



Earn the **Keep Texas Beautiful** patch by participating in a cleanup event, improvement project, or environmental activity that is sponsored by a KTB Affiliate!

Level 1 – Ages 10 and under

- Submit an entry to the Don't mess with Texas Art Contest
- Participate in a "Recycling fashion show" hosted by a KTB Affiliate
- Start a carton recycling program at your school, and use your KTB Affiliate as a resource
- Participate in a Texas Recycles Day event

Level 2 – Ages 10-15

- Submit an entry to the Don't mess with Texas Slogan Contest
- Create a demonstration garden with the help of a KTB Affiliate
- Volunteer to work a KTB Affiliate's booth at an environmental fair, or any other type of event
- Participate in an event that is posted on the KTB Calendar
- Volunteer at a Texas Recycles Day event

Level 3 – Ages 15 – 18

- If possible, join a KTB affiliate's Youth Advisory Board, Green Teens, or something similar
- Volunteer at an event hosted by a KTB Affiliate
- Host a GAC event with the help of your KTB Affiliate
- Join the Adopt-a-Spot program through a KTB Affiliate and commit to cleaning your area a minimum of two times per year
- Host or contribute to a Texas Recycles Day event

# I keep Texas BEAUTIFUL

Earn the **I Keep Texas Beautiful** patch by participating or hosting any activity relating to litter prevention, beautification, waste reduction, or environmental education.

## Level 1 – Ages 10 and under

- Attend an EnviroCamp or something similar
- Take part in a community service project to collect aluminum cans, bottles, or papers for recycling
- Make a booklet with drawings showing ways you can help keep Texas beautiful.
- Learn the numbering system or recycling symbols for recyclables, and find out your options for recycling them in your community
- Volunteer to cleanup your local park with some friends

## Level 2 – Ages 10-15

- Make litter bags, bookmarks, or up-cycled products with environmental messages and distribute them to your school, neighborhood, or anywhere else in your community
- Plan and carry out an improvement project somewhere in your community
- Conduct a pick-up litter day around your school, neighborhood, or community
- Discover how long it takes common pieces of litter to degrade, explain the harmful effects of litter on our environment to a younger group of
- Find out what plants and trees are native to your region and plant one, or multiple, with a group of friends

## Level 3 – Ages 15 – 18

- Organize or take part in a trail building project in your community
- Create an environmental education skit or play and perform it to an audience of younger children
- Design and Paint a mural to support graffiti prevention efforts
- Research 5 different careers relating to environmental science, conservation, wildlife management, or gardening. Interview two people and learn what a typical day is like in their field of work.
- Visit your local landfill to collect dumping statistics by watching the types of trash people bring to the dump. Identify problem areas and types of waste that are commonly brought to the dump. Propose new uses for common landfill problems like tires, construction materials, plastics, appliances, and computer parts.



The *I Can Dig It* patches are earned by doing a project or event that involves digging in the dirt or being a part of nature. This may include planting trees or flowers, building a garden or maintaining an existing one, spending the day in nature, and many other activities.

### **Level 1 – Ages 5-10**

- Help plant a garden somewhere in your community
- Visit a state park or nature center and get a little dirty!
- Complete a habitat hunt. Example found here: [Wildflower Center Habitat Hunt](#)
- Participate in a community Arbor Day celebration or National Planting Day activity
- Venture into Vermiculture! Find out what Vermiculture is and why it is so important to plant life. Visit this website to learn more about worm composting: [Worm Composting HQ](#)

### **Level 2 – Ages 10-14**

- Organize the restoration or beautification of a local park
- Help an elderly or disabled person clean their yard or beautify it
- Create a pollinator garden, register your garden through the Pollinator Partnership, and be added to the map in support of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. More information about the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge can be found here: <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/about/>
- Research native trees and plants in Texas, and find out why they are beneficial. Plant one in your front yard or ask a business or your city if you can plant one in a public area
- Participate in a community Arbor Day celebration or National Planting Day activity

### **Level 3 – Ages 14-18**

- Organize a plant sale and provide information on the benefits of trees and plants
- Take a composting class
- Build a nature trail for use as an outdoor classroom or for community enjoyment
- Host a community Arbor Day celebration or National Planting Day activity and add it to the Keep Texas Beautiful calendar

# Keep Texas *Waterways* Clean

The Keep Texas Waterways Clean patch aims to encourage youth to participate in the restoration of local waterways. A waterway includes oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, tributaries, bayous, and creeks. KTB wants Texas youth to understand the importance of clean waterways and how they can make a difference simply by picking up litter or restoring the waterway's surroundings.

Here are some ideas of how you can earn the KTWC patch:

## LEVEL 1 – Ages 5-10

- Draw a picture of the water cycle and discuss how pollution can affect the water cycle
- Write your own pledge to keep your community's waterways clean and beautiful
- Learn about the 13 major rivers in Texas, where they are located and the importance of them
- Identify 10 living creatures in a local waterway that can be harmed by pollution
- Create a trash collage from the litter found during a waterway cleanup to demonstrate the amount of pollution in your community
- Participate in a Keep Texas Waterways Clean event

## LEVEL 2 – Ages 10-15

- Figure out the difference between point source pollution and non-point source pollution
- Learn how rain gardens are beneficial to cleaning up polluted waterways and then build your own rain garden!
- Participate in a Keep Texas Waterways Clean event
- Learn about your watershed by using EPA's Watershed Information Network (WIN) at [Find Your Own Watershed](#) to find your watershed address and learn about its water quality issues. From here, you can surf your watershed and even adopt your watershed
- Create a watershed display for local fairs, festivals, public libraries, and community events to raise awareness and spread the word about water quality protection in your watershed. Your display could be a colorful poster full of pictures from different areas in your watershed. And it can provide information about important issues facing your watershed. Part of your display could even be an actual watershed model – visit EPA's "Build a Watershed Model" Web site for more information at [Build Your Own Watershed](#)

### LEVEL 3 – AGES 15- 18

- Complete a project or product to raise community awareness of the problems in a selected waterway
- Create a group to Adopt-A-Waterway
- Stencil storm drains with clean water messages, reminding the public of their role in protecting water quality and discouraging them from using storm drains as garbage cans. Find out more information on storm drain stenciling at
- Teach a younger group of kids about the effects of littering on waterways
- Host your own Keep Texas Waterways Clean event, get your supplies from Keep Texas Beautiful!
- Become a water quality monitor for TCEQ



The Don't mess with Texas® Trash-Off patch is designed to award those who have participated in a Trash Off event. It's a great way to thank volunteers or recognize those who are making a difference in your community.

Some ideas for earning the Trash-Off patch are:

**Level 1 – Ages 5-10**

- Participate in any cleanup event that is held during the Trash Off dates
- Make posters to promote a Trash-Off event in your community
- Visit a recycling center
- Make up a poem, poster, or skit about littering and display or perform it in a public place
- Submit artwork in the Don't mess with Texas Art Contest

**Level 2 – Ages 10-14**

- Participate in any cleanup event that is held during the Trash Off dates
- In a story, picture, or collage, trace a piece of trash from its source to its decomposition. Display or share your work
- Help start a recycling program at your school
- Paint an appropriate trash can and donate it to your park or community
- Start an anti-litter event or organization at your school

**Level 3 – Ages 14-18**

- Participate in any cleanup event that is held during the Trash Off dates
- Assist with an "Adopt-a-Highway" cleanup
- Plan a geocaching cleanup event for your community
- Plan a mural painting to cover an area that is plagued with graffiti
- Have a plant sale to raise money for your community's Trash-Off event