Key Information

All materials are provided by MCDOT to groups from safety signs, vests, litter pickers, bags and shirts. We ask:

- All members be 10 years and older.
- An adult supervisor, at least 21 years old, is required for every five members under the age of 18.
- That each group member sign an agreement with McHenry County. Adoption terms are for 2 years and are renewable. Also new groups / members may join the program at any time.
- That each group will collect litter on both sides of their adopted section at least 4 times a year. A mandatory pick up is required in April and October.
- All group members watch a required safety training video in order to participate. The group leader is responsible to coordinate this and obtain clean up supplies from the MCDOT.
- That bags are to be left on the roadside and will be picked up by Division of Transportation staff.

Call to notify the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator at least ONE WEEK prior to completing a clean-up and IMMEDIATELY after a litter pickup so that the filled trash backs can be picked up the next day.

Call: (815) 334-4970
What is the Adopt-A-Highway Program?

The McHenry County Adopt-A-Highway Program is a volunteer effort to eliminate litter along sections of County Highways.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program started in McHenry County in 1995. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the program. To celebrate this milestone, our goal is to have all roads adopted. Volunteer groups adopt a 1 1/2 to 2 mile section of highway for a 2-year period. A minimum of 4 trash collections are required per year.

Benefits to Participating

- Your organization can gain recognition from thousands of potential customers or new members driving by your sign every day on McHenry County’s highways 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Visitors and residents will see your organization’s name supporting an important environmental issue.
- Your service provides a clean environment, gives civic pride to the community, serves as a reminder not to litter and saves tax-payers money.
- Receive badges or credit for volunteering from your scouting, school, church or other civic group!

Why pick up litter?

Roadside litter…

- Poses a traffic hazard
- Can injure wildlife
- Is detrimental to our farmland
- Carries germs and harms water quality
- Is unsightly and does not attract new residents or businesses

Let’s help keep our community safe, healthy and beautiful!