

# Adopt-a-Beach™ makes a difference in 2008

*"We can and should inspire others to get involved, use less water where we can, make sure that we are not dumping garbage into this amazing body of water, and participate in clean-up efforts like those organized by the Alliance for the Great Lakes."*

— U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Illinois

Photo: Dorota Pruski

## By the numbers

**200+**

beach sites cleaned

**6**

islands visited by  
Adopt-a-Beach™ volunteers

**\$175,422**

dollar value of volunteer hours

**30,053**

pounds of trash removed

**7,000+**

volunteers

**5**

states with Adopt-a-Beach™ programs

## Top ten items removed from beaches in 2008

**175,259**  
Cigarette butts

**45,225**  
Food wrappers and containers

**44,269**  
Caps and lids

**23,632**  
Straws and stirrers

**17,769**  
Cigar tips

**15,084**  
Cups, plates and eating utensils

**12,945**  
Glass beverage containers

**11,056**  
Plastic beverage containers

**10,990**  
Plastic bags

**9,728**  
Balloons



# Adopt-a-Beach™ Takes Next Steps

The Adopt-a-Beach™ program announces several exciting improvements this year.

## **Data Collection Forms and Instruction Guide**

Adopters piloted a new data collection form and instruction guide in 2008 designed to align the information collected by our volunteers with a national standardized form used by beach authorities. Based on the experiences of volunteers in 2008, the Alliance improved the data collection form and guide. These changes will help ensure accurate and useful data collection and assist volunteers in identifying potential pollution sources, helping them make real changes for their beaches.

## **Beach Health Action Guide**

Based on requests from adopters and volunteers, the Alliance will release the "Healthy Beaches Action Guide: How You Can Help Your Great Lakes Shoreline," this spring. The action guide will inform volunteers about their beaches, potential beach pollution sources, and actions to improve beach health.

## **Online Database**

This year the Alliance is launching a new and improved online Adopt-a-Beach™ database system. The new system will allow adopters to easily enter their beach health findings online, and will increase the Alliance's ability to manage and compile real-time data that can be shared with adopters, the media, decision makers and others.

## **Data Does Make a Difference**



Students from the Von Steuben High School Environmental Action Club comprise one of many teams collecting beach health data to help identify potential pollution sources for Chicago area beaches.



Photo: Jamie Cross

## State Highlights

### ILLINOIS

**The North Face Chicago Store** was an enthusiastic program participant, advertising its cleanups to the community and recruiting The North Face Evanston Store to coordinate the Annual September Adopt-a-Beach™ Fall Cleanup at South Boulevard Beach in Evanston.

**HSGS Home School Group's** Beth Beyer and her team of students visited their beach regularly from spring through summer. Comprised of several families in Evanston, they helped clean Dempster-Greenwood Beach to supplement their children's studies with community service and an outdoor hands-on learning experience.

### INDIANA

**Northwest Indiana Parrothead Club**, a new Adopt-a-Beach™ team, offers its members a chance to give back to the Great Lakes and fulfills their group's mission to promote the general welfare of their community. And it's a fun way to get together out at the beach, just as Jimmy Buffett would!

**Charter School of the Dunes** students, led by educator Kelly Bennett, have been dedicated adopters since the program's Indiana launch in 2006. Kelly has mobilized the school to

clean up Lake Street Beach in Gary twice annually, including the Annual September Adopt-a-Beach™ Fall Cleanup. She has helped hundreds of students understand their connection to healthy Great Lakes.

### MICHIGAN

**Washington Middle School** students, led by educator Darrell Hendrickson, have participated in the Adopt-a-Beach™ program in Marquette, Mich. for three years. Darrell has also been a leader in Great Lakes education by helping to train area educators to use the Alliance's *Great Lakes in My World* curriculum.

**Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Beach Patrol** joined Adopt-a-Beach™ in 2008. This motivated group visited 15 different beaches in the national lakeshore with a growing corps of teams associated with the Friends' group. In addition, this group was the first to respond to the well-publicized "mystery trash" washing up along West Michigan during the summer months.

### OHIO

**City of Cleveland Water District's Summer Youth Program** involved urban youth in the Adopt-a-Beach™ program by visiting three of

Cleveland's premier beaches three times a week. In addition to participating in beach visits and completing data collection forms, the teams also visited the local sewage district on a weekly basis to conduct bacteria testing in the lab.

**Jonathan Cooper** not only encouraged his law firm (Tucker Ellis & West, LLP) to join the Adopt-a-Beach™ program, but is a new member of the Alliance's board and a lifetime member of the organization.

### WISCONSIN

**VISIT Milwaukee** has assisted the Alliance by spreading the word about the Adopt-a-Beach™ program to other lake lovers. Led by Keitha Say, this team is dedicated to improving the health of its adopted Bradford Beach by cleaning it every month through summer and fall.

**Carmen High School** students enjoyed their beach visits and educator Erin Fuller found the program helped the students work as a team. Students reportedly loved the science behind the Alliance's newly revamped data collection form and insisted on adopting Grant Park Beach as the first act of the school year.

# Adopter Reflections

## ILLINOIS

I participate so my students have the opportunity to care about the natural world, and so that one of the most precious resources on the planet is enjoyed in a more sustainable manner.

—Jennifer Fleck, Gage Park High School (57th Street Beach, Chicago)

*Students learn about the Great Lakes ecosystem and ways they can make a difference. It's a great way to get students involved in science activities where they can have fun while they learn, and it empowers them to take action.*

—Leslie Blanchard, Notebaert Nature Museum TEENS Program (North Avenue Beach, Chicago)

## INDIANA

What I like best is the opportunity to bring people together to take responsibility and celebrate the wonder of Lake Michigan. We have the ability to make change through action.

—Julie Sannito, Westminster Presbyterian Going Green (Jeorse Park, East Chicago)

*We have noticed that the beach is getting cleaner each year. Maybe people are beginning to get the idea that it is our lake and we need to take care of its beaches.*

—Joan Ray, Highland High School Key Club (Hammond Marina, Hammond)

## MICHIGAN

The stewardship appeal can be “energizing” — especially with a group of people all helping out. Stewardship can be contagious if others see others cleaning up the beach.

—Steve Petrides, Kent County Health Department (Kirk Park, Ottawa County)

*I like making the beach look like it did when I was a kid in the 50's...clean and clear. It's very satisfying to be out picking trash up, having little children inquire about what I'm doing and then, on their own, pick something up and put it in the bag. It's also nice to receive the occasional “thank you” from adults.*

—David Borton, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes  
(Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau County)

## OHIO

For every clean-up day, we would meet at the beach, do our clean up and water testing, then stick around to have a picnic lunch and let the kids play and swim. The kids learned some great observation skills and the importance of taking care of nature.

—Kimberly Lowery, Earths Harmony Homeschoolers, (Headlands State Park Beach, Cleveland)

*It opens everyone's eyes to just how fragile (and dirty) the lake and the beaches truly are, but we also see how much a group of concerned citizens can do about it.*

—Carla Roth, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center (Huntington Beach, Bay Village)

## WISCONSIN

I enjoy getting my students to look at the lake and beach from a different perspective. I also like how we can take ownership and care for a section of the beach; it gives students a sense of pride.

—Chad Thomack, Urban Ecology Center (Atwater and Klode Beach Park, Milwaukee)

*We like that we are doing something that helps the community. We enjoy spending the day with each other, having fun as we clean up and target the community involvement aspect of our M.O.T.H. (My Own Two Hands) environmental group.*

—Joan Ticha, Mitchell Middle School (Sam Meyers Park, Racine)



## Sponsors

Grand Victoria Foundation  
Rockwell Automation  
Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality Coastal  
Management Program;  
National Oceanic Atmospheric  
Administration  
Aveda  
SC Johnson Fund, Inc.  
Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal  
Program  
Chicago Public Schools  
U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
The Searle Funds at The Chicago  
Community Trust  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
The Field Foundation of Illinois, Inc.  
REI  
Tellabs  
Brunswick Public Foundation  
The Palmer Foundation  
Johnson Controls Care & Share  
Program  
Frederick S. Upton Foundation  
ITW Hi-Cone  
Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation  
NiSource  
Johnson Controls Blue Sky Program

# Adopt-a-Beach Teams

## WISCONSIN

Alverno College  
Armitage Academy  
Barbara England and Friends of Atwater Bay View Neighborhood Association  
Boy Scout Troop 125  
Carmen High School for Science and Technology  
Stephanie Chirigotis  
EcoDosti  
Franklin Elementary School Picker Uppers Friends of Windpoint Lighthouse  
Gillies Family  
Groundwork Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps  
Milwaukee Community Service Corps  
Gail Haag  
Helga Guequierre Family  
HOPE Christian School  
Jefferson Lighthouse School, Grade 4  
Keep Kenosha Beautiful  
Kewaunee Chamber of Commerce  
Lincoln High School Environmental Science Classes  
Marinette High School  
Miller Brewing Company  
Mitchell Middle School (M.O.T.H.)  
North Bay Preservation Group  
New Horizons School and the Urban Ecology Center  
Peninsula State Park  
Pius High School  
Racine County Youth As Resources  
Racine Zoo  
Sue Rummery  
Sam Meyers Park Restoration  
Andre M. Samson  
SC Johnson BPT Division  
St. Catherine's High School Environmental Club  
Stangel School - Grade 6  
The Johnson Foundation  
Trowbridge School, Mr. Hartmann's Classroom  
VISIT Milwaukee  
Volunteer Center of Racine  
Walden III Middle School  
Whitefish Bay Middle School  
Wilson Jr. High  
Woodlands Elementary School, Grade 5 & 6  
Sarah Wright

## MICHIGAN

Dryer and Friends  
Elizabeth Dumez  
Emmet County Democratic Committee  
Employee Green Initiative at Whirlpool Environment & Natural Resources Committee of the City of Grand Haven  
Environmental Resource Management – Holland  
Eslick Family  
First Congregational Church  
Fremont Middle School Beaver Island Group  
Friends of Jean Klock Park  
Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes Adopt-a-Beach™ Patrol  
Friends of Tawas Point State Park  
Friends of the Beach  
Anthony Gisustra  
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power  
Grand Haven Club House  
Grand Haven High School GREEN Club  
Gratiot Lake Conservancy  
John Gruchot  
Gulliver Gulls  
Hart Middle School  
Herman Miller  
Hope College  
Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District  
Inland Seas Education Association  
J.W. Wells State Park  
Kandu Employment and Training Services, Grand Haven  
Kazoo School  
Kent County Health Department  
Adopt-a-Beach™ Team

Knowledge Seekers  
Chad Lahey  
Lakeshore Clubhouse  
Lakeshore High School Environmental Club  
Light Seekers  
Dr. Daniel Mann  
Mason-Lake Conservation District  
MichChiWon Beach Association  
Michigan Dunes Daughters of the American Revolution  
Michigan State University Extension – Americorps  
MOKA  
Mona Shores High School  
Montague Future Farmers of America  
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly  
Muskegon Save Our Shoreline  
New Groningen Elementary School, Grade 4  
North and Central Beach Association  
North Beach Cleanup Crew  
Northpark Montessori School  
Northwoods Conservancy  
Oceana Peace Education Network  
Onekema Elementary School, Grade 3  
Ottawa Area Center CBI  
Pentwater Middle School, Grade 7  
Port Crescent State Park  
Portage Lake Garden Club  
Cynthia Price  
Carolyn Ptaszenski  
Pte Aux Chenes Association  
Reeths-Puffer Central Elementary School  
Ruggero Family  
Lori Sheehan  
Sleeper State Park  
St. Andrew's School  
Emily Stough  
Surf for Peace  
The Beachgoers  
The Fun Brigade  
The Green Hearts  
The Lake St Clair Clean Boaters  
The Nature Conservancy  
Ken and Esther Thoroughman  
Trinity Lutheran School, Kaelin Lambert  
Viva Oceana!  
Walmart Henry St. #3876  
Walmart Sherman #2238  
Washington Middle School  
West Michigan Academy Environmental Sciences  
Whitehall Middle School – Grade 7  
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

## INDIANA

Association of Beverly Shores Residents  
Books to Bridge the Region  
Charter School of the Dunes  
Cub Scout Pack 928  
Cub Scout Pack 990  
Dune Oaks Beach Club  
Nora Glenn  
Highland High School Key Club  
Indiana American Water – Northwest District  
Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Caretakers Program  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Ogden Dunes Environmental Advisory Board  
Beth Puett  
Joan Ray  
Shirley Heinze Land Trust  
Sierra Club Dunesland Group  
Sierra Club Service Club  
St. Paul Lutheran School  
Vanis Crown Point, Aveda Salon  
Mary K. Velez  
Sandi Weindling

## ILLINOIS

Amundsen High School Freshman Academy, Mr. Doyiakos' Class  
Amundsen High School Freshman Academy, Ms. Sider's Class

Association House of Chicago  
LISTO Program  
Aveda Institute of Chicago  
Maureen Block  
Blythe Howard, Chou & Hsuan-min Chou  
Bogan High School  
Bowen Environmental Studies Team (BEST)  
Boyer Family  
Brookfield Zoo Youth Volunteer Corps  
Alison Brown  
Capi's Italian Kitchen  
The Carrigans  
Glenn Cekus  
Cesar Chavez Upper Grade Center  
CH2M Hill  
Chicago Military Academy Bronzeville Science Club  
Chicago-Kent College of Law– Environmental Law Society  
Civic Knowledge Project  
College of Lake County Environmental Club  
COMCAST  
Concordia-Avondale Emerging Leaders Teen Program  
Corliss High School  
Dan Seals for Congress  
Stacy Dennerly & Michael Best  
DePaul Service Day  
Dewey Elementary School  
The Dirsmiths  
Emanuel Congregation  
Ethel's Chocolate Lounge, Chicago Market  
Marjie Ettlinger  
Evanston Rotary Club  
Exelon Corporation  
Gage Park High School  
Jim Gentile  
Glenbrook South High School–Interact Club  
Google, Chicago Office  
Harper High School  
Heller Nature Center  
Heritage School  
Stephen Hernan  
Highland Park League of Women Voters  
Howard Area Community Center Family Literacy Program  
HSGS Homeschool Cooperative  
ITW Hi-Cone  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Camp TOV & Monthly Teen Volunteering Program  
Josephinum Academy Middle School  
Kellogg School Options 5-6  
Kelvyn Park High School  
Kenilworth Garden Club Conservation Committee  
King College Prep High School  
Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Lake Forest Open Lands Association  
Las Casas High School  
Neil Lassandro  
Gina Lettiere  
Lincoln Park High School  
Lincoln Park Zoo  
Peggy Malecki-Irwin  
Manley Career Academy High School Chemistry Classes  
Marilyn G. Rabb Foundation Care Team  
Marinette High School  
Mather High School  
Peggy Mercherson  
Metropolitan Board  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Midwest Scouts  
Miguel Juarez Middle School  
Morgan Park High School  
Karlene Mostek  
Motorola Foundation  
Mary Mumbroe  
New Trier High School, Arado/Niemi Advisories  
New Trier High School Environmental Club  
New Trier High School, Jerutis Advisory  
New Trier High School, Lucadamo Advisory  
New Trier High School, Steffes Advisory  
The North Face, Chicago Store  
The North Face, Evanston Store  
North Prairie School – Grade 6

North Shore Yacht Club  
Officer Donald J. Marquez Charter School  
Openlands  
Park District of Highland Park  
Margo Patterson  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker  
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Employees  
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum TEENS Program  
Perspectives Charter School, IIT/Math and Science Academy Earth Club  
Prairie Crossing Charter School  
Ragano Family  
Rogers Park Community Council  
Rogers Park Community Council Youth Program  
Rotaract Club of Chicago  
Erica Ruffin  
Sacred Heart School  
Safer Foundation Youth Empowerment Program  
Saint Clement Church  
Shabica & Associates, Inc.  
Shedd Aquarium Green Team  
Sierra Club Chicago Chapter  
Mallory & Brian Simms  
Jaclyn Smith  
Burt, Sheila & Pete Snyder  
South Pond Cleanup Crew– Lincoln Park Zoo  
South Shore Citizens  
South Shore High School School of Entrepreneurship  
State Representative Karen May and Deerfield High School  
University of Chicago Lab School/Middle School (C3 Club)  
University of Illinois at Chicago Terra Society  
Uplift Community High School  
Von Stuben High School Environmental Action Club  
Wasielowski Family  
Waukegn Park District  
Wells Fargo, N.A. (Chicago)  
Regina Wells  
William H. Ray Elementary School, Grade 3  
Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club  
Yanny-Tillar Family  
Youth Conservation Corps  
Zion-Benton Township High School

## OHIO

Association of Beverly Shores Residents  
Charter School of the Dunes, Ms. Bennett's Class  
Cub Scout Pack 928  
Cub Scout Pack 990  
Great Lakes Surfers  
Grimmer Middle School – Grade 5  
Highland High School Key Club  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Caretakers Program  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Marilyn Krusas, First District Councilwoman  
Lake County Parks & Recreation  
Marquette Park Playground Committee  
Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department and St. Anthony's Hospital  
Northwest Indiana Parrothead Club  
Ogden Dunes Environmental Advisory Board  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Burbank Youth & Families  
Portage Township Trustees Offices  
Barb Shaw  
Shirley Heinze Land Trust  
Sierra Club Dunelands Group  
St. Paul Lutheran School  
Dave Stephany  
Town of Chesterton Storm Water Utility  
Mary K. Velez  
Westminster Presbyterian Going Green

# Join Adopt-a-Beach™

It's fun. It's easy.  
And here's how it works:

The Alliance's Adopt-a-Beach™ team coordinates the program and you coordinate visits to your adopted beach.

At each scheduled beach visit, adopters:

- 1. Investigate beach health.** Answer questions that help identify possible pollution sources.
- 2. Check water quality.** Investigate bacteria levels in the water using a simple test.
- 3. Improve beach conditions.** Remove, record and recycle or dispose of litter properly at each visit.
- 4. Enter data online.** Enter data into the Alliance's new online database after each beach visit.

The Alliance provides adopters with: An Adopt-a-Beach™ start-up kit, data collection forms, training opportunities, an online database, water test kits and general support.

**To register for the program:** Contact [adoptabeach@greatlakes.org](mailto:adoptabeach@greatlakes.org) or visit [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org) and look for the Adopt-a-Beach™ web pages.

\*Financial sponsorship is welcome.



Photo: Tamara Hill

Join us for our annual events!  
Spring Kickoff—Earth Week in April  
Fall Cleanup—Third Saturday  
in September

ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES

[www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org)  
Contact: [adoptabeach@greatlakes.org](mailto:adoptabeach@greatlakes.org)



**Your Donation Helps Adopt-a-Beach™ Grow**

The Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach™ program relies on donations to keep the program expanding to reach more volunteers and keep more beaches clean. Please help us keep the program growing by becoming a member of the Alliance family or by donating to the Adopt-a-Beach™ program. To become a member of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, go to [www.greatlakes.org/membership](http://www.greatlakes.org/membership). To donate directly to the Adopt-a-Beach™ program, write "AAB" on your check memo line. Make checks payable to the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach™ Program and mail to:

**Alliance for the Great Lakes  
ATTN: Adopt-a-Beach Program  
17 N. State St., Suite 1390  
Chicago, IL 60602**

Thank you!

ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES  
ADOPT A BEACH®

17 North State Street, Suite 1390  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
[www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org)

