Signature Programs

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) provides easy-to-use resources to clean up, recycle and make our communities greener across the state. We equip local partners and affiliates with the tools they need to build vibrant, engaged communities.

These tools and services help affiliates become effective in the mobilization of grassroots volunteers to address issues such as litter prevention, solid waste management, recycling, beautification and general community improvement.

**CLEANUP PROGRAMS**

*Keep Texas Beautiful Fall Sweep* is a statewide program to support the efforts of KTB affiliates, nonprofits, volunteers, corporations, scout groups and communities that organize fall cleanups. KTB provides registered participants access to the online event toolkit and cleanup supplies.

*Don’t mess with Texas® Trash-Off*, hosted by Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation, serves as Texas’ signature event for the Great American Cleanup and is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state. The program supports efforts to clear Texas roadways of trash and will take place throughout Texas in April. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Keep America Beautiful’s *Great American Cleanup* is the nation’s largest community improvement program, taking place annually from March to May. Cleanup activities can include beautifying parks and recreation areas, handling recycling collections and planting trees—anything that beautifies your community! Registered participants receive cleanup supplies and access to an online event toolkit.

The *Keep Texas Waterways Clean* program provides support and supplies for waterway cleanups across Texas. This program is open to all affiliate and non-affiliate communities located within 30 miles of an H-E-B or Central Market store location. When you participate in this program, KTB will provide you with a Waterway Cleanup Kit, including an online event toolkit, trash bags, recycle bags, event posters and more.

Since 1997, communities across the country have come together on November 15 to celebrate *America Recycles Day*. Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful, in partnership with the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling, support local communities, raise awareness and encourage participation.

**GREENING PROGRAMS**

*National Planting Day* is a Keep America Beautiful initiative that encourages affiliates and volunteers to create beautiful spaces in public places and at home by planting pollinator gardens and native species. With a national focus on the first Saturday in September, National Planting Day continues with community-based activities through October.
Did you know that Texans ages 16-34 are the most likely to litter? We need to do all we can to motivate young Texans to keep our environment free from trash. Help Don’t mess with Texas® and Keep Texas Beautiful teach our future leaders the importance of litter prevention by using some of our programs!

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

With the Don’t mess with Texas® K-12 Art Contest, Texas students enrolled in grades K-12 are invited to submit original artwork promoting litter prevention and keeping Texas beautiful between January and April. Students who create the top 13 winning designs will have their artwork assigned to a month or placed on the cover of the annual Don’t mess with Texas Calendar, in addition to other winning prizes.

Don’t mess with Texas® Scholarship recognizes the achievements of high school seniors who have taken leadership roles to prevent litter in their schools and/or communities and build awareness of the Don’t mess with Texas initiative. Presented in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, the contest awards one $6,000 scholarship and two $2,000 scholarships.

Keep Texas Beautiful Patch Program is designed to give recognition to the outstanding efforts of youth in their communities. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire youth or other youth group members may earn patches by participating in various events. We believe that recognizing youth for their environmental efforts is key to creating a sustainable future. The Youth Patch Program has five different patches and toolkits that include ideas for earning patches and flyers to promote them.

Looking for a creative way to earn your Soil & Water Conservation Badge or complete your It’s Your Planet—Love It Journey? Have your group participate in our Don’t mess with Texas Trash-Off or Fall Sweep program with the help of our Scout Pack. You’ll not only help the environment, but you can also receive our youth patch.

The Waste in Place (WIP) curriculum addresses the problem of waste and its disposal alternatives and emphasizes responsible solid waste handling practices through hands-on activities for pre-K to 6th grade students. This unique curriculum aims to help youth to explore how they can make a difference in litter prevention and community improvement. Educators must attend a six-hour training workshop to use the WIP Curricula and receive CPE credits.