



Adopt-a-Highway Newsletter

SUMMER 2016

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every year the problem of roadside litter increases, whether it's people throwing trash out of windows, illegal dumping or failing to secure loads properly.

With limited state resources, our Adopt-A-Highway groups – and the regional coordinators – are a vital part in keeping Washington state highways beautiful and welcoming to residents and visitors alike. In 2015 alone AAH participants removed more than 21,100 bags of trash from our roadways – an invaluable service that beautifies the roads and also improves safety!

Thank you to all current and past participants in this program. The work you perform on the roadway truly makes a difference!

- Acting Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar

The Adopt-A-Highway program allows residents, businesses and organizations to contribute to the community by helping keep Washington's roadways clean. Started in 1990, the program includes litter pick up as well as other projects such as graffiti removal, landscaping and mowing.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

There are two ways to participate in our program:

- Volunteers – Groups or businesses adopt a section of roadway to clean two to four times a year.
- Sponsors – Businesses hire an approved contractor to clean an adopted roadway section.

In both cases, a sign with the volunteer group's or sponsor's name is installed to acknowledge this vital effort to keep Washington beautiful.

We'd like to thank all of you who have provided litter pick-up and other roadside activities. Keep up the great work of making our state green and clean!

Interested in the program? Please read on to learn how you can become a part of the AAH team.

YouTube informational video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM_VFegfe2M



PROGRAM NEWS

Satira Staley is the new Adopt-a-Highway state program manager and is enthusiastic about her new role, which includes program administration and improvements such as the new Adopt-A-Highway database and web application. *Contact Satira Staley at 360-705-7813 or Staleys@wsdot.wa.gov*

Anna Zaharris, the previous state program manager, has retired from WSDOT and we want to wish her all the best.



SAFETY IS PRIORITY ONE

At WSDOT, safety is our top priority. Please help us keep you safe by following all of the required Adopt-A-Highway program trainings and reviews and wearing provided safety equipment.

Safety Tips:

- Review Pre-Activity Safety Plan and watch program safety video before litter pick-up
- Always wear WSDOT approved and provided vest and hat
- Be alert and aware of traffic and hazards: no horseplay on site
- Have a first aid kit on hand
- Notify your local coordinator before every litter pick-up

Visit our website for more safety tips: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Operations/adoptahwy/safety.htm#tips>

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2015, the Adopt a Highway Program had:

Volunteers:

1,015

Volunteer hours:

14,915

Sponsored contractors:

340

Bags collected by volunteers and sponsors:

21,123

Cost savings for 2013-2015:

Approximately **\$1.3 million***

**Money saved by not devoting WSDOT crews to cleanup and allowing them to focus on priority repairs and maintenance.*

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Archbishop Murphy High School

Archbishop Murphy High School joined the Adopt-A-Highway program in April 2015. These Everett residents are mostly high school students. In their first year, the Archbishop Murphy High School group picked up approximately 40 bags of litter and provided more than 50 hours of work on the roadside. Great job!



Colton Knights of Columbus Council 1565

The Colton Knights of Columbus Council 1565 has been in the program since 1991, collecting an average of 100 bags of litter per year and donating hundreds of hours of service to the program. What an amazing legacy and tremendous contribution to keeping our roadside beautiful. Thank you for 25 years of service in the Adopt-A-Highway program!



Silverdale Lodge #311

The Silverdale Lodge volunteer group, located in Kitsap County, has been hard at work cleaning up litter since 2009. In the last five years they've donated 300 hours of their time collecting 310 bags of litter. Their community service efforts are a great example of giving back to the community!



-Interested in having your picture featured on the AAH website? Please submit photos of participants and group activities to your local coordinator.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/operations/adoptahwy/>

JOIN Adopt-A-Highway

Are you looking for a way to help contribute to a clean environment? The Adopt-a-Highway Program provides just such an opportunity. For more information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/operations/adoptahwy/>

YouTube informational video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM_VFegfe2M

Local Coordinators

Eastern Region

Spokane County

Cindy Jameson

jamescl@wsdot.wa.gov

Nanette Nebe

neben@wsdot.wa.gov

Lindsey Hammond

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Stevens, Pend Oreille & Ferry counties

Charlene Dobell

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North Central Region

Chelan, Douglas, Grant & Okanogan counties

Shellee Ludeman

ludemas@wsdot.wa.gov

Northwest Region

Whatcom County

Stan Hanson

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Skagit and Island counties

Mel Reitz

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Snohomish County (west of the city of Snohomish)

Stan Marsh

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Snohomish County (east of the city of Snohomish)

Lois Reitz

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King County (South)

Tom Lesser

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King County (North - Seattle & Bellevue)

Doug Young

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Olympic Region

Thurston & Pierce counties

Kelly Rood (volunteer agreements)

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Ryan Stafford (sponsor agreements)

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Kitsap & Mason counties

Heather Beresheim

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South Central Region

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Yakima County

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Benton & Franklin counties

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Don Shute

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Southwest Region

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Lewis County

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Pacific & Wahkiakum counties

Edie Stritmatter

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Skamania & Klickitat counties

June Church

churchj@wsdot.wa.gov

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