

# 2018-2019 WEAT CLEAN SHORES CHALLENGE



Water Environment  
Association of Texas



Water Environment Association of Texas  
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# 2018- 2019 WEAT CLEAN SHORES CHALLENGE COMPETITION DETAILS

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## 1.0 Description of the Competition and Mission

### 1.1 Why should I participate?

Rivers are a major source of plastic and waste that eventually make their way into the ocean and other water sources. Current estimates show that between 1.15 and 2.41 million tons of plastic currently enter the ocean every year via rivers. Beach and river cleanups are a perfect way to have a direct impact on the quality of Texas rivers, lakes, and oceans. Being part of a cleanup event is also a great way to engage with your local community and have fun! On top of that, you and your group have the opportunity to be awarded and recognized at the Texas Water Conference Awards Breakfast. The conference will be held in Houston, TX on April 2-5, 2019.



2017-18 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge Competition, Southeast Texas Section

### 1.2 How do I get involved?

WEAT needs representatives to organize cleanup events, gather the information from each event, and share it with the River Cleanup Challenge Workgroup. Each section representative organizes volunteers from their local sections and organizations, and student chapters to plan, organize, coordinate and lead the events. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup, see **Table 1** below for contact information.

**Table 1: Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup 2018-2019**

| Contact                   | Email  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Elle Frier (Group Leader) | <a href="mailto:efrier@cpyi.com">efrier@cpyi.com</a>                       |
| Sharon Miller             | <a href="mailto:smiller@ntmwd.com">smiller@ntmwd.com</a>                   |
| Blayne Johnson            | <a href="mailto:johnsonbj@trinityra.org">johnsonbj@trinityra.org</a>       |
| Suparna Mukhopadhyay      | <a href="mailto:mukhopadhyays@cdmsmith.com">mukhopadhyays@cdmsmith.com</a> |

### 1.3 What is the Clean Shores Challenge?

The competition’s primary goal is to facilitate involvement and connection between WEAT Sections and their community, as well as encourage communication and collaboration among sections. The Clean Shores Challenge, formerly the Texas River Cleanup Challenge, is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, and beach cleanups and river cleanups are a key part of how we achieve our goal. The Clean Shores Challenge is a friendly competition, and it is part of a Texas-wide effort to keep Texas rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans clean while promoting environmental awareness and stewardship.



## 2.0 Timeline for Awards Consideration

1. An official 2018-2019 Submission Form (attached at the end of this document) should be submitted to the Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup by **January 11, 2019**. Note the main contact person (Section Cleanup Representative) on the submission form for section communications with the Workgroup Leader. An electronic PDF submittal must be sent to the Workgroup no later than **January 11, 2019**.
2. Awards will be announced at Texas Water 2019. A representative of each competing section should be present at the Awards Breakfast at the Texas Water Conference, **April 2 - 5, 2019**, in Houston, Texas.
3. Submissions for multiple awards are allowed and encouraged!
4. Submit forms via email to the Workgroup, see contact information in **Table 1** . As an alternative option, you may request a Dropbox or Google drive link to upload your submission form. Please request a link from the Workgroup.

## 3.0 Award Details

There are four award categories within the Clean Shores Challenge. Each award takes multiple factors into consideration, including volunteers, amount of trash collected, creativity, methods of promotion and advertisement for events, and much more. The submissions are evaluated based on a written summary and photos. The forms will be submitted to the Workgroup and distributed to judges for evaluation and scoring. The summaries account for half of the teams total score (the other half of the score is determined by photos).

All submissions shall be an electronic version.

The following shall be included as part of the submission in the order shown:

1. The Submission Form.
2. Optional cover letter to present additional information not included in the form.
3. Include references and acknowledgements of other organizations.
4. Graphics/photos can be included with each summary statement or can be included as supporting documentation/appendices.

## 4.0 Award Categories

### 4.1 Trashiest Section Award

The Trashiest Section Award goes to the section that demonstrates the most overall effort embodying the Clean Shores Challenge. This award considers the amount of trash collected, the size of the area that was cleaned up, collaboration with other organizations and the community, and the enthusiasm and participation of volunteers as seen through photos submitted and social media posts.

### 4.2 Most Spirited Section

This award is given to the Section that demonstrates their spirit and enthusiasm through engaging and inspiring their Section members, providing more connectedness within their section, and getting people to show up to participate in the cleanup event.





### 4.3 Most Creative Section

This award is given to the Section that demonstrates the most creativity through new ideas for cleanup events they plan, alternate uses of the trash they find, creative ways to attract participants and volunteers, or even T-shirts designed for the event. The sky is the limit!

### 4.4 Most Interesting Trash

Each Section applying for this award must submit one photo per cleanup event of what they have judged to be the most interesting trash found at each event. Past winners of this award have included a vintage Coca-Cola can and Chris Farley Album.

## 5.0 Prizes



*2017-18 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge  
Competition, Texas Water Awards Breakfast*

Winners of the different award categories will be announced at the Texas Water Conference scheduled for April 2-5, 2019, in Houston, Texas. Photos and summaries of submissions will also feature in the Texas WET (the official magazine of WEAT).

## 6.0 WEAT Section Cleanup Representatives

WEAT needs representatives from each WEAT section to organize cleanup events, gather the information from each event, and share it with the Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup. Each section representative organizes volunteers from their local sections and student chapters to plan, organize, coordinate and lead the event. Cleanup representatives are encouraged to collaborate with other community cleanup efforts or host their own event. Even better, the challenge is on your schedule! Entries will be judged based on challenge event(s) occurring between **January 1 - December 31, 2018**. If you are interested in becoming a Cleanup representative for your section, please contact the Workgroup.



*2017-18 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge Competition,  
North Texas Section*



## 7.0 History of the Competition

The competition is supported by the newly formed Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup led by Elle Frier and Sharon Miller, working under the Public Communications and Outreach Committee. The Clean Shores Challenge Workgroup facilitates the competition by advertising, encouraging participation among sections and student chapters, and coordinating the awards at Texas Water.

The competition originated in 2015 when the WEAT Public Communication and Outreach Committee and Municipal Resource Recovery Design Committee jointly planned a Texas River's Cleanup Challenge for all sections to compete and win the title of "Most Trashy Section", with Amy Robinson and Nick Landes (North Texas Section) spearheading the program.



*2016-2017 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge Competition,  
Central Texas Section*



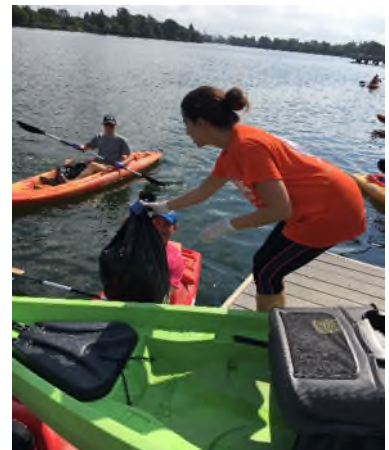
## 8.0 Submission Form Guidelines

Section representatives should consider the following helpful guidelines when completing the submission form.

1. Photos should demonstrate as much as possible why your entry is unique for every award category.
2. Entries without a photo will NOT be considered!
3. Please keep your submission to 3 photos per award category. Remember we're looking for diversity.
4. If you're submitting several photos, we suggest using a file sharing service, such as Dropbox.
5. We recommend using 8-megapixel digital camera or better and use the highest quality setting when you shoot.
6. If you're using your phone camera, please change the camera settings to the highest possible quality setting and export the image off your phone at full size.
7. Do not distort the image by applying photo filters or effects.
8. Largest possible file sizes are always recommended to produce the best results.
9. Only photos in jpeg format will be accepted.
10. Optional caption/cover letter for your submission is limited to 250 words or less.
11. Entries received after Friday, January 11, 2019 will not be considered.
12. Photographers are credited for each photo published.
13. By submitting your entry, you are assigning WEAT the right to use the photos in current and subsequent printings of the Texas WET Magazine in which they appear, whether in print or digital format and WEAT social media outlets.
14. For more information or questions, please contact your WEAT Section Representative or the competition Workgroup Leader: Elle Frier, [efrier@cpyi.com](mailto:efrier@cpyi.com).

### 8.1 Tips for getting the perfect shot – picture taking do's and don'ts

1. Check your camera focus.
2. Avoid taking photos of objects with inappropriate sayings on them.
3. Make sure your photos aren't too dark.
4. Avoid distracting backgrounds.



2017-18 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge  
Competition, Central Texas Section





## 9.0 Event Guidelines and Tips for Planning an Event

### 9.1 Introduction

So, you want to organize a shore cleanup... Well, that's great! Every time it rains, trash and debris are deposited along the shoreline. Without people to clean them, things can get pretty messy.

### 9.2 Pre-work and Planning

Identifying a location, spreading the word, reaching out to groups that share common interests, and providing enough notice to potential participants are all important for getting things started on the right foot.

### 9.3 Location

Finding a suitable location is important for getting things started off on the right foot. Ideally, the cleanup location should be easily accessible with access for parking, and in a public place.

Locations for past stream cleanups have included:

- Adopt-A-Beach, Coastal Bend Section and Texas A&M Kingsville
- Canyon Lakes System, Texas Tech Society of Environmental Professionals
- White Rock Lake, Dallas
- Trinity River (Locations in Dallas & Fort Worth)
- Lake Grapevine, Dallas - Fort Worth
- San Antonio River, San Antonio
- Buffalo Bayou, Houston
- Ladybird Lake, Austin

### 9.4 Spreading the Word

A colorful PDF flyer with photos from previous WEAT cleanups is a good place to start. It can be sent out electronically and printed and posted on bulletin boards as needed. Important info to include: Date and time of cleanup event, location, and contact info for interested participants to reply to. Social media is great for getting the word out!

A Microsoft Outlook calendar event placeholder sent to willing participants is also helpful as a reminder.

### 9.5 Partnering with Other Organizations

...is encouraged, and is a great way to increase participation! Below are some general groups to reach out to garner interest:

- Local University Organizations
- Local Non-profit Cleanup groups (e.g. For the Love of the Lake at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Groundwork Dallas)
- Professional Societies and Organizations (American Water Works Association, Engineers Without Borders, American Water Resources Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, etc.)
- Local River Authorities
- City-wide Cleanup Events



## 9.6 Lead Time for Scheduling the Event

Three months in advance is a good rule-of-thumb to start spreading the word about the cleanup. It's enough time to give people a heads up and get things planned and organized, especially if it's your first time doing so. During the last month before, send email reminders out to get a final estimate on participant headcount.

## 9.7 Guidelines for Cleanup Day

Time limit for cleanup – two to three hours of work time is plenty. You'll be surprised at how much work gets done!

## 9.8 Health and Safety Guidelines

### 9.8.1 General Safety

- Bring a sign-in/sign-out sheet for participants to sign
- Release waiver for volunteers

### 9.8.2 Wildlife

- Keep eyes open for: snakes, poisonous plants, other wildlife

### 9.8.3 If Going out on the Water...

- Don't get in the water. As much fun as it might sound, it's probably not very clean, and you'll probably not smell great when you get out.
- Wear a life vest, or at the very least, have one per person on the boat or canoe
- Keep an eye out for snakes in the water as well. Water moccasins aren't afraid of you!

## 9.9 Supplies to Bring for a Successful Stream Cleanup Event

### 9.9.1 Materials Supplied by Organizers

- Clear bags for recyclable materials (plastics, glass)
- Trash bags for non-recyclable materials
- "Trash grabbers"
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitizer
- First aid kits
- Canoe or rowboat if going on water
- Gloves (latex at a minimum for sanitation but work or "gardening" gloves are better)
- Construction vests, or a T-shirt for the event (optional) are helpful to designate who is participating, especially helpful if the cleanup is in a public place with other people around.

### 9.9.2 Materials Supplied by Individuals

- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirts (mosquitoes likely present)
- Close-toed shoes (snake proof boots a plus if going into heavily vegetated or wet areas)



- A supply checklist will help keep things organized and make sure that things go smoothly on cleanup day.

### 9.9.3 Additional Tips for Success

- Assign specific tasks to specific people to help ensure that things don't get lost in translation. For example, get 2 or 3 people to divide up responsibility for providing all the supplies, rather than asking each individual person to bring their own supplies.
- If working with a large group, splitting up into smaller groups prior to cleanup day may make the most sense to cover the most ground. If so, designate a small group leader for each small group. The leaders will oversee their groups, as well as communicate/coordinate with each other during the cleanup.

### 9.10 Trash Disposal

Plan a method to dispose of trash bags and recyclables. Contact a local landfill for disposal of large debris (scrap metal, tires, etc).

### 9.11 Last But Not Least: Ways to make it FUN!

Provide a little something to the volunteers who participate. Remember that they are giving their time, and they deserve to be appreciated! A T-shirt usually does the trick, but providing a good meal for after the work is done will keep morale high, encourage comradery, and also provide a bit of motivation to get things done!



*2017-18 WEAT River Cleanup Challenge Competition,  
Southeast Texas Section*



## Appendix A: Risk Waiver Template

### (Year) RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

WHEREAS, **(Company)** (hereinafter referred to as “Coordinator”) is coordinating volunteer service opportunities on property owned by the City of **(Name of City)** for the purpose of removing trash, solid waste and debris from an area (hereinafter referred to as the “Park Site”) or any other activity including but not limited to trail building, invasive plant removal, watershed maintenance and Brownfield remediation.

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ (**PRINT name of participant**, 18 years or older) has volunteered to participate in the work.

NOW, THEREFORE, WITNESSETH: I, \_\_\_\_\_ (“**Volunteer Name**”), hereby certify and affix my signature to represent and agree as follows:

1. I agree to abide by all Instructions given to me by the coordinator and its agents.
2. That by virtue of providing volunteer service in the work (a) **I do not become an employee of the (Name of City) or (Name of Organization), and (b) I am not entitled to any benefits provided to (Name of City) employees, to include health insurance, pension plans, unemployment compensation or worker’s compensation.**
3. I understand that some or all of the work will take place in unimproved areas. Consequently, I may be exposed to hazards including, but not limited to: animals, insects, vermin, snakes and other reptiles, medical waste, unlabeled containers, broken glass, tree limbs, overgrowth, poisonous plants and heavy equipment. **I EXPRESSLY RELEASE THE (NAME OF CITY) AND (NAME OF ORGANIZATION), THEIR OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR DEATH AND/OR DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY RESULTING FROM MY VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE DAMAGE OR INJURY WAS CAUSED BY AND/OR CONTRIBUTED TO IN ANY WAY BY NEGLIGENCE OR FAULT OF THE (NAME OF CITY), (NAME OF ORGANIZATION), THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES.**
4. I further understand that because the work will be performed in an unimproved area, for my own protection, I shall be required to wear protective clothing, including, but not limited to, long sleeved shirts, long pants, sturdy work-type shoes and heavy-duty work gloves.
5. I understand and agree that execution of this Release and Waiver of Liability for Voluntary services does not constitute a release or waiver by the **(Name of City)** of the defense of governmental immunity, or any other legal defense which may be applicable with respect to any claim which may arise against the **(Name of City)**.



EXECUTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, (YEAR)

BY \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer's signature

(If 18 yrs of age or older)

/OR

BY \_\_\_\_\_ Parent, Guardian, or Authorized  
Supervisor (if Volunteer is under 18 yrs of age)

**CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: (PRINT) Clearly Name, Relationship and Phone Number**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone#: \_\_\_\_\_





## Appendix B: Supply Checklist for Cleanup Events

- Clear Bags for recyclable materials (plastics, glass etc.)
- Canoe or Rowboat (if going on water)
- First Aid Kits
- Gloves (latex or gardening)
- Hand Sanitizers
- Insect Repellent
- Reflective Vests
- Risk Waivers (signed by volunteers)
- Trash Bags for non-recyclable materials
- Trash Grabbers
- T-Shirts for Volunteers (optional)



## Appendix C: Submission Form

### WEAT Section Information

WEAT Section (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Volunteers Participating: \_\_\_\_\_

### Event Information

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Cleanup Event: \_\_\_\_\_

River, Stream, Lake, Ocean: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Summary\* of Cleanup Event(s):

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References and Acknowledgements (groups or organizations outside of WEAT):

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Total Bags of Trash Collected (include photos): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Summary Statements should not exceed 250 words.

Please include photos (up to 3 per category) as submissions for each of the following award categories, as applicable to your event:

- Trashiest Section
- Most Spirited Section
- Most Creative Section
- Most Interesting Trash



## Submission Summaries

### **Trashiest Section Award:**

*The Trashiest Section Award goes to the section that demonstrates the most overall effort embodying the Clean Shores Challenge Competition. This award considers the amount of trash collected, the size of the area that was cleaned up, collaboration with other organizations and the community, and the enthusiasm and participation of volunteers as seen through photos submitted and social media posts.*

#### **Summary Statement:**

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### **Most Spirited Section:**

*This award is given to the Section that demonstrates their spirit and enthusiasm through engaging and inspiring their Section members, providing more connectedness within their section, and getting people to show up to participate in the cleanup event.*

#### **Summary Statement:**

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**Most Creative Section:**

*This award is given to the Section that demonstrates the most creativity through new ideas for cleanup, events they plan, alternate uses of the trash they find, creative ways to attract participants and volunteers, or even T-shirts designed for the event. The sky is the limit!*

**Summary Statement:**

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**Most Interesting Trash:**

*Each section applying for this award must submit one photo per cleanup event of what they have judged to be the most interesting trash they found at each event. Past winners of this award have included a vintage Coca-Cola can and Chris Farley Album.*

**Summary Statement:**

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