

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Teachers Invited to Participate in Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Litter Free School Zone Program

(March 31, 2021) Schools can keep their school grounds litter free with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Litter Free School Zone. The program encourages hands-on activities to teach environmental stewardship and responsibility and can be incorporated into Earth Day celebrations and lesson plans.

The Litter Free School Zone advocates for two improvement projects per school year and can include litter clean ups and beautification events, like creating and caring for pollinator and rain gardens. Results are reported to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and are added to their statewide community improvement totals, making it an opportunity to be a part of something bigger. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides a Litter Free School Zone sign to each school that participates in the program.

"The Litter Free School Zone program has been a great addition to our environmental club. It has started an awareness about litter, recycling and trash and their effects on the environment. Resources and support provided by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful are extremely useful in helping plan events and activities for our club. We are hopeful that by sharing the knowledge about recycling, litter and trash in our club and with the school, this knowledge will continue to stay with the students as they grow, and we will see a difference in the way that future generations handle some of the bigger problems," said Tyler Small, Biology Teacher and Environmental Club Advisor for Wilson High School.

There are currently over eighty schools participating in the program. All schools are welcome to participate - elementary school, middle school, high school, public or private.

"We are all responsible for keeping our communities clean and beautiful" said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "This program provides a fun and easy way for students to work together, learning valuable community leadership and responsibility skills, while gaining a respect for the environment and the world around them. It is also an opportunity to develop a school-wide stewardship ethic and set a community example."

Litter Free School Zone events can get free cleanup supplies through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's [Pick Up Pennsylvania](#), a statewide community improvement initiative. Registered events receive free cleanup supplies like bags, gloves and safety vests courtesy of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful.

Schools interested in becoming a Litter Free School Zone should visit the “Keep It!” section of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website, www.keeppabeautiful.org or contact Stephanie Larson at slarson@keeppabeautiful.org or 877.772.3673.

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About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has worked with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the state to pick up nearly 148 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania's roadways, waterways, greenways, vacant lots, forestlands and other community spaces. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.