

# Marquette County Adopt-A-Highway

## THE MISSION

The Marquette County Adopt-A-Highway Program provides individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and public agencies with a unique opportunity to gain prominent recognition, take pride in their own community, and save tax payer dollars while beautifying the environment.

### Why participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program?

There are 238 miles of county highway roads within Marquette County. Unfortunately, everyday, people carelessly litter those county roads by throwing gum wrappers, cans and paper out their vehicle windows. Large bulky items such as tires and old furniture are also purposely dumped by the side of the road.

What can we do? It's simple. We're asking for your help! By taking part in the County's Adopt-A-Highway Program, our overall reach is greatly extended. Participants get the personal satisfaction by knowing that they are truly supporting their community.

### Is it easy to participate? YES

We welcome individuals, families, businesses, public agencies, and organizations. We simply ask you to adopt a 2 mile section of county roadway for a period of at least two years. Participating groups demonstrate the importance of a clean environment by spreading the word and setting the example that littering is unacceptable.

### What are the benefits?

Self-satisfaction along with the ability to keep the beauty of our highways in Marquette County. The program increases public environmental awareness, reduces littering, expands tourism, and creates a partnership between the citizens, community and the government.

## Do I have to sign an agreement? YES

A designated representative from your group must sign the Adopt-A-Highway Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure that the group acknowledges the hazardous nature of the work and is willing to accept responsibility for any liability resulting from their activities. The agreement also outlines the commitments made by the participants and Marquette County to help guarantee the program's success.

## Is a permit necessary? YES

Approved permits are necessary for all activities conducted in the road right of way. We issue permits to all participants free of charge because we appreciate your contribution to the community.

The permit issued to each individual, family, business, or group participating in the County's Adopt-A-Highway Program outlines the type of work that will be done and the specific location to be adopted. The permit may not be transferred to another group. Participants must read and understand the permit and the limitations.

## How do I get started in the Program?

It's easy!! To find out more about the program or to discuss a potential location for adoption, simply call the Highway Department. If you have a particular section of highway in mind and that location is available for adoption, all you have to do is fill out and return the completed Adopt-A-Highway Application.

When your application is received, you will be invited to attend a meeting to finalize your participation in the program. At that time, you will receive the free permit and the necessary supplies, and go over the safety rules and regulations.

## But, there's more! We commit to the following incentives:

**We will pay for and install** two recognition signs at the beginning of your adopted stretch of highway in each direction of traffic.

**We will provide** your group leader with the necessary roll up signs, vests, and garbage bags for the trash collected as well as the collection of the bags.

**We will issue** the necessary permit free of charge.

## In Return:

**You commit** to litter pickup along a two-mile section of a Marquette County Road.

**You commit** to reviewing and following all safety and permit requirements before each clean up begins.

**You commit** to picking up litter a minimum of two times a year, or more if needed.

**You commit** to notifying the Highway Department within a 24 hours of a collection to report that the litter pickup has been completed.

**You are encouraged** to sort litter when picking up, though not required. The group may keep any money collected from their recycling effort.

## Safety First and Foremost:

Common sense and personal responsibilities are a “must” for each program participant. Locations are selected to reduce risk; however, everyone must realize that they are working in potentially hazardous surroundings. While we want our roadways to be litter free, your safety comes first. We ask that you protect yourself and the others in your group by taking the following precautions.

**CLOTHING:** Put on the provided safety vests when you arrive at the adopted location. Wear light-colored clothing and long pants.

**VEHICLE SAFETY** at the location: Carpool whenever possible. Park the vehicles off roadways and shoulders. Never park on a bridge.

**PERSONAL SAFETY** at the location: Exit and enter your vehicle on the side away from traffic. Always face oncoming traffic. Be alert. Do not enter drainage facilities. Do not run, throw objects, or engage in horseplay or any other activity that will distract the driving public or interfere with motorists. Always be cautious when crossing the roadway. Drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration. Be careful not to overexert yourself.

**WORK CONDITIONS:** Do not work on holiday weekends or 24 hours preceding a holiday weekend. Do not work when raining or foggy. Avoid working when the conditions reduce visibility for the drivers. Do not work when the road is wet or icy. Stop working before dusk. Do not touch hazardous substances such as powders, chemicals, weapons, sharp objects or dead animals. When in doubt call the Highway Department. Be alert for stinging insects and toxic plants. Do not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while participating in your cleanup effort.

**REMEMBER: Always be prepared.** Be sure to have a first-aid kit on hand and always have transportation available.