

# THE PALS PRINTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA PALS AND THE ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM

WINTER QUARTER 2026 • VOLUME 51

## DIRECTORS NOTES

A new year is a perfect time to reset and reorganize. I don't know about you, but I love a list. Lists keep us on task, help us stay focused on what is most important, and keep us accountable for our actions. I have to-do lists on my phone, on multiple sticky notes around my desk, and in my calendar. Nothing is more satisfying than crossing off items from lists! Looking at all the to-do lists on my desk got me thinking... "What kind of list can we create to help others make a difference with litter in our state?" After coming across an old David Letterman episode on TV, I was inspired to make a Top 10 List... So here goes!

### **Top 10 Ways You Can Make a Difference with Litter in Alabama:**

#### **10) Keep a Trash Receptacle in Your Vehicle.**

Whether this is a grocery bag or something you have purchased that is a little fancier, having a place for wrappers to go is key! See our request on page 14 to share your car trash receptacles with us!

#### **9) Secure Trash in the Back of Trucks.**

We see it all the time... Truck beds become wind tunnels on the interstate! From small bags of fast food to large boxes, if it isn't secured, it will probably blow out. How about hosting a tarp giveaway in your community sponsored by PALS?

#### **8) Report Illegal Dumping.**

If you see an area that looks like it is becoming a problem, contact your county's solid waste officer or local law enforcement. PALS can help you contact the proper authority if you are not sure...

#### **7) Lead by Example.**

If you see a stray wrapper on your way into the store, pick it up and throw it away! You never know who is watching and what impact that might have!

#### **6) Adopt-A-Mile or Stream Near You!**

Visit [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) to learn more about the Adopt-A-Mile and Stream Programs and how to apply. There are nearly 1,000 miles adopted throughout the state. Let us help you find a mile near you to adopt!

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## 2026 ALABAMA PALS MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Form/Application can be submitted online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Sustaining Partner: \$500

☐ Sustaining Steward: \$ 250

☐ Litter Free Leader: \$100

☐ PALS Advocate: \$50

☐ PALS Partner: \$25

(Membership Dues are paid Annually)

Alabama PALS is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Your contribution to Alabama PALS is tax deductible

Please Make Checks Payable to:

Alabama PALS, 8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117



*"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"*

## THE 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALABAMA PALS

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### THE STAFF OF ALABAMA PALS

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jamie@alpals.org

**Christy Waddell**  
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State Adopt-A-Mile Coordinator  
christy@alpals.org

**Shay Grant**  
Clean Campus State Coordinator  
Social Media Director  
shay@alpals.org

**Phone: 334-263-7737 or**

**In-State 800-ALA-PALS**

**WEBSITE: [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)**

**8136 Old Federal Road  
Montgomery, AL 36117**

### ALABAMA PALS MISSION STATEMENT

"Alabama Communities Working  
Together for A Cleaner and  
More Beautiful Alabama"

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

BY JEFF HELMS, CHAIRMAN, ALABAMA PALS

Change, whether planned or unexpected, can create fear or opportunity. The choice is ours.

The past year brought tremendous change for Alabama PALS, and our staff met those opportunities with optimism, creativity and energy. Jamie, Christy and Shay didn't just trudge through the changes, they seized the chance to position Alabama PALS for an even brighter future.

New management, a new office, new grant-writing team, new budgeting system, new partnerships, new awards venue, and new board members were just a few of the ways Alabama PALS grew this year. None of this would be possible without our staff who see PALS as not just a job but also a mission.

Even with so much to celebrate, change can be hard. This year, we missed the daily presence of our friend and founding executive director, Spencer Ryan. We mourned the passing of former board chairman, Doug Rigney. And, we remembered the servant life of longtime fundraiser and former lieutenant governor, George McMillan.

These men's legacies can teach us lessons about change because their focus was on the future. Great leaders don't toil each day so their absence will one day leave a painful void. They prepare the soil, plant the seeds and nurture the crop so it will yield a harvest beyond their individual abilities or imagination.

Alabama PALS is a great organization because leaders didn't tolerate change — they initiated it. When former state forester, Bill Moody, and like-minded people envisioned PALS, it wasn't to maintain the status quo. It was to make Alabama more beautiful, cleaner, healthier, BETTER. Their goal wasn't only to remove litter. It was to change hearts, minds and attitudes about stewardship. It was to develop more responsible citizens and future leaders through volunteerism and community service.

In looking back at the accomplishments of 2025, I'm thankful our Alabama PALS staff, board of directors and countless volunteers are visionary leaders who recognize the opportunities that come with change. I'm excited about Jamie's bold leadership, Christy's meticulous management of the Adopt-A-Mile program, and the imaginative ways Shay inspires students through the Clean Campus Program.

2026 is sure to bring even more change in our lives. We have a choice. Will we meet it with fear, or will we seize the opportunity to make our world better?

### MESSAGE FROM:

*JOHN COOPER Director, Alabama Department of Transportation*

As we reflect on a successful 2025, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Alabama PALS and the countless volunteers who continue to make a meaningful difference across our state. Your dedication to keeping Alabama clean and beautiful strengthens our communities and enhances the experience of everyone who travels our roadways.

Through initiatives like the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup, Coastal Cleanups and the PALS Adopt a Mile program, we are seeing firsthand what can be accomplished through strong partnerships and community involvement. These efforts not only reduce litter but also promote pride, stewardship and respect for Alabama's natural resources.

At the Alabama Department of Transportation, we recognize that clean and

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Continued from page 1

## 5) Promote the Clean Campus Program.

Have your local schools sign up for the PALS Clean Campus Program to have access to curriculum ideas, a speaker to visit their school, contests for students, fun handouts and cleanup supplies!

## 4) Participate in the Alabama Coastal Cleanup.

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is held on the 3rd Saturday of September each year. Make a plan to join us in 2026 to vacation and help our shorelines become litter-free!

## 3) Participate in the "Don't Drop it on Alabama" Spring Cleanup.

Find a cleanup near you or start one of your own! The "Don't Drop it on Alabama" Spring Cleanup sign up information can be found on page 14 in this newsletter or simply scan the QR code & be directed to the sign-up page. The 2025 Cleanup yielded over 800 tons of litter collected around the state! Wow! We are offering more supplies in 2026 such as grabbers and gloves.

## 2) Have PALS Representatives Come Meet with Your Community Leaders to Create a Litter Plan.

We are happy to meet with your local officials to create a litter plan for your community. We can thoroughly explain our programs and connect them with other successful counties that are having great results in keeping our roadways litter-free.

### 1) Don't Litter!

This one is self-explanatory!

I realize that if you received this newsletter, you are already likely onboard with many of the points on this list. With that in mind, maybe the most important thing you can do is share this list with others around you! PALS is here to help you with the litter issues in your community. We have seen great strides made in the state, but there is always more work to do. Our Members, Volunteers, Board of Directors, Corporate Sponsors, and Partners are truly the best out there. We could not do this important work without your friendship and support.

It is my sincerest hope that each of you have a blessed 2026 and find ways to make meaningful connections in your communities. Coming together with a common goal is one of the best ways to build community pride. As you turn the pages of this PALS Prints edition, please notice the smiles and pride among these great volunteers! It is always fun to see the camaraderie that comes from spending time together making a difference! And, if you have anything else to add to our list or other ideas to share, please send me an email anytime at [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org). Thank you again for an amazing 2025, and we look forward to a stellar 2026!

— Jamie Mitchell

## MESSAGE FROM:

JOHN COOPER Director, Alabama Department of Transportation

Continued from page 2

well-maintained roads contribute to safer, more enjoyable travel. Alabama PALS plays a vital role in supporting this mission, and our partnership continues to be a powerful force for positive change statewide.

As we enter 2026, I encourage all Alabamians to remain committed to the PALS mission by being mindful of litter and taking an active role in caring for our state.

## PALS SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS

The Holle Foundation



The Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust

The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
ALL OUR SPONSORS,  
SUPPORTERS, MEMBERS,  
DONORS, AND FRIENDS!!**

## ALDOT REGIONAL ENGINEERS AND AREA OFFICES

### DERRICK R. WILSON, P.E.

North Regional Engineer  
256-505-4955

### DEJARVIS LEONARD, P.E.

East Central  
Regional Engineer  
256-327-4963

### JOSH KERVIN, P.E.

Southeast Regional Engineer  
334-353-6850

### MATTHEW J. ERICKSEN, P.E.

Southwest Regional Engineer  
251-470-8200

### WALLACE C. MCADORY, III, P.E.

West Central  
Regional Engineer  
205-562-3100



Alabama Department of Transportation

### Alabama PALS is proud to present a new Litter Pick-up Reporting Page!

Scan the QR code to be taken to the page where you can record your cleanup results for the "Don't Drop it on Alabama" Spring Cleanup, Adopt-A-Mile, Campus Cleanups, or any general cleanup. We'd love to see how many bags and/or pounds you are picking up!

There is also an opportunity to share photos from your cleanups so that we can share them on our social media and in the PALS Prints Newsletter! We are so excited to have this new reporting feature and hope it makes reporting a breeze! A big thank you to ALDOT for helping make this possible!



## MESSAGE FROM:

SHAY GRANT – Clean Campus State Coordinator

Happy New Year! Now is the perfect time to incorporate cleanups or campus beautification projects into your school's routine. If you're looking for inspiration or guidance, I'm always happy to help—just reach out! And if I haven't had the chance to visit your school yet, I would love to schedule an in-person presentation to share our litter-education message with your students.

Thank you to every school, teacher, and student who participates in the Clean Campus Program. Your commitment to litter prevention, environmental stewardship, creative projects, and community cleanups truly makes a difference. It takes all of us to keep Alabama the Beautiful!

Our annual poster and recycled art contests are wonderful ways to spark excitement about keeping Alabama clean. This year's poster theme is "Litter Free – Way to Be!" Please begin with a school-level contest and forward only your top three posters for statewide judging in K-3 and in 4-6. Be sure to review the judging guidelines with your students as they plan their artwork and double-check that all required contact information is included on the back of each winning entry. All submissions are due to the PALS Office April 16, 2026.

The Recycled Art Contest for grades 7-12 has no specific theme, so let creativity shine! We welcome both 2-D and 3-D pieces made entirely from recycled materials,

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## CLEAN CAMPUS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

Either fill out form and mail to Alabama PALS Attn: Shay Grant

8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

or apply online at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)

Current Member? \_\_\_\_ Y or \_\_\_\_ N      Circle One:    City School    County School    Private School

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Participating School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Our school has reviewed the requirements for the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program and is therefore applying to be a participating school in this statewide program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Contact Person)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRINCIPAL PERMISSION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal), give consent for \_\_\_\_\_ school to participate in the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program for the 2025-2026 school year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal) Date: \_\_\_\_\_



"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"



## ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PARTICIPATION FORM

Please Complete and Return to The PALS Office  
8136 Old Federal Road / Montgomery, AL 36117

Name of Participating Group \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Group or Individual on Sign \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

State Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Highway # \_\_\_\_\_ County Highway or Road # \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Sign: Mile Marker# \_\_\_\_\_ to Mile Marker # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Currently Participating

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Participating at This time and want sign taken down

\_\_\_\_\_ Participating But Sign Needs Replacing or Repaired

### Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for Highway Adoption - State/Federal

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Highway section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended for Approval:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Form/Application can be submitted  
online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)

### County Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for County Road Adoption

County \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Road section(s) you propose to adopt:

(minimum of one mile)

County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_

Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Applicant

Recommended Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, County Commission

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Form/Application can be submitted  
online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)

## MESSAGE FROM:

*CHRISTY WADDELL*

*State Adopt-A-Mile Coordinator*

When you notice litter in our great state of Alabama, do you simply grumble about it, or do you stop and pick it up? We all want to live in a clean, beautiful, litter-free place. Thankfully, many Alabamians are stepping up. They're giving their time and energy to pick up trash—often trash they didn't create—because they care about keeping our home beautiful.

More than 900 miles across Alabama have already been adopted and are being cared for by generous, dedicated volunteers. They're not doing it for recognition or reward; they're doing it because they want Alabama to shine.

And you can be one of those people. You can adopt a mile and help serve our great state through your own efforts. I encourage everyone to look for an area near you that you can adopt and make a positive impact.

— Christy

## PALS' PROGRAMS:

**The "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup**

**The Alabama Clean Campus Program**

**Adopt-A-Mile**

**Adopt-A-Stream**

**Alabama Coastal Cleanup**

**Litter Education Curriculum**

**Annual Governor's Awards**

**Statewide Chapter Network**

## PALS 2026 POSTER CONTEST

### GUIDELINES:

- Theme (the title Must be on the poster):  
"Litter Free – Way to Be!"
- K-6th (Two categories K-3rd and 4th-6th)
- Only one student may work on each poster...  
no partners, teams or groups.
- Standard White Poster or Foam Board (May be split in half)
- All mediums acceptable
- Posters will be judged on clarity of theme, age-appropriate neatness, originality, overall design and inclusion of helpful information or tips.
- Please only send in the top 3 posters from your school in each category.
- Back of Poster must have this completed form:  
**\*\*We really need ALL this information!!\*\***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ALL posters are due in the PALS office by  
Thursday, April 16th, 2026**

### WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 & Plaque

Second Place: \$75 & Plaque

Third Place: \$50 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

**\*\*All winners will be recognized at our annual  
Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2026\*\***

## MESSAGE FROM:

SHAY GRANT – Clean Campus  
State Coordinator

*Continued from page 4*

aside from a small amount of necessary fastening supplies. As with the poster contest, please send only your school's top three entries. Projects can be delivered in person or submitted digitally if the piece is too heavy or difficult to transport. If a digital entry is selected as a winner, the physical artwork must be delivered to the PALS office soon after notification. Please attach all required contact information to the artwork. Entries are due to the PALS office April 16, 2025.

Winners, schools, and PALS county contacts will be notified by May 8, 2026. All winning students will be recognized and presented with their awards at the Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2026.

If your school is not yet enrolled, it's not too late! Visit [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) to join the Clean Campus Program. Enrollment is FREE for all Alabama schools thanks to the generosity of Coca-Cola, Vulcan, ALFA, and the Alabama Farmers Cooperative. If you have any questions about the program or our contests, please contact me at (334) 263-7737 or [shay@alpals.org](mailto:shay@alpals.org).

– Shay

### Send posters to:

Alabama PALS  
Attn: Shay Grant  
8136 Old Federal Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

*Please contact Shay with any  
further questions at:  
(334) 263-7737  
[shay@alpals.org](mailto:shay@alpals.org)*

**\*\*\*Winners will be notified by  
May 8th. If your poster is not  
chosen, you may pick it up at  
the PALS office no later than  
May 21st\*\*\***

ALL Recycled Art projects may either be mailed to the PALS office OR photos of your project may be submitted by email to [shay@alpals.org](mailto:shay@alpals.org). If mailing/delivering your project, send to:

Alabama PALS  
Attn: Shay Grant  
8136 Old Federal Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

*Please contact Shay with any further questions at:*

(334) 263-7737

[shay@alpals.org](mailto:shay@alpals.org)

**\*\*\*Winners will be notified by May 8th. If your piece was submitted digitally and is chosen as a winner, it must be arranged to be delivered to the PALS office after notification. If your piece is not chosen, you may pick it up at the PALS office no later than May 21st. \*\*\***

## PALS 2026 RECYCLED ART CONTEST

### GUIDELINES:

- No set theme, so get CREATIVE and ORIGINAL!!
- 7th-12th grades
- May work alone or with one friend (no more than 2 students per art piece)
- Piece may be 2-D or 3-D and any size, as long as it can be easily moved.
- Art must be made entirely of materials that are eligible for recycling or that would be otherwise considered trash, except for a small amount of fastening materials such as screws, bolts, wire, welding, glue, tape and twine.
- Pieces will be judged on originality, visual impact, overall design and craftsmanship.
- Please only send in the top 3 recycled art projects from your school.
- Please attach this completed form with each submitted piece: **\*\*We really need ALL this information!!\*\***

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Art pieces due by mail, delivery or email by April 16th, 2026**

### WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 (to be divided if working with a friend) & Plaque

Second Place: \$75 & Plaque

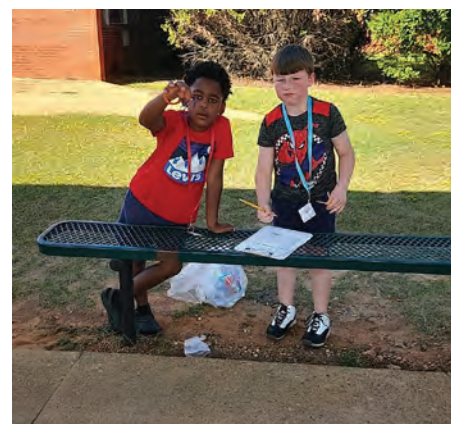
Third Place: \$50 & Plaque

Honorable Mention: Plaque

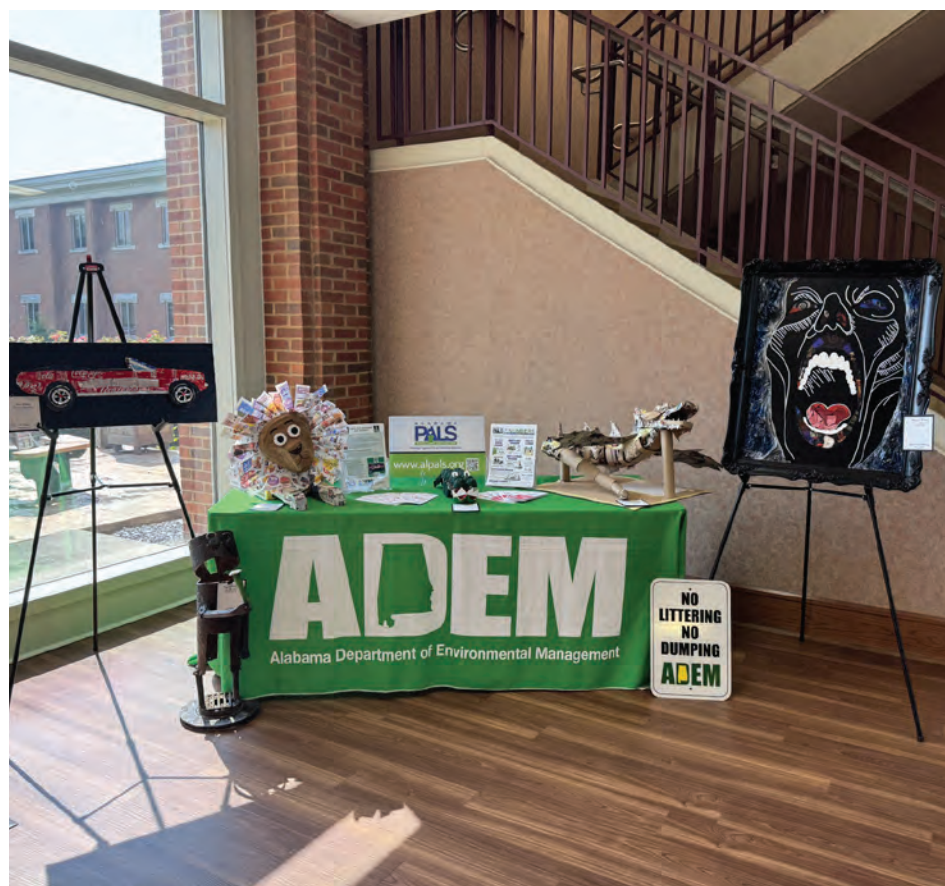
**\*\*All winners will be recognized at our annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2026\*\***



# ALABAMA PALS CLEAN CAMPUS



## CCP TRINITY





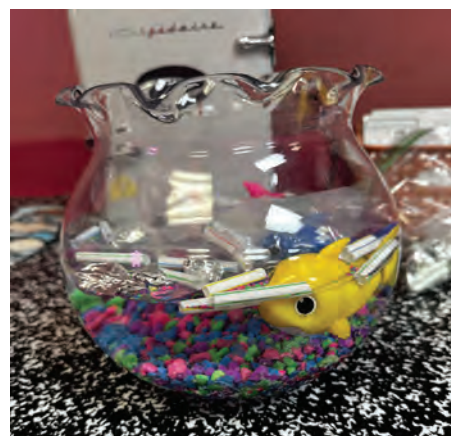
## DANVILLE



## CHEROKEE



## FLOMATON





## MIDFIELD



## PRATTVILLE



## SOUTHSIDE HS



## STAPLETON





By Mary Bonikowski, Bear Visual Arts Teacher and Green Team Sponsor

## BEAR EXPLORATION CENTER: GROWING GREEN LEADERS FOR ALABAMA

For more than a decade, Bear Exploration Center in Montgomery has made environmental stewardship a core part of its culture. As a proud participant in the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program, Bear isn't just keeping its school clean—it's shaping the next generation of Alabamians who care deeply about

their community, their state, and their planet.

At the heart of this effort is the school's environmental club, the Green Team. Founded in 2010 by parent volunteers, the Green Team has grown into a powerhouse of student leadership. Members



help run Bear's recycling programs, participate in monthly litter cleanups, create posters that remind classmates and visitors not to litter, and learn hands-on ways to protect the environment.

Fifth grader Jack Hardinger sums up the urgency of their mission in just five words: "People need to stop littering!" His classmate Kerri Williams shares what motivates her: "I feel proud when I go out and clean up litter around my school." That sense of pride and responsibility echoes across the entire team—every member agrees that caring for the environment is essential to keeping the community healthy and beautiful.

The impact of the Clean Campus Program reaches far beyond the Green Team. Students and teachers alike have become more aware of how trash affects not only the school but the whole state of Alabama. This awareness fuels action. Teachers model good habits, students bring their knowledge home, and families become part of a wider community committed to creating a cleaner world.

Bear's environmental efforts reach into every corner of campus, beginning with litter-pickup walks during P.E. and extending to the school's outdoor classroom and garden, where raised beds and a teacher-built compost bin give students hands-on experience planting, weeding, harvesting, and sharing fresh vegetables with the community. Recycling is a major focus at Bear—paper, ink cartridges, markers, glue sticks, and aluminum pop tabs are collected to keep waste out of landfills, with ink cartridges sent to Planet Green Recycling, used writing supplies taken to Staples, shredded paper donated to the Montgomery Humane Society, and pop tabs gathered for the Ronald McDonald House. Creativity also plays a role in Bear's sustainability work: old crayons are melted into colorful new shapes for the annual art show, the PTA's uniform recycling program supports families by passing along gently used clothing, the STEM Lab turns newspapers, cardboard, milk jugs, and other cast-off materials into learning tools, and the art room transforms everyday discards into imaginative works of art.

Through its strong partnership with the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program, Bear Exploration Center continues to nurture students who understand the importance of keeping Alabama litter-free. Bear is so grateful to Alabama PALS for their support, inspiration, and for recognizing students for their efforts. Today these students are cleaning up their school—and tomorrow they'll be leading the way toward a cleaner, greener Alabama.



# SPRING CLEAN-UP 2026

Mark your calendars!! The 2026 “Don’t Drop it on Alabama” Spring Cleanup will be here before you know it! The 2025 Cleanup had a very high level of participation state-wide and yielded over 800 tons of litter removed from our roadways and communities! We are hoping for even more participation in 2026, so make plans for your group now!

It is not too late to sign up your county, group, or organization. Please visit [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) and click the green button that says “2026 Spring Clean Signup” to order bags and supplies for the 2026 effort. Very exciting news is that we have more supplies than ever for our groups! We have already ordered large, heavy-duty bags, recycling bags, grabbers, gloves and vests to offer groups, but they will be first come first serve, so sign up early to claim your supplies!

PALS is so fortunate to have Coca-Cola UNITED as our Title Sponsor again for the 2026 cleanup. We would like to thank them as well as ALDOT, Vulcan, Alfa, the Poarch Creek Indians, the Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust, EBSCO, the Holle Foundation, and The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for their contributions toward supplies and education for the “Don’t Drop it on Alabama” Spring Cleanup. Please thank these fine organizations and sponsors for their part in accomplishing a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama.

Please also thank your respective County Commission Chair or Engineer for their part in the cleanup since they take the time to coordinate and pickup supplies to distribute locally. We are grateful for their support and partnership. We are also thankful to the Association of County Commissions of Alabama for assisting PALS in communications and distribution of supplies to each county. A very big THANK YOU to Jennifer Datcher with ACCA for all the work she does in organizing, communicating and scheduling with counties for pickups!

## Recycling

If your group plans to recycle plastic soda bottles (PET1) and aluminum cans for the 2026 cleanup, recycling bags will be provided in addition to the heavy-duty cleanup bags. Please be sure to indicate if you plan to recycle on your form.

## Important Dates for the 2026 Cleanup:

January	All Spring Cleanup Materials Ordered
Jan/Feb	All County/Group Contact Forms into PALS Office
February	Marketing Materials mailed to groups
March 2-13	Supply Pickup in Montgomery
April 2026	“Don’t Drop it on Alabama” Spring Cleanup Month

## Materials Provided by PALS

Large, Heavy-Duty trash bags with corporate sponsor logos  
Recycling bags with recycling logo  
Foldable grabbers with PALS logo  
Gloves with PALS Logo  
Vests with PALS logo and VOLUNTEER on back  
Marketing materials, window decals, sign-in sheets, liability forms, and PALS program brochures

Scan here to  
Sign up for the  
2026 Cleanup



The Spring Cleanup is also a great time to encourage your community to develop a litter plan and add the Adopt-A-Mile Program, Adopt-A-Stream Program, and Clean Campus Programs into your local area. These are all great tools to prevent and pick up litter year-round after the Spring Cleanup comes and goes.

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way in planning for the 2026 “Don’t Drop it on Alabama” Spring Cleanup. Thank you again for all that you and your groups do to further the goal of a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama. It is because of each of you that we can truly say “We are Making a Difference!”

-Jamie Mitchell, Executive Director, Alabama PALS



# 2026 Alabama PALS

"Don't Drop It On Alabama"

Statewide Spring Cleanup

Entire Month of April 2026

## **ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FURNISHED**

**Make Plans NOW for your City, County, School, Neighborhood or Volunteer Group to Join Volunteers from Every County in Alabama For the Annual Statewide Spring Cleanup!**

Cleanup Coordinator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup Details \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_







## 2026 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" SPRING CLEANUP CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Same number of bags as last year: Y or N If different, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in RECYCLING aluminum CANS and Plastic Bottles during the  
2026 Spring Cleanup? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



PLEASE send completed Form to  
**Alabama PALS, 8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117** or email to **jamie@alpals.org**



How do you  
"stash your  
trash"?  
Share your ideas  
with us using the  
QR code!



## MARSHALL COUNTY CLEANUP





# ALABAMA PALS BY THE NUMBERS

PEOPLE AGAINST A LITTERED STATE

Alabama People Against A Littered State (PALS) is dedicated to making our state more beautiful by sponsoring programs focused on cleaning up litter in Alabama's streets, streams, campuses and coastlines. Below is the impact of that effort.

**MILLIONS IN TAXPAYER DOLLARS SAVED BY PALS IN LITTER CONTROL EACH YEAR!**

## 'DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA' SPRING CLEANUP



64 counties involved in 2025

155,000 bags distributed in 2025

OVER 800 TONS



of litter collected in 2025

## ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM



925 sponsors

846 locations

938 miles adopted

## COASTAL CLEANUP



38 YEARS & growing

Over 116,000 volunteers have participated over the years

Over 7,000 miles of shoreline have been cleaned

## ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM

Eliminating litter at stream crossings in Alabama

OVER 300 streams protected statewide



## CLEAN CAMPUS PROGRAM

- Thousands of students educated each year on litter prevention
- Bags & grabbers provided to all member schools
- Contests for students & schools

OVER \$3,000 in scholarships given each year



Over 1.8 MILLION pounds of trash and debris have been cleaned from our shores

**GOVERNOR'S AWARDS** 65 individual and group awards given in 2025.



Jamie Mitchell and Bear School's Green Team leader and Art teacher, Mary Bonikowski



Check in table



Hal Taylor, Secretary of Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and friends



Bear School's first place poster winner Evan Pearson with his art teacher Mary Bonikowski



Tammy Stubbs with Coca Cola UNITED talking with PALS Chairman, Jeff Helms

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – WINNERS



1st Place: Evan Pearson, Bear Exploration Center



2nd Place: Daniel Choi, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet



3rd Place: Piper Dozier, Jones Valley Elementary School



Speaker Sonny Brasfield, Executive Director at Association of County Commissions of AL

## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Johanna Lee, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet



2nd Place: Luxe Reynolds, McBride Elementary School



3rd Place: Jatniel Vazques Reyes, Daniel Pratt Elementary

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – HONORABLE MENTION



Junwoo Hwang, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet



Eliana Lee, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet

## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – HONORABLE MENTION



Mollie Cooper, Covenant Christian School



Addie Moultrie, Chambers Academy



Anslee Russell, Lynn Elementary School



Zane Murray, Lynn Elementary School



# P A L S A W A R D S

## RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Evan Talley, Wetumpka High School



2nd Place: Evelyn Valentin and Prachi Patel, Arab High School



3rd Place: Kyzer Zeunges, Valley High School

## CLEAN CAMPUS SCRAPBOOK CONTEST



1st Place: Bear Exploration Center



2nd Place: Valley High School



3rd Place: Parkside School



Honorable Mention Cherokee High School, Colbert County



Honorable Mention: Makenna Rose, Valley High School



Honorable Mention: Brianna Powell, Wetumpka High School, Elmore County (award accepted for Brianna by her mother)



Honorable Mention: Issabella Moore, WF Burns Middle School

## ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM SPRING CLEANUP AWARD



Gadsden State Community College





**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**  
Osprey Initiative



**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**  
Alabama Community College System  
Elijah Baker and Boone Kinard



**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**  
Association of County  
Commissions Jennifer Datcher



**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**  
Alabama Broadcasters  
Association Sharon Tinsley



**ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD**  
Morning Star Lodge No. 50, Madison Co.



**ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD**  
Marshall County Democratic Club,  
Marshall Co.



**OSPREY INITIATIVE RECYCLING  
SPRING CLEANUP AWARD**  
Northwest Shoals Community College



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**  
Jay Tysver and Liz Malcom  
(not pictured), Jefferson Co.



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**  
ClasTran, Jefferson Co.



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**  
City of Brighton, Jefferson Co.



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Sue Doult, Marshall Co.



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**  
Erick Wade, Madison Co.



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**  
Dixie Grinders, Marshall Co.



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**  
Gone for Good, Jefferson Co.



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AWARD**  
Paragon Picture Gallery, Marshall Co.



# P A L S A W A R D S



**CITY AWARD**  
City of Cullman Sanitation  
Department, Cullman Co



**COUNTY AWARD**  
Chambers County Commission



**COCA-COLA "DON'T DROP IT  
ON ALABAMA" AWARD**  
DeKalb County Solid Waste  
Enforcement



**COCA-COLA "DON'T DROP IT  
ON ALABAMA" AWARD**  
Cullman County PALS



**CITY AWARD**  
The Restoration Committee of Lanett, AL, Chambers Co.



**CITY AWARD**  
City of Gardendale, Jefferson Co.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**  
Jefferson County Sheriff's  
Department Reserves, Jefferson Co.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**  
Sheriff Matt Gentry,  
Cullman Co.

**COUNTY AWARD**  
Marshall County  
Commission (not pictured)



**COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD**  
Rock & Roll Offs/Rocky  
Fremin, Mobile Co.



**COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD**  
Nancy Tuttle, Baldwin Co.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**  
Marshall County Sheriff's  
Department, Marshall Co.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**  
Chambers County Sheriff's  
Office, Chambers Co.

**MEDIA AWARD**  
(not pictured) Sand Mountain  
Reporter and The Advertiser  
-Gleam, Marshall Co.



**EDUCATION AWARD**  
Tammy Grace, Baldwin Co.



**EDUCATION AWARD**  
Oak Grove High School, Jefferson Co.



**EDUCATION AWARD**  
Minor High School, Jefferson Co.



**GOVERNMENT AGENCY  
AWARD WINNER**  
Jim Hudson, Clarke Co.



**EDUCATION AWARD**  
Hewitt-Trussville High  
School, Jefferson Co.



**EDUCATION AWARD**  
Clay Chalkville High School  
Broadcast Academy



**JEAN McCRADY SERVICE AWARD**  
Kimbrels Grocery, Jefferson County



**SPENCER RYAN COMMUNITY  
CONNECTIONS AWARD**  
Andy Cowan, Talladega County



**VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Dale Strange, Marshall County



**DON HINES  
MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Micky Hunt, Marshall Co.



## AIRBUS

"The Airbus Adopt-A-Mile program was accepted in 2022 in response to our initiative to request from employees' suggestions for Eco-friendly and Inclusive ideas. The Adopt-A-Mile was recognized as a tangible way to create a positive impact to our community, contributing to the beauty and uniqueness of coastal Alabama. In talking with my fellow volunteers involved, the impression I get is there is an impact on us too as we are humbled and grateful to make a positive difference to our city." -Glen Whisnant, Airbus Engineering Center, Mobile



## OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. OMEGA IOTA IOTA CHAPTER



## THE MEADOWS





## HANCEVILLE LIONS CLUB



## MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFFS





## MARENGO COUNTY





# AUTAUGA RIVER CLEANUP



## ADOPT-A-STREAM APPLICATION FORM

Name of Participating Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Proposed Stream Crossing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Location for Adopt-A-Stream Signs (Hwy #'s, Mile Markers, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send Applications to Alabama PALS, 8136 Old Federal Road, Montgomery, AL 36117  
Application can be submitted online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)



# ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP



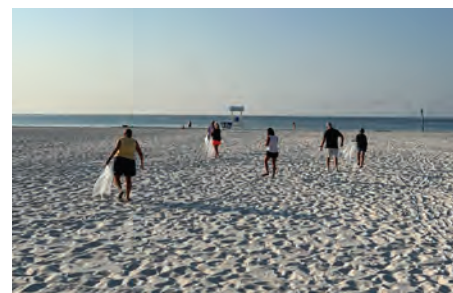


# ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP





# ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP





# ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP







*"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"*

### **Alabama PALS Newsletter**

*People Against A Littered State*

8136 Old Federal Road  
Montgomery AL 3617

Non Profit Organization  
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Montgomery, AL  
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# **2025 ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP SPONSORS AND PARTNERS**

## **THE POARCH CREEK INDIANS**

*Ike's Beach Service • Bebo's Express • Flora-Bama  
CoastAL • Perdido Beach Resort*

*Alabama Power Company • City of Orange Beach • LuLu's • City of Gulf Shores*

*Riviera Utilities • Evonik • Rock & Roll Offs • Compass Media • Coast 360*

*Coastal Conservation Association-Alabama • ALDOT • ALFA • Coca-Cola United*

*Vulcan Materials Company • Alabama Farmers Cooperative*

*Association of County Commissions of Alabama • Kommerling USA • ADCNR • Airbus*

*Osprey Initiative • Weeks Bay • The Home Depot*

*Thank You  
To Our Valued Sponsors and Partners!*

