



The Alliance for the Great Lakes is the oldest membership-based, non-partisan education and advocacy voice for the Great Lakes. For this project, you'll work with a representative from Alliance for the Great Lakes to adopt a site along Lake Michigan.

The year-round Adopt-a-Beach™ program invites groups and individuals to commit to two to five visits over a year. At each visit, adopters collect and record the litter they find, as well as test the water for E. coli levels using materials provided by the Alliance. In addition, adopters conduct a general assessment of beach conditions once a year. Adopters then enter their data onto the Alliance's online database. After two or three visits, adopters are encouraged to examine their data and develop an action project to improve conditions at their beach. The Alliance helps adopters with this process.

As part of your project, you can also elect to participate in the Alliance for the Great Lakes' annual beach cleanup in September. Depending on when you start, this can count as one of your two to five visits for the year, or be included in your project as an extra (sixth) visit. The cleanup is part of a worldwide event and is important in raising awareness about beach health for the Great Lakes and other waters around the world.

## Facts and Figures from 2008

- **175,259** cigarette butts were collected by Adopt-a-Beach volunteers
- **4** Great Lakes participated in Adopt-a-Beach (Lakes Huron, Michigan, Erie and Superior)
- **30,000** pounds of trash were removed from Great Lakes beaches by Adopt-a-Beach volunteers

*Source: 2008 Adopt-a-Beach Annual Report*

## **Timeline:**

**Project Proposal due online:** 2 weeks after the Community Organizing class

**Part I: Contact the Alliance representative, coordinate a project team and choose your site:** 2 weeks

**Part II: Begin site visits and tracking environmental benefits:** 2 months

**Part III: Final Report due online:** 1 week after your last visit

**Part IV: Follow up (optional):** Continue cleanup at your site

## **Materials:**

Alliance for the Great Lakes is able to provide many of the materials listed on the attached checklist.

C3 is able to provide:

- Canvas work gloves
- Disposable gloves
- A scale
- Blue bags for collecting recyclables
- Thermometer
- Trash bags
- **\$800 Savings Challenge** cards

## **Part I: Contact the Alliance Representative**

**~2 weeks**

Ask your liaison to put you in touch with a representative of the Alliance for the Great Lakes (312-939-0838 x.228 or adoptabeach@greatlakes.org). Alliance will help set you up as an adopter and help you choose a site. They will also make sure you have the right materials for your site visit including a training CD, water quality testing supplies, sample forms, and a username and password for entering data online. You'll be encouraged to work with a project team to help you during your site visits.

## **Part II: Tracking Environmental Benefits**

**~2 months**

Based on data you've collected and entered into Alliance's database as part of your site visits, calculate the environmental benefits of your project. This could include amount of litter collected, dates of site visits, community members involved, or outreach you did around your site visits.



## **Think outside the box**

One cleanup group noticed they were picking up lots of 6-pack beverage rings at their beach site. They worked with a local company to change the 6-pack beverage rings they manufactured from traditional material to photo-degradable material.

## **Part III: Turn in Final Report**

### **After you've completed your 2-5 site visits**

As soon as you've calculated environmental benefits, please fill out your Final Report online. Corresponding materials such as digital photographs, outreach flyers or posters, press releases, or news clippings should be emailed to [conservation@cityofchicago.org](mailto:conservation@cityofchicago.org). Please also enter the information from your '\$800 Savings Challenge' cards on [www.chicagoclimataction.org](http://www.chicagoclimataction.org).

## **Part IV: Continued Site visits (Optional)**

If your site visits are successful, we hope you will continue even after you graduate from C3! Think of the impact you could have!

## **Additional Resources**

- Alliance for the Great Lakes: <http://www.greatlakes.org/>. In addition to running the Adopt-a-Beach™ program, the Alliance works to protect the Great Lakes with policy, education, and other efforts. Check out their website for fact sheets and news releases on environmental issues related to the Lakes.
- Great Lakes Information Network: <http://www.great-lakes.net/>. An intergovernmental partnership that provides a place online for people to find information relating to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region of North America.
- The EPA's *The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book*. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/>.
- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration: <http://www.glrc.us/>. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) is a wide-ranging, cooperative effort to design and implement a strategy for the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes.



### Adopt-a-Beach™ Equipment Checklist

Contact the Alliance for the Great Lakes if you have questions: [adoptabeach@greatlakes.org](mailto:adoptabeach@greatlakes.org) or 312-939-0838 x 228.

✓	Item	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine Visit Form and Litter Monitoring Form (Completed during each beach visit)	All Adopt-a-Beach™ forms and instructions can be found in PDF documents at <a href="http://www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeachforms">www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeachforms</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide	Instructions for the Routine Visit Form and Litter Monitoring For.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A sign-in sheet for your team members	Use Alliance liability waiver sign-in sheet. Please send your sign-in sheet to your state Adopt-a-Beach™ coordinator.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Petrifilm plates, sample bags, & pipettes	Alert your state Adopt-a-Beach™ coordinator of your visit dates to receive a test kit in time for your visit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resealable baggie	To store your Petrifilm during incubation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sampling pole or waders	Use this to take a water sample. Sampling pole ideas: PVC pipe with alligator clips to hold on the sample bag; mop handle with extension rod and clips to hold the bag; fishing pole.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermometer	Should be able to be used for both air and water temperature. Please do not use mercury thermometers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Floatable object to measure long shore current	The object should be biodegradable such as driftwood.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meter stick or other measuring device	Another option is to mark a piece of rope off to measure one meter.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clipboards	You can make your own clipboards by using a firm piece of cardboard with a paper clip to hold your paper.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pencils/pens	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloves	Participants can bring them from home, may be donated from restaurant supply companies or the coordinator can provide disposable gloves.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scale to weigh trash	A bathroom scale or a fish scale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calculator	To tally your results. If you forget your calculator most cell phones now have a calculator feature in them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycle blue bags (If applicable to your community)	If not used in your community, separate recyclables to dispose of properly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash bags	You can also use plastic grocery bags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watch with a second hand	Some cell phones have a stopwatch feature that could be used if such a watch is not available.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Camera	Send photographs or digital images to: <a href="mailto:adoptabeach@greatlakes.org">adoptabeach@greatlakes.org</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	First aid kit	

