

HELP CLEAN UP THE BEACH



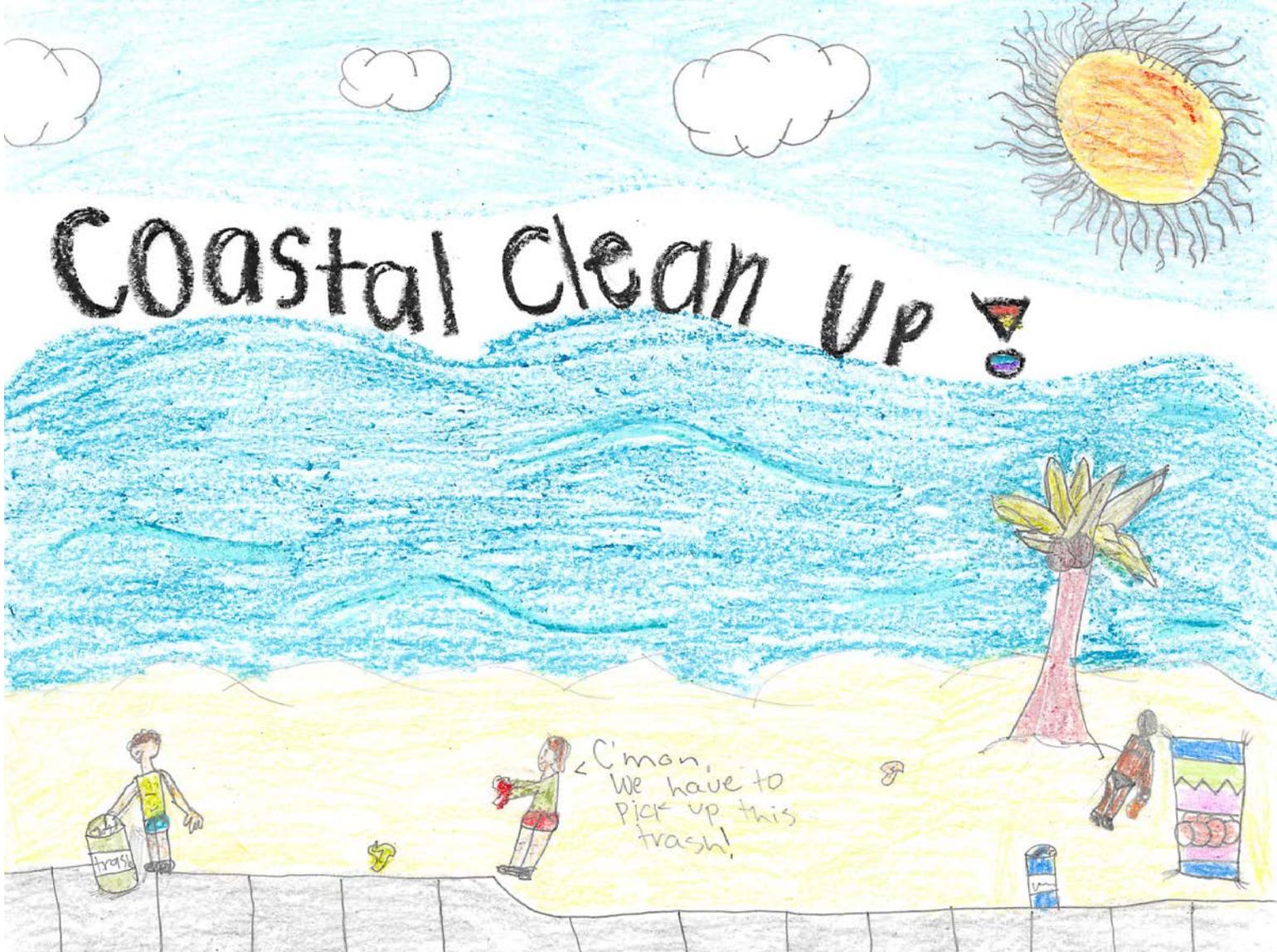
MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

EXTENSION



Cleaning up our Coast, "one bag at a time"

Coastal Clean Up !



< C'mon,
We have to
pick up this
trash!

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup features thousands of volunteers who pick up tons of trash. During the 2016 cleanup, 2,469 volunteers picked up more than 14 tons of litter. Plastic bottles, straws, wrappers, and cigarette butts made up most of the garbage removed from Mississippi's coastlines, waterways, and barrier islands.

keep our beaches
clean.



Though the cleanup originally began in 1988, 2016 was the first year the Mississippi State University Extension Service partnered with the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force to organize, promote, and lead the annual event. Extension provides education that empowers people to make informed decisions about their families, jobs, and the environment.

 On the day of the 2016 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, community members came together at 8 a.m. The campaign is held each October to avoid the potential impacts of hurricane season, and generous sponsors offer lunches to the volunteers on-site.



Along with 13,018 pieces of plastic debris, volunteers also collected 27,916 cigarette butts at the 2016 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. Altogether, 28,079 pounds of trash were collected, including 18,655 beverage bottles and cans, 11,072 plastic and paper bags, and 6,910 cups and plates.

Keep our beaches water clean pick up



Volunteers received trash and recycling bags, along with data cards, to remove and report litter. The data cards allowed volunteers to describe what they found so the sources of marine debris could be determined. Pollution-prevention and pollution-education campaigns will be developed for the state, region, nation, and world.

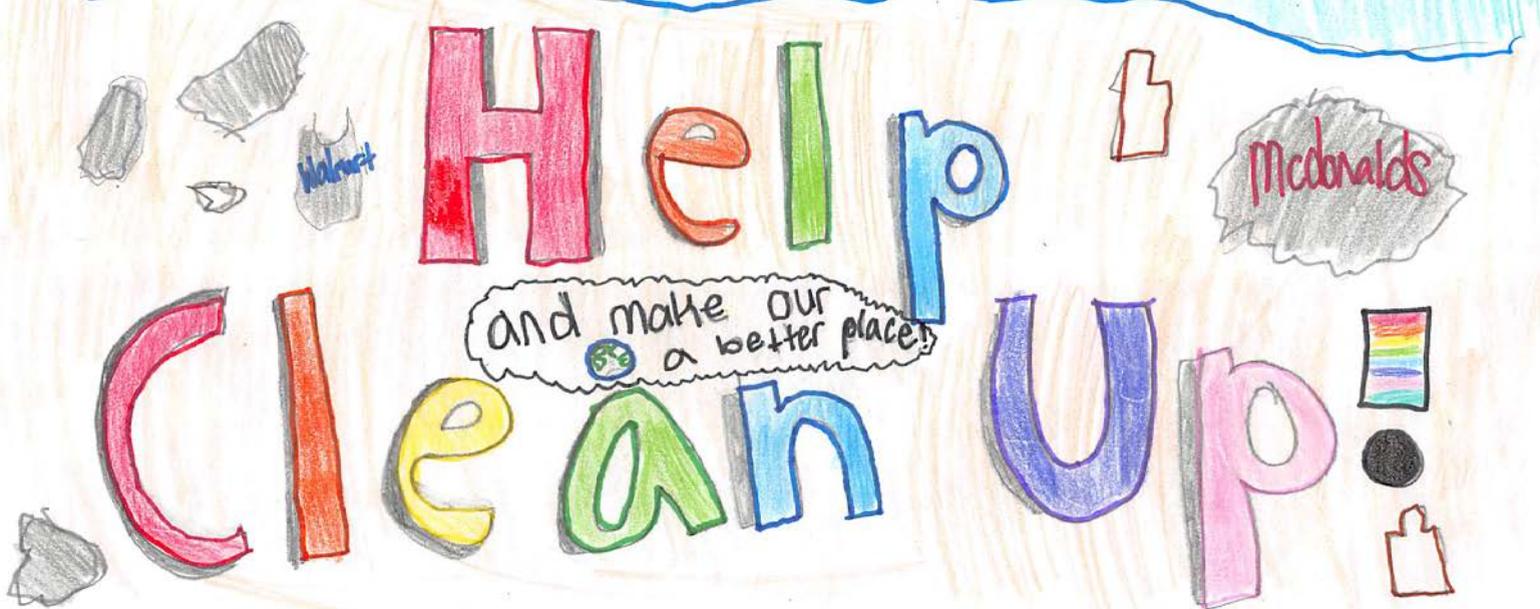
CLEAN THE COAST



Trash goes
in the trash
can.

Don't forget to
recycle.

Volunteers covered more than 200 miles of Mississippi's coastlines, waterways, and barrier islands as they collected the litter polluting the Gulf Coast. Extension specialists are developing corresponding educational programming to promote the importance of proper trash disposal and demonstrate methods for reducing and properly disposing of trash.



No living, entangled animals were discovered during the 2016 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, but one dead, entangled sea turtle was found. Volunteers are instructed not to aid the animals themselves, but instead to contact their corresponding zone captains to ensure the animal receives the help it needs.

KEEP OUR BEACHES
CLEAN!!!



Most Mississippi Coastal Cleanup volunteers wore gloves to avoid the sharp edges of some garbage, as well as foot protection in water to protect their feet from cuts from shells. When volunteers discovered trash that was too heavy to lift comfortably, they contacted their zone captains to arrange for removal.



Anyone who registered online for the 2016 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup will receive an automatic email notification to sign up for the 2017 cleanup, to be held Saturday, October 21. If you want to be added to the list, you may sign up at www.mscoastalcleanup.org/contact_us.



The Mississippi Gulf Coast is home to some of the nation's most productive finfish and shellfish waters, as well as their supporting coastal wetlands. The coast is rich in natural resources, and the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup protects and maintains its lands and waters for future generations.



The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is an important part of the International Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by Ocean Conservancy. By removing garbage from the Gulf Coast, volunteers are benefiting the environment and setting a positive example of good environmental stewardship. This volunteer effort is one of the largest in the state.



The ultimate goal of Mississippi Coastal Cleanup organizers is to stop litter before it reaches the water. Join the international fight for trash-free seas at www.oceanconservancy.org/keep-the-coast-clear/pledge.html.



Make a difference, one bag at a time! Every October, thousands of concerned citizens take to the streets and beaches all along the Gulf Coast to pick up trash that can pollute our waterways and endanger the lives of countless animals. Won't you join us on October 21? Sign up today at www.mscoastalcleanup.org!

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, begun in 1988, has organized more than 68,000 volunteers who removed more than 1.7 million pounds of trash from the Gulf Coast and its corresponding environments.

To become a volunteer or sponsor for the annual event, organized by the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, visit www.mscoastalcleanup.org today!

SAVANHA GRIMSLEY* | ANNISTON ELEMENTARY | GULFPORT

*front cover art

The **Mississippi Coastal Cleanup** would not be possible without the support of our sponsors.

We would like to thank

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