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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Earth Day by Joining Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA

(April 20, 2017) – In celebration of Earth Day, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, whose vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania, encourages residents to join the 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA today at www.gacofpa.org. **Events registered from March 1 through May 31 receive free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices, as supplies last.** The Great American Cleanup of PA engages over 150,000 volunteers annually in litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and educational events. To help with the cost of trash disposal, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring **Let's Pick It Up PA from April 18 through May 8**. During this time, trash collected at registered events can be taken to participating landfills and receive free or reduced cost disposal with prior approval.

Join thousands of volunteers who are keeping our communities clean and beautiful and register your event at www.gacofpa.org. Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Great American Cleanup of PA Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is also calling for videos highlighting your 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA event featuring groups, children, and adults having fun keeping your communities clean and beautiful. Recognize sponsors and incorporate Great American Cleanup of PA in your video. Send a video, 2-minutes or less to slarson@keeppabeautiful.org. Cash prizes, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, are \$200 for the winning entry and \$100 each for two runners up.

"We are so grateful to our volunteers and sponsors who help make the Great American Cleanup of PA, Pennsylvania's premier community improvement initiative, possible," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Last year, Pennsylvanians coordinated and participated in over 6,000 events. Over 22,000 tires and 5 million pounds of trash were removed from our beautiful landscape. This year we hope to engage even more Pennsylvania's to join the Great American Cleanup of PA to help keep our communities clean and beautiful."

Great American Cleanup of PA Earth Day Events

Highlighted below are just a few of the many Great American Cleanup of PA Earth Day events taking place across Pennsylvania via Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful/Keep America Beautiful affiliates.

Keep Erie County Beautiful - YMCA Camp Sherwin Spring Cleanup and Community Greening Event on April 22 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Contact Brittany Prischak at bprischak@eriecountypa.gov or 814-451-7326. Event Location: YMCA Camp Sherwin, 8600 W Lake Rd, Lake City, PA 16423

Keep Allentown Beautiful - Great Allentown Clean Up on April 22 from 8:00 am - 03:00 PM (Rain Date: 04/23/2017) Contact Kristin Baringer at baringerk@allentowncity.org or 610-437-8729.

Pennsylvania Environmental Council/Keep Northeastern Pennsylvania Beautiful - Earth Day Tree Planting on April 22 from 9:00 AM - 02:00 PM. Contact Palmira Miller at pmiller@pecpa.org or 570-592-7876. Event Location: Pinchot State Forest, Avondale Hill Road. Volunteers will plant 7,480 seedlings in the Pinchot State Forest covering 10 acres of reclaimed mine land.

Keep Harrisburg/Dauphin County Beautiful - Great Harrisburg Litter Cleanup on April 22 from 9:00 AM - 01:00 PM. To register contact Julie Walter at jwalter@cactricounty.org or 717-232-9757. Event Location: This event takes place across the city of Harrisburg at multiple cleanup locations.

Keep York Beautiful - Go Green in the City, an interactive street fair on April 22 from 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM. Contact Thomas Smith at TLS35@psu.edu or 717-840-2375. Event Location: Downtown York in the block between N. Beaver Street, N. Pershing Avenue, W. Clarke Avenue and the White Rose Bar and Grill parking lot.

To find an event near you visit www.gacofpa.org/great-american-cleanup-of-pa-find-an-event/.

The Great American Cleanup of PA is held annually from March 1 through May 31 and is led by a coalition of non-profit, state agency and business partners such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Weis Markets, Inc., Wawa, Inc., Sheetz, ShopRite and The Fresh Grocer, Steel Recycling Institute, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Clean Earth, Giant Eagle, Giant Food Stores, Inc., Republic Services and Wegmans Food Markets.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keppabeautiful.org.

About Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., established in 1953, is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. With a network of more than 1,200 affiliate and participating organizations, Keep America Beautiful forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. To learn more about Keep America Beautiful, visit www.kab.org.

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