

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockbridge Area Community Cleanup

Sponsored by RACC (Rockbridge Area Conservation Council), Rockbridge County and VDOT  
**Saturday, March 17 through Sunday, March 25, 2018\***

RACC, Rockbridge County and VDOT are enlisting the efforts of organizations and groups, students, families, and individual volunteers to help beautify our Rockbridge home. In an effort to raise additional awareness to litter issues in our community, the 23rd Annual Rockbridge Area Community Cleanup will once again include the Litter Challenge! The group collecting the most wins the Litter Cup created by Mark Cline. In 2016 and 2017, the "Trash Bashers" collected 60 and 46 bags worth of trash to take the cup. Contest rules are listed below..

- ❖ If you have an on-going cleanup project such as Adopt-a-Highway, we encourage you to share in the spirit by doing your work on the community date.
- ❖ You may design your own project (such as picking up trash along county roads or city streets, cleaning up a park or trail, or hauling items out of a roadside dump).
- ❖ Or, if you wish, we will suggest a job from our list of areas in need of cleaning up.

## Litter Challenge Rules:

- ❖ The Litter Challenge is open to any Rockbridge County, Lexington City and Buena Vista City club, organization, business, school, family, or individual(s).
- ❖ You must indicate that you are participating in the contest when you sign up. Please provide a team name. Each team must sign up with RACC and designate a roadway or project.
- ❖ Each team must have a list of team members and roadways cleaned. Teams will submit photos of each full bag of trash, tires and/or debris collected. Photos must be sent individually or in a collage to [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org) or a collage on poster board can be dropped off at the Community Development Office, 150 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450.
- ❖ Participants will be judged on the number of bags of trash collected on the County and City roadways. Judges will determine the winning team based on the photo documentation presented to them by April 6, 2018. *Note: RACC and the County of Rockbridge reserve the right to use any photo documentation from the Litter Challenge in educational and press materials.*
- ❖ The winning team will be presented with the Litter Cup and will maintain possession of the Cup until the next Community Cleanup Day.

**Registration:** Register by mail by filling out the form on the back and mailing or taking it to the RACC office or go online to <http://rockbridgeconservation.org>. We will label your project location and team name on the Cleanup Map online. Check it out! Encourage your neighbors to join in!

**Supplies:** On or about **March 5, orange bags and safety vests** will be available at the following locations:

- ❖ **Adopt-a-Highway groups:** VDOT office
- ❖ **Everyone else:** Any County Recycling Center, Rockbridge County Community Development Office (M-F 8:30-5), or any Rockbridge Regional Library in-county branch.
- ❖ **After the clean-up,** please return orange vests to the library or the RACC office within two weeks following the event. They are expensive and must be re-used. Return extra bags too.

**Cleanup Tips:** VDOT will collect orange trash bags left along the roadside. You may leave large items for disposal (tires, wire, etc.) next to orange bags. If you work in an area inaccessible to VDOT trucks, please move bags to the nearest roadway. Recycling must (if collected) be delivered to a County Recycling Center.

**A Note of Caution:** Cleanup participants are advised to wear gloves and orange safety vests, *work facing traffic*, and be very careful on busy roads. Large CAUTION signs are available from VDOT. Volunteers assume responsibility for their own safety and supervision; no other agency (RACC, VDOT, local governments, etc.) can assume liability for any damage, injury, or loss to any person from any cause.

**\*Different dates are OK:** You are welcome to choose a different date, or postpone due to weather, but if picking up on an alternate date, please e-mail [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org) to arrange alternate day bag pick-up.

**Questions?** Contact RACC at (540) 463-2330, or e-mail [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org).

**More information and a Registration Form on opposite side or go to <http://rockbridgeconservation.org>**

# 2018 COMMUNITY CLEANUP REGISTRATION FORM

**Saturday, March 17 – Sunday, March 25, 2018**

(online registration is also available at the RACC website <http://rockbridgeconservation.org>)

Return to: RACC, P.O. Box 564, Lexington, VA 24450 or email info to [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org).

## We plan to participate in the 2018 Community Cleanup!

Name of group, family, individual or team name: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. number participants: \_\_\_\_\_ and we dodo not have vests.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_I/We would like to participate in the Litter Challenge.

\_\_\_\_\_I/We have a project planned. **Please describe your project and its exact location below.**

\_\_\_\_\_I/We would like RACC to suggest a project.

\_\_\_\_\_I/We would like to join RACC. Enclosed is a tax deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

----- clip & send in the form above—keep the below information -----

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### RACC Clean-up Volunteers – Information You Need

Thank you very much for agreeing to help us clean up our beautiful Rockbridge area. Here are some tips and suggestions for the clean-up:

1. Please let anybody who will listen know that we wouldn't need to do this if people would stop throwing their trash out of their vehicles.
2. You must use a reflective vest during the clean-up. If you don't have one, obtain a reflective safety vest after March 5 from the library headquarters, a library branch or a recycling collection center. You may need to request one if their supply is gone, and they will have it for you within a couple of days. Please return the vest to where you borrowed it – they are expensive and we need to re-use them. Orange bags are available at the same locations, and extras should also be returned.
3. Tie the tops of the orange bags so they won't spill, and leave them on the roadside so VDOT can pick them up. **\*\* VDOT keeps a record of the amount of trash collected this way, so please leave the bags for their pickup instead of taking them to a dumpster yourself.** If you work in an area inaccessible to VDOT trucks, please move bags to the nearest roadway.
4. VDOT does not pick up recyclables, so if you bag those up separately, please take them to the nearest recycling collection center yourself. Only clean recyclables will be accepted. Report these recycling bag numbers to [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org).
5. If you work on a date different date, please e-mail [cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org](mailto:cleanup@rockbridgeconservation.org) or call RACC 463-2330 to arrange alternate day bag pick-up. We need to know when and where you will be leaving the orange bag(s) so VDOT can be sure to schedule a pickup soon thereafter.
6. Wear strong gloves. Some of the debris is sharp (broken glass; metal edges) and some is quite unsavory. The Rockbridge County Sheriff wants us to be aware of soda bottles used in the production of crystal meth drugs ([http://media.mlive.com/newsnow\\_impact/photo/9682851-large.jpg](http://media.mlive.com/newsnow_impact/photo/9682851-large.jpg)). If you come upon bottles with white residue in them, especially with tubes attached, do not disturb them and let the authorities know where they can be found. Even though the drug materials likely have been removed, the remaining substances can be hazardous to handle.