

**WORK PROGRAM FOR BLOUNT COUNTY  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LITTER GRANT  
2018-2019**

The Blount County Litter Grant Program for 2018-2018 will continue issuing citations to ongoing efforts of education and litter abatement. The grant is funded through the Tennessee Department of Transportation from a statewide tax on bottlers. Keep Blount Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, and the Blount County Sheriff's Office will work together to meet and exceed requirements for the program.

**Citations:** Citing litterers is a concern facing the Blount County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will continue to encourage officers to cite those who are breaking the law by littering. KAB Executive Director will work closely with deputies with information regarding litter laws.

**Removal of litter:** The Blount County Sheriff's Office will supply a deputy and a crew of 3 or 4 inmates to remove litter from roadsides. The crew also will work to remove illegal dumpsites. The Litter Crew will also be available to assist KBB during Cleanup Events. They will routinely clean area boat ramps and roadside picnic areas. The inmates are transported in a truck with trailer by a Blount County deputy. The Sheriff's Office provides gasoline, tires and maintenance for the vehicle. Other items provided are reflective vests, gloves, shovels, ropes, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit and garbage bags, grabbers for picking up trash, hand sanitizer, signage and emergency lighting. A cell phone for the guard is made available through the BCSO. Motorists will be alerted that inmates are working in the area with signs and lights. Lunch and water are also provided by BCSO as well as a first-aid kit.

Safety for the crew is foremost. The crew will not pick up on roads without shoulders. The crew will not pick up in extreme cold, rain, or heat. Blount County has participated in the Litter Grant program for more than thirty years with no serious accidents.

Litter is transported to the Blount County Landfill and charged to the Blount County Sheriff's Office. Litter Grants funds help to offset these fees.

**Education:** Keep Blount Beautiful, an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful organization, will work toward educational goals. The partnership with the Sheriff's Office will continue to provide the required educational element of the Grant. KBB will provide a monthly report to TDOT of educational activities in the County. These include school programs, outdoor adventures clean-ups, and speaking opportunities for clubs, churches and classrooms. KBB is also a participant in the Great America Cleanup.

**Adopt-A- Highway Program:** The Adopt-A-Highway Program will continue to be managed through the Keep Blount Beautiful office. This change provides an easier method for participants to obtain needed supplies for pickups for their adopted section of roadway.

**Reporting:** The Litter Grant will reimburse BCSO for a portion of the costs of the litter crew. A monthly request will be prepared and submitted to TDOT for reimbursement. An ongoing statistical report is updated with each reimbursement request. This information is a summary of litter crew activity including roads cleaned, poundage of litter removed, and days worked. These statistics are used during budget planning as well as newspaper articles that recognize the program.

The partnership of the Blount County Sheriff's Office, Keep Blount Beautiful and TDOT has continued for twenty years. The campaign to eliminate trash through education and litter removal is continuing with the funding from the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Litter Grant Program.

Submitted by Vicky McMurray  
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