary.
- Pets are prohibited, as they may distract participants or cause a traffic accident.
- Bring plenty of fluids to drink in warm weather.
- Know the location of the nearest hospital and any allergies of members in your group.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances during the cleanup is prohibited.
- Park vehicles off the pavement on the right hand shoulder or in an approved lot. No parking along curves, bridges or overpasses, or on median areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the potential hazards associated with them (e.g., passing cars, snakes, poison ivy, etc.). Stay out of water-filled ditches, off railroad tracks, and private property.
- Use the “buddy system” ...work in teams to maximize safety.
- Don’t pick up large items or hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, old car batteries, condoms, animal carcasses or other unidentified, questionable objects. READ METH LAB WASTE INFO BELOW!
- Volunteers may keep aluminum cans for their own benefit. Valuables, such as purses and wallets, must be submitted to Carbondale Police Department for return to proper owner or authorities.
- Don’t overstuff bags with litter. Leave room to tie bags at top.

- Place filled bags in groups at least 5 feet back from the roadway if possible. Do not leave bags on the median.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap after the cleanup.
- Don't overdo it physically.

## **\*\* IMPORTANT METH SAFETY INFORMATION \*\***

### **Recognizing Meth:**

As meth production spreads through Southern Illinois, so does meth waste. With increasing frequency, Illinois residents are stumbling upon meth waste on roadsides and in ditches, fields, sewers, and streams. Because meth waste is toxic, volatile, and dangerous, you should learn to recognize and report it.

### **What to look for:**

How can you recognize meth waste? While meth waste takes a number of forms, and may be combined with common household waste, some of the telltale signs of meth waste are:

- Powerful odors, especially those that smell like ammonia, ether, solvents, or vinegar, and those that seem sweet or bitter;
- Packaging from over-the-counter cold pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, such as Sudafed or Claritin;
- Lithium batteries that have been torn apart;
- Coleman fuel containers, compressed gas cylinders, LP gas containers, or gas cans;
- Propane tanks (brass valve will be blue), thermos bottles, coolers, or other cold storage containers (used to transport anhydrous ammonia);
- Empty containers of antifreeze, white gas, ether, starting fluid, Freon, Iye, drain opener, paint thinner, acetone, or alcohol, including those that have been punctured in the sides or bottom;
- Respiratory masks or filters, dust masks, rubber gloves, clamps, funnels, hosing, or duct tape, packaging from Epsom salts or rock salts;
- Used coffee filters containing odd stains or powdery residue;
- Pryex, Corning, or other glass containers or bakeware, especially if they are covered with powdery residue;
- Soda bottles or other bottles with holes in them and tubing coming out of them.

### **What to do:**

- **ALERT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY.**
- **PROTECT INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.** Alert any innocent bystanders who may be in imminent danger, such as other cleanup volunteers.

**STAY AWAY.** Realize that you may be looking at both a crime scene and a toxic waste dump. Do not touch the suspected meth waste, move it, clean it up, or tamper with it in any way. Once you have alerted law enforcement and any innocent bystanders, leave the scene and keep a safe distance.

# *Adopt-A-Spot Application*

## **Group Information:**

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Group Title (as placed on street sign)

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Primary Contact Person

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Cell Phone

Email

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Address of Primary Contact

City/ Zip

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\*Alternate Contact Person/Faculty Advisor

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Alternate Phone

Alternate Email

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What is your desired location?

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If you are a registered student organization, what month do your officer transitions occur?

\*If group is a Registered Student Organization, the alternate contact person must be the faculty/staff advisor for the group.

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Signature of Group Representative

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Date

Please return this form to:

Keep Carbondale Beautiful  
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