



April 24, 2009

Young Albertans spruce up highways on May 2

Annual highway cleanup day runs for 33rd year

Edmonton... Young Albertans will give the province's highways a spring cleaning and earn some money for their clubs and community groups at the same time.

The 33rd annual Highway Cleanup Day takes place Saturday, May 2, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the province. In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will take place the following Saturday, May 9.

Last year, approximately 5,000 young people from 360 clubs and non-profit organizations collected more than 32,000 bags of garbage from more than 5,000 kilometres of highway rights-of-way. That's enough garbage to fill 55 average-size bungalows from floor to ceiling.

Participants wear bright orange safety vests and are under adult supervision. They must be at least nine years old and attend a safety training program before they can participate. Participants may earn up to \$100 per kilometre of right-of-way for their club or non-profit community group. Last year, volunteers earned \$418,000 for their groups and clubs.

Motorists are urged to slow down, obey signs, and be on the lookout when passing the workers in the ditches.

Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm for more information on highway cleanup day.

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Backgrounder: 33rd Annual Highway Cleanup Day

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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33rd Annual Highway Cleanup Day

General Information

- Each year, between 4,500 and 6,000 kilometres of highway rights-of-way are cleaned.
- Most participants are between nine and 17 years old and represent minor sports, youth groups, or non-profit organizations. Adults may also participate. Money earned must be directed to non-profit, community, or youth organizations.
- The cleanup will focus on highway rights-of-way, which is the land adjacent to the highway.
- Cleanup work is done in partnership with Alberta's highway maintenance contractors who collect the garbage bags.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way within 16 kilometres of cities or towns with populations greater than 5,000.
- Outside the 16-kilometre area, workers are paid \$55 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way for highways deemed "Special Areas" because these highways have unusually high concentrations of garbage.
- Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm for more information on highway cleanup day.

Safety Information

- Participants and supervisors must go through a safety training program before they are allowed to take part in the cleanup.
- Workers wear bright orange safety vests, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- Supervisors must have emergency contacts and phone numbers with them.
- There is at least one adult supervisor for every two workers under age 14 and at least one for every five workers aged 14-17. Adult workers do not require supervisors.
- Participants must stay off the highway and paved shoulder.
- Participants do not clean medians.
- Younger participants work further away from the road surface than older youth.
- Signs are posted alerting drivers to be cautious of cleanup activities occurring in the area.
- Traffic safety is coordinated with the RCMP.

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