



Adopt-a-Beach Program Participant Agreement and Program Guidelines and Conditions

Mission: The mission of the City of Miami Beach and the Environmental Coalition of Miami and the Beaches' (ECOMB) Adopt-a-Beach Program is to protect our coastal environment through the support of local families, companies or other volunteers that adopt, care for, and clean one section of beach. On behalf of the City of Miami Beach, ECOMB is the coordinating agency for the Adopt-a-Beach Program. We appreciate your time and dedication to assist in keeping the beaches of Miami Beach clean! We also stress the importance of volunteers following safety practices.

Participant's Name and/or Participant Group Name: _____

I. Group Responsibility

1. Any local community organizations, school group, or business group, as well as individuals eighteen (18) years or older (hereinafter, any such organization, groups, or individual(s) is referred to as a "Participant"), will be allowed to adopt a section of beach. Participants must have an approved Adopt-a-Beach Agreement on file with ECOMB prior to the clean-up effort.
2. Each Participant shall be responsible for selecting a Clean-up Coordinator to serve as a spokesperson and contact person for the Participant. This name shall be provided to ECOMB and must be kept current. The Participant's Clean-up Coordinator shall advise ECOMB in the event that the Participant no longer wishes to participate in the Program by submitting a notification letter terminating the Agreement. Adopt-a-Beach Participants are prohibited from subcontracting or assigning their duties and responsibilities to any other individual(s) and/or group(s).
3. Each Participant shall be required to adopt a section of beach for a minimum "adoption period" of one (1) year. Beach sections can be renewed by completing a new Agreement.
4. Each Participant shall be required to adopt and clean one (1) section of beach assigned by ECOMB.
5. Each Participant shall be required to pick up trash a minimum of four (4) times a year. Participants may clean-up more, especially if necessary. In order to promote the program, Participants are encouraged to hold at least one (1) of their four (4) clean-ups during the City of Miami Beach Adopt-a-Beach Weekend Clean-up event. Multiple Participants may adopt the same section of beach, as it is deemed beneficial by the City and ECOMB.
6. Each Participant shall obtain collection supplies from ECOMB at the beginning of the Program adoption period. In order to assist operations, Participants should always contact ECOMB (Phone: 305-534-3825 or litterprevention@ecomb.org) with the date of the clean-up event at least two weeks (14 days) prior to each event.
7. Participants and/or their members should carry litter buckets provided by ECOMB to fill during the clean-up event. Litter buckets should be emptied into litter bags provided by ECOMB. Using litter buckets will help minimize number of plastic bags used during the clean-up. Litter bags should be placed next to the beach litter cans. Any bulk trash (not able to be picked up by two (2) persons) should be reported to ECOMB with the location ASAP. At no time should the garbage bags block the travel lane on the hardpack sand or otherwise block north-south vehicular movement on the beach. Whenever possible, Participants are encouraged to sort out recyclables and dispose of properly.
8. Participants and their members must be sensitive to the beach and surrounding environment at all times. No vegetation and wildlife should be disturbed while collecting litter.
9. The dune is a protected area. No Participants and their members should enter or disturb the dune system.
10. Turtle nesting season runs from April 1st through October 31st in Miami Beach, Participants and their members must *stay out of marked sea turtle nest areas*.
11. Participants and their members are not permitted to drive any vehicles on or onto the beach nor should anyone enter private property during the clean-up.
12. In the event that Participants find dead or injured animals (including sea turtles, marine mammals or injured birds) on the beach, report them to Ocean Rescue at 305-673-7714. Do not put any injured animal back in to the water!

II. Administrative Responsibility

1. ECOMB will be responsible for working with interested groups to determine the specific section of beach to be adopted and provide clean-up supplies to Participants.
2. The City will erect a sign at an appropriate location within the adopted section of beach with the Participant's name displayed (as approved on the application form). Participants should report missing signs to ECOMB for replacement.
3. Clean-ups shall be conducted during daylight hours. To ensure the date and time of the clean-up does not conflict with other events that may be occurring in your area, Participants should contact ECOMB two weeks (14 days) prior the intended clean-up date. ECOMB is responsible for coordinating clean-up plans with the City prior to your event.

III. Safety Rules (Safety First!)

1. The designated Clean-up Coordinator must attend a safety pre-task briefing prior to commencing clean-up activities with their organization. The Clean-up Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that all participants complete a *Release and Hold Harmless Agreement* are briefed on rules and safety procedures before each clean-up event.
2. The Participants and their members agree to obey and abide by all laws and regulations relating to safety and such other terms and conditions, as may be required.
3. Individuals under the age of eighteen (18) must have a parent or legal guardian sign the *Release and Hold Harmless Agreement for Minors*.
4. ECOMB will provide first aid kit and safety gloves for the Clean-up Coordinator to distribute to their volunteers. All volunteers must be very careful, wear gloves and other safety gear while cleaning the beach.
5. The Clean-up Coordinator shall be responsible for providing a proper first aid kit, protective gloves, and adequate drinking water for members who are participating in the clean-up. It is highly recommended that members wear a hat, sunglasses, light weight clothing and closed footwear, and apply sunscreen when picking up litter on the beach.
6. Potentially dangerous materials should not be picked up and should be reported immediately to the Clean-up Coordinator. Any waste or items that may pose a hazard to volunteers (i.e. syringes, weapons, etc.), should be reported immediately to the Clean-up Coordinator. The Clean-up Coordinator should contact either Ocean Rescue at 305.673.7714 or the Police Department at 305.673.7900 with the description and exact location of the potentially dangerous items.
7. No vehicles shall be brought onto or driven on the beach.
8. Avoid suspected toxic/hazardous substances; poison ivy, poison oak, noxious weeds; areas where herbicides have been recently applied; places where snake, fire ants, or other insects may be located.; note their location on your clean-up report.
9. If you have any beach issues, contact Ocean Rescue at 305.673.7714. This includes if you find any sea turtles, birds, marine mammals or other dead, sick or injured animals on the beach. Never put a washed in (or stranded) animal back in the water.

Clean-up Coordinator Duties and Procedures

- Each Participant is responsible for selecting a Clean-up Coordinator to serve as a spokesperson and contact person for their group or organization. This name shall be provided to ECOMB and must be kept current. Any changes to personal contact information (telephone number, fax number, address, or e-mail address) should be reported to ECOMB.
- The Clean-up Coordinator shall be the point of contact between the adopting group or organization and ECOMB.
- Participants must have an approved Adopt-a-Beach Agreement on file with ECOMB prior to their clean-up efforts.
- The Clean-up Coordinator is responsible for organizing at least four (4) clean-up events throughout the year.
- The Clean-up Coordinator shall advise ECOMB in the event that the group no longer wishes to participate in the Program by submitting a notification letter terminating the Agreement.
- **The Clean-up Coordinator is responsible for collecting all *Release and Hold Harmless Agreements* at every clean-up for all participants.** The Clean-up Coordinator shall submit the *Release and Hold Harmless Agreements* within seven (7) days after a scheduled clean-up. Each Participant will receive twenty (20) *Release and Hold Harmless Agreements* and twenty (20) *Release and Hold Harmless Agreements for Minors*. Participants will be responsible for printing additional forms. All forms can be found at www.ecomb.org.
- The Clean-up Coordinator is responsible for completing and submitting the Adopt-a-Beach Participant Data Report within seven (7) days after a scheduled clean-up.

IV. Planning your Clean-up

1. Inform ECOMB of the date and time of intended clean-up at least two weeks (14 days) prior to clean-up.
2. Recommended Hours – Millions of people visit the City's beaches every year. While most residents and visitors respect our beaches, after a busy weekend our beaches have more litter than usual. **Participants are encouraged to focus clean-ups during times when the beaches receive the most litter. Great times to schedule events include weekends in the early evenings before dusk and during long weekends such as Labor Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, or MLK.**
3. Clean-ups shall be conducted during daylight hours. ECOMB is responsible for coordinating clean-up plans prior to your event, to ensure the date and time of the clean-up does not conflict with other events that may be occurring in your area please inform ECOMB at least two weeks (14 days) prior to the intended clean-up date.

V. After your Clean-up

Clean-up Coordinator is responsible to report the success of the clean-up to ECOMB. Within a week (7 days) of a completed clean-up, the Clean-up Coordinator must submit the following information:

1. The Release and Hold Harmless Agreements of all participants, including minors and adults.
2. The Adopt-a-Beach Clean-up Data Report, which includes information about the number of bags and number of volunteers.

This information can be submitted to ECOMB by mail at 210 2nd Street, Miami Beach, FL 33139, by e-mail to litterprevention@ecomb.org, or by fax at 208.979.2806. This is very important for tracking and reporting purposes.

VI. Special Events

The purpose of the Adopt-a-Beach program is to promote a clean beach. This is a great opportunity for your organization to participate in preserving our City's beaches and give back to the community. However, if you intend to use clean-up events for self-promotion or promoting your business, you will need to obtain a special events permit.

All events taking place on public property, whether produced by a not-for-profit or for profit entity, and including, but not limited to, festivals, parades, performances, product promotion and broadcasts require a special event permit from the City. Applications and questionnaires must be submitted with a minimum of **SIXTY (60)** days notice, in order to be processed prior to the proposed event.

Please refer to the City's Special Event Requirements and Guidelines for more information. For general inquiries, please email events@miamibeachfl.gov or call 305-673-7577, or visit the City's website at: <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/tcd/specialevents/>

VII. Protecting the Beach & Dune Ecosystems

Beaches

Seaweed is valuable to both the near-shore marine ecosystem and the dune system. Seaweed serves as a source of nutrients to marine and dune species and helps to stabilize sand to prevent erosion. Removing seaweed from the beach system reduces compaction of the sand, which results in suspension of the sand in the water during high tides and contributes to loss of sand and erosion of the beach. **Please do not remove any seaweed from the beach system.**

Travel by vehicles on beaches and dunes has a range of well-known environmental impacts: damage to dune vegetation, harm to nesting birds and turtles, and reductions in abundance and diversity of invertebrates. In order to protect beach goers and the environment, participants in the Adopt-a-Beach Program are **prohibited** from using motor vehicles and small off-road vehicles on the beach.

Dunes

The dune ecosystem serves as a natural buffer that protects upland property and provides a natural habitat for native animals and plants. Resident and migratory shorebirds use the beach and dune for resting, foraging, and nesting. Native dune vegetation such as sea oats, railroad vine, and sea grapes create a complex root system that serves to capture and stabilize sand to combat beach erosion.

Florida Statutes 161.053 and 810.09 prohibit walking on the dunes. In order to protect the function of the dune habitat, volunteers must keep out of this protected area.

Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, Florida's Marine Turtle Protection Act (379.2431, Florida Statutes), and Chapter 46, Article V of the City of Miami Beach Code. It is illegal to harm or harass sea turtles, their nests or hatchlings. The City of Miami Beach is a nesting habitat for three species of protected sea turtles; the Loggerhead, the Green, and the Leatherback. Touching nesting females, taking flash pictures of nesting females or hatchlings, or digging into nest is prohibited by law.

To report someone disturbing a turtle or nest: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission 1.888.404.FWCC or *FWC or #FWC from a cell phone.



Adopt-a-Beach Agreement

To enhance the environment of Miami Beach, _____, herein after referred to as the "Participant", requests permission to "Adopt-a-Beach".

1. The work will be performed under and in accordance with the City of Miami Beach and ECOMB's Adopt-a-Beach Guidelines and Conditions attached to this Agreement and incorporated herein by reference.
2. Participant shall abide by all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to the City of Miami Beach Municipal Code, Miami-Dade County Code, and Florida Statutes, right of way utilization, the rules as described in the Safety Procedures, and all other conditions as required for the particular adopted section of beach. Participant shall make all volunteers aware of and conform to the Guidelines and Conditions attached. In addition, the Clean-up Coordinator shall ensure that all volunteers sign the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement or Release and Hold Harmless Agreement for Minors. In addition, the Clean-up Coordinator is responsible for conducting a safety training briefing at each clean-up event prior to commencing clean-up activities.
3. It is expressly stipulated that this Agreement is a license for permissive use only.
4. Participant, hereby agrees that it, on behalf of itself and all individuals participating in the Adopt-a-Beach Program, at all times assumes all risk and indemnifies, defends and holds harmless the City of Miami Beach and ECOMB, and their respective officers, agents or employees against any and all claims, losses, damages, responsibility, liability, costs or expense arising from or allegedly arising from or related to the exercise or attempted exercise of the rights and privileges granted by this Permit.
5. Participant agrees that the City of Miami Beach or ECOMB may terminate this Agreement at any time for any reason with or without cause, including but not limited to if the Participant does not comply with the Agreement conditions or at any time the Participant's work is unsafe. The City of Miami Beach reserves the right to discontinue this Program at any time.
6. As to all relationships to the City, Participant and all persons performing work under this Agreement shall at all times and for all purposes be volunteers to ECOMB and not City of Miami Beach, and not volunteers to or employees of the City of Miami Beach, and as such are not entitled to any benefits from the City of Miami Beach.
7. Participant agrees to pay a Program participation fee of \$200.00, payable to the City of Miami Beach, for a one (1) year participation in the Adopt-a-Beach Program.

Please print clearly or type (and fill out completely!):

Adopting Participant: _____

Appointed Clean-up Coordinator: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Name to Appear on Adopt-a-Beach Sign:

(Participant may opt to have a logo placed on the Sign. Please e-mail ECOMB the logo in one of the following formats: ai, pdf, or eps.)

I, _____, have read and agree with the Adopt-a-Beach Agreement as stipulated herein. I further acknowledge that I will do the following: participate in the Adopt-a-Beach Litter Activity Safety Training to be provided by ECOMB; provide training for the organization's volunteers; provide waivers and collect signed waivers for each volunteer; and will supervise the group volunteers to insure that the clean-up is conducted in a safe and responsible manner, pursuant to the applicable rules and regulations.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

The City of Miami Beach and ECOMB will make every effort to provide Participants with the requested section. Please indicate your first three choices. Full list of available sections can be found at ecomb.org.

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Make Check Payable to: City of Miami Beach
Memo: Adopt-a-Beach

Send all checks to:

ECOMB
210 2nd Street
Miami Beach, FL 33139

FOR OFFICE USE:

Approved this _____ day of _____

By ECOMB _____

Section of Adopted Beach: _____

Check #: _____

Effective Date: _____

Completed Safety Training Date _____