



Great Arkansas Cleanup General Info

The **Great Arkansas Cleanup (GAC)** is the annual fall statewide litter pickup campaign promoted by the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB). *The 2015 series of community cleanup events will kick off Saturday, September 12.* Thousands of volunteers will remove litter from roadways, lakes, streams, parks, businesses and neighborhoods through October.

The GAC began in 1969 as the Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Cleanup. In 1985, U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers guided legislation requiring an annual pickup event during the weekend after Labor Day on all federal lands. This law honors the founder of the event, Carl Garner of Tumbling Shoals, who continued to be an advocate for a clean and litter-free environment as a member of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation board of directors until his death in 2014. KAB first adopted the GAC for a statewide anti-litter effort in 1989.

Communities all over Arkansas come together each fall during the Great Arkansas Cleanup to help increase public awareness of the importance of a clean, beautiful and environmentally healthy state. Volunteers show their support by hosting litter pickups and recycling, beautification and educational programs during the Great Arkansas Cleanup and by encouraging these efforts throughout the year.

The GAC is sponsored by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Keep America Beautiful, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission and the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation. These dedicated sponsors enable thousands of concerned community volunteers to make Arkansas a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful state.

KAB, a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, works to inspire and educate individuals to reduce litter, recycle and keep Arkansas beautiful. It is a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc., the nation's leading community improvement organization.

To volunteer, contact **Liz Philpott**, Volunteer Program Manager, at **501-682-3507** (elizabeth.philpott@arkansas.gov).