



Adopt-A-Highway Program

Purpose: To engage with organizations, businesses, and individuals to pick up litter along State highways and to recognize their efforts with signage.

Who can Participate: The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) invites these groups to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway litter cleanup program:

- Service clubs
- Community organizations
- Government organizations
- Lodges
- Veterans' groups
- Businesses
- Business employee groups or associations
- Youth groups
- Fraternal organizations
- Churches
- Religious groups
- Businesses
- Individuals
- Families

What length of a highway must be adopted?

Groups and individuals can adopt non-Interstate highway sections of at least two miles, Interstate highway sections of at least four miles or one or more Interstate interchanges.

How long is the adoption commitment?

SDDOT doesn't place an expiration on the application. The adoption period is for at least a year.

Adopting organizations are responsible for removing litter from both sides of the roadway at least twice a year, except Interstates and expressways, which are one side. Cleanup will preferably be in the spring before grass gets tall, and in the summer and/or fall, after the grass has been mowed and hay removed.

Are the stipulations on hours/days for pick-up?

Cleanup must be done during daylight hours. Litter pickup is not allowed on holidays or on weekends that include holidays.

What recognition is given to participants?

Once a group or individual has a permit, the SDDOT will erect an informational sign to mark the start of each section. SDDOT reserves the right to approve the lettering on the sign.

Adopting organizations can cancel their permits by contacting the SDDOT. The SDDOT also can void a permit for nonperformance or noncompliance with program rules. Organization recognition signs will be removed when permits are voided.

How old must a person be to participate?

Minors under adult supervision can help with cleanups along non-Interstate highways. Minors are not allowed to help with litter control along Interstate highways. Groups with minors need to have at least one adult supervisor per 10 minors during cleanups.

How to start the adoption process:

Complete the Adopt-a-Highway form - found on the SDDOT website at

<https://apps.sd.gov/hy10dotforms/eforms/AdoptAHighway.aspx>

Submit completed form to your nearest SDDOT Area Office.

List of Region/Area offices (address, contact people, and phone numbers) can be found here:

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/region-area-offices>

Rules for Picking Up Roadside Litter under Adopt-a-Highway

Inform SDDOT Area Office of litter cleanup days.

Require each participant to complete **one of the following** prior to occupancy of the right of way:

~**For adult participants**, “Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement and Consent to Medical Treatment”

~**For any participants under age 18**, “Parents or Guardians Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of the Risk and Indemnity Agreement and Consent to Medical Treatment”

1. Get safety vests and trash bags from the SDDOT.
2. Review safety tips/guidelines before each pick-up to remind participants of hazards and precautions of working in highway right of way.
3. Wear safety vest when picking up litter. Note: Federal regulations require that persons working in the highway right of way wear an ANSI Class II safety vest. This requirement includes Adopt-a-Highway participants.
4. Place garbage bags a minimum of six feet off the shoulder.
5. Unfold “Litter Crew Ahead” signs before starting litter pick-up.
6. Pick up litter from both sides of the road (one side on Interstates and expressways) at least twice a year, preferably in the spring or in the summer and/or fall, after the grass has been mowed and hay removed.
7. Because the permit won’t have an expiration date, contact SDDOT if the Sponsor wants to stop participating in Adopt-a-Highway.
8. Groups with minors need to have at least one adult supervisor per 10 minors during cleanups.
9. Do not go back and forth across the road indiscriminately. Instead, collect litter on one side of the road at a time.
10. Limit the litter pick-up area to the area between the outer roadway shoulder to the right of way line. Do not collect litter from highway driving lanes, shoulders or medians of four-lane divided highways.
11. When litter pick-up is done:
 - Close the “Litter Crew Ahead” signs;
 - Contact local SDDOT office and inform them of the location of the garbage bags;
 - Promptly return the safety vests to the local SDDOT office.

Additional Rules for Picking up Litter Along Interstate Highways

1. Do not cross the Interstate driving lanes at any time, including the use of crossovers.
2. Do not park on the shoulder unless shuttling workers to and from the work area.

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES:

When engaging in cleanup on sections of South Dakota highways, groups, organizations, etc. are encouraged to follow these "Safety Tips/Guidelines."

Group leaders, be sure to:

- Contact your SDDOT Area Office before your litter pick-up to coordinate location, date and time.
- Pick up all required forms, Safety Tip/Guidelines, safety vests and litter bags from the local SDDOT office or shop.
- Make sure all required forms are filled out and retained by the group leader.
- Review all safety tips/guidelines.
- Provide proper supervision.
- On non-Interstate highways minors shall have adequate adult supervision present at all times during litter pick-up activities (at least one adult per 10 minors).
- On Interstate highways all participants must be 18 or older.
- Have a "Safety Briefing" with group participants before starting litter pick-up activities.
- Make sure all participants are wearing a safety vest when picking up litter within the highway right of way.
- Have an adequate first-aid kit and plenty of drinking water with you.
- Have a cellphone or other means of communication with you in case of an emergency.
- Return unused litter bags, safety vests and report completed litter pick-up to your local SDDOT office or shop.

Volunteers, make sure you:

- Follow all safety tips/guidelines
 - Wear a hat and long sleeves for protection from sun or insects.
 - Be alert for places that harbor snakes and other "undesirable creatures." Avoid areas around culverts and long grasses.
 - Pay close attention to your surroundings. A public highway is a dangerous environment.
 - Be alert for stinging insects.
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Protect yourself and others:

- Face oncoming traffic.
- Wear heavy gloves.
- Do not work in inclement weather during times of reduced visibility, or when roads are wet to icy.
- Work only during daylight hours.
- Park all vehicles completely off the roadway and shoulders.
- Keep vehicles and participants on the same side of highway.

- Make sure your “Litter Pick-up” sign is in place.

Do:

- Wear your safety vest at all times when working in the road right of way.
 - Watch your step. Wear sturdy-soled footwear or boots for protection. Stay off steep slopes.
 - Neatly stack the bagged litter at predetermined locations for pick-up. Bags must be tied shut.
 - Carpool to the pick-up site to reduce the number of parked vehicles.
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Do Not:

- Do not squeeze trash bags when full. Jagged or broken objects can cause injuries. Fill bag with what goes in easily and then get another bag.
 - Do not wear headsets. You may not be able to hear oncoming traffic or other potential hazards.
 - Do not pick up discarded syringes or hypodermic needles.
 - Do not touch or remove known or suspected hazardous substances. Instead, notify the Area DOT maintenance office or law enforcement authorities immediately.
 - Do not go near mowing operations or maintenance/construction activities.
 - Do not go onto paved roadways or shoulders to pick up trash.
 - Do not enter median to pick up litter on four-lane divided highways.
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Never pick up the following hazardous materials:

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| • Abandoned barrels | Chemical containers |
| • Hypodermic needles | Unidentified containers |
| • Broken automotive batteries | Containers leaking unknown substance |
| • Weapons | Pesticide containers |
| • Herbicide containers | Narcotics |
| • Paint cans | Dead animals |
| • Sharp objects | Gas cans |
| • Antifreeze | |
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Do not remove any toxic or hazardous items. Instead, notify the Area SDDOT office.

- Methamphetamine lab waste – Large quantities of the following items in one place may be an indication of meth manufacturing: medicine boxes, respirator masks, rubber gloves, rubber hoses and clamps, Pyrex or Corning glass containers, pill residue (putty-looking substance, pink to red in color), other containers with rubber hoses attached, stained clothes, or coffee filters (especially stained yellow or red), any containers with a powdery residue, gasoline additives or rubbing alcohol.
- If you find any of these items in a concentrated area, do not touch them or pick them up. Instead, contact the SDDOT Area Office.