

Frederick County Adopt-A-Road Program Parameter and Requirements

Purpose: The purpose of the Frederick County Division of Public Works Adopt-A-Road Program is to register volunteer groups and/or individuals (hereinafter, adopters) that pick-up litter along the county right –of-ways, and to recognize them for their efforts to improve the appearance of the community and decrease the amount of debris that washes in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The program is not intended as a means for providing a public forum for adopters to use in promoting name recognition or political causes. The Division of Public Works (hereinafter, DPW) reserves the right to limit the number of adoptions by a single adopter, and to restrict the language used on road signs designating the adopted section(s) of roadway.

Who May Participate?

- Eligible adopters include civic and non-profit organizations, school groups, commercial and private enterprises, families, and individuals.
- Written parental or guardian permission is required for all participants under 18 years of age. Team members under the age of 16, must be supervised by adults (at least one adult for every five participants under 16 years of age).
- Neither children younger than 12 years old nor pets may be allowed at the clean-up location, or in vehicles parked at the clean-up location.
- Local chapters of national organizations must provide a written statement, from the national organization, which authorizes the local group to use the name proposed for the sign and which identifies the individual(s) from the local chapter authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of the local organization.
- All recyclable materials collected by the group may be redeemed and the proceeds may be kept for the group.

What is required of the Adopter?

- Have an approved application on file and sign an Adopt-A-Road Pilot Program agreement with DPW.
- Pick up litter and recyclables from adopted section(s) of roadway at least four times per year. The adoption shall be for a period of two years, with renewal for another two year term upon mutual consent.
- Observe all traffic laws and regulations
- Confine clean-up activity to the roadside only, making certain that participants do not trespass onto private property.
- The adopter is responsible for replacing required safety vests, safety signs and any other items provided by DPW, if they are lost or damaged.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all times.
- Designate one adult member to be the **Adopt-A-Road Coordinator**. This person will be the point of contact between the adopter and DPW, and is responsible for ensuring that the adopter, and its participants, adhere to all provisions contained in the agreement, this policy statement; and the safety requirements outlined either in writing or orally by DPW and its representatives.

The Adopt-A-Road Coordinator Must:

- Prior to engaging in any program activity, attend a safety training session conducted by an Adopt-A-Road Safety trainer certified by DPW.
- Ensure that, before participating in any Adopt-A-Road clean-up, each participant attend a safety training session conducted by DPW, or by an Adopt-A-Road Coordinator, and executes the written volunteer waiver provided. Such waiver releases Frederick County, DPW, the departments within DPW, their officials, employees, contractors, and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from the volunteer's participation in the Adopt-A-Road Program. In the case of a minor, such release shall be executed by a parent or guardian. Participation in the program shall constitute a waiver of any claim or cause of action of liability against Frederick County and the entities names above.
- Be present at all roadside clean-up activity, whenever practicable. If the Adopt-A-Road Coordinator is not present, an adult group member must assume and discharge all of the Adopt-A-Road Coordinator's responsibilities. This person must attend a mandatory safety training session conducted by DPW, or by an Adopt-A-Road Safety trainer certified by DPW.
- Complete the provided clean-up report after each activity and submit it to the Adopt-A-Road Program manager.
- In the event of an incident or injury to any person relating to participation in the Adopt-A-Road Program, notify DPW at 301-600-1564.

DPW Will Provide:

- A minimum of two safety warning signs to post during clean-ups.
- Two permanent road signs, with the adopter's name, designating the adopted section(s) of roadway.
- Safety training for Adopt-A-Road Coordinators.
- An opportunity for safety training for all participants.
- Safety information and safety vests.
- Trash bags.
- A certificate of adoption, if requested.
- Replacement signs as necessary due to normal wear and tear, and accidental damage. DPW will replace, at its cost, up to two signs per adopter, if signs are stolen, defaced, or damaged by causes other than normal wear and tear. The removal of defaced or damaged signs will be at the sole discretion of DPW.

Sign Specifications

DPW will install two signs designating each adopted section of roadway. These signs are intended to identify and recognize adopters, and to promote the Adopt-A-Road Program, not to be an advertising or political forum.

Therefore:

- DPW will have sole discretion regarding the size, color, design, text and placement of Adopt-A-Road signs.
- Only the actual name of the adopter will be included on the signs. No business logos, slogans, telephone numbers, addresses, titles of elective office, or statements will be permitted. Exceptions will be made for *in MEMORIAM* statements using the following language: “(adopter name) in memory of (name of deceased)”.
- The signs shall not contain wording which, in the sole judgment of DPW is insulting or derogatory; is a term of bigotry or hostility; is racially or ethnically degrading; refers to sexual acts; is a profane, obscene or repulsive term; or appears to promote the use of illegal substances.

If during the term of the agreement, it is determined that the adopter is not meeting the conditions of the agreement, DPW reserves the right to terminate the agreement and remove the signs. Any decisions made by DPW in implementing, administering and, if appropriate, terminating any agreement under the Adopt-A-Road Program shall be final and not subject to appeal. If no program activity has occurred within six months of the posting of the signs, DPW will terminate the agreement and remove the signs.