



# Lake Leader Script

*Hello Everyone,*

*Thank you for volunteering today for Keep Austin Beautiful's Clean Lady Bird Lake event! Keep Austin Beautiful organizes these events on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every other month, so we hope you'll have a great time today and join us again in the future.*

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Lake Leader for this site. (If you're with a business or organization: I am with \_\_\_\_\_ and we lead a site at these events because our business/organization cares about Austin's environment and we support Keep Austin Beautiful's mission to keep Lady Bird Lake litter-free.) I am here to assist you throughout the event.*

*The lake was formed in 1960 by the construction of Longhorn Dam at its eastern boundary. In the 1970s former US First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, partnered with then Mayor Roy Butler to transform the lake and shoreline into a usable recreational space for Austin citizens. Today Austinites take pride in the natural space we share in the middle of our city and our citizens volunteer their time to keep it clean and beautiful, carrying on Lady Bird's legacy and dedication.*

*Last year alone over 250 tons of trash and debris were collected by volunteers and City of Austin lake crews. Today there are over 400 volunteers cleaning at 24 sites around the lake; on the trails and from kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards! (If you're at a waterway site: Please be sure to thank \_\_\_\_\_ for donating today's boats.) Today we'll be cleaning from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.*

*First let's go over our safety guidelines:*

- *Be aware of your surroundings at all times and use the buddy system (watch out for dogs, snakes, poison ivy, fire ants, etc.).*
- *Most trash is in the vegetation along the shoreline. However, never put your hands into an area that is not visible. Use a grabber if you have one!*
- *Do not handle dead animals, firearms or chemicals - report them to me and I will contact the appropriate authorities. (Call 3-1-1 and notify them that you are part of a Keep Austin Beautiful cleanup.)*
- *If needles are found, let me know and we will use the sharps container. Only adults wearing gloves may dispose of needles. (Give demonstration).*
- *Watch your Step! Be careful of loose rocks and wet or marshy areas.*
- *Watch Children! Caution children against picking up broken glass, needles, or other sharp objects.*
- *In case of emergency dial 9-1-1 and notify me immediately.*

*Be sure to keep an eye out for any odd or unusual pieces of trash. After the event, please meet back here at 10:45am for a Most Unique Object contest. We have a prize for the winner!*

*When we're done, please leave your trash at \_\_\_\_\_. (Waterway sites: Please be sure to return your boats NO LATER THAN 10:45am.)*

*This event is made possible by the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department, REI, Samsung, and of course, our volunteers! On behalf of Keep Austin Beautiful, thank you for volunteering with us today! Our next event is coming up on \_\_\_\_\_.*