



# News Release

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## **Volunteers Needed to Register for Pre-Oil Beach Cleanup** *Keep Pinellas Beautiful Needs at Least 2,000 Volunteers*

Although there is no imminent threat of oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill making landfall in Pinellas County, volunteers are needed to register for a pre-oil beach cleanup, if necessary. There is no date or time for the event; it will be scheduled only if a notification is received from the U.S. Coast Guard that oil residue threatens the Pinellas County shoreline. To register for the Special Beach Cleanup, visit [www.pinvol.org](http://www.pinvol.org). Those who register will be notified by e-mail if oil landfall is expected within 48 hours. Removing litter ahead of time would speed oil cleanup by reducing the amount of potentially contaminated material, remediation time, cost, and human exposure to harmful materials. Only trained contractors, not volunteers, would be utilized to clean up oil impacted shorelines or any activities involving direct contact with oil.

Keep Pinellas Beautiful (local anti-litter organization) is coordinating the countywide event in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and local beach managers. According to Bill Sanders, executive director of Keep Pinellas Beautiful, "Our goal is to clean up every inch of the Pinellas County coastline, including the outer islands." Each area will have a designated site captain to organize the volunteers and ensure that no harm comes to nesting birds or turtles. Anyone interested in fighting litter and safeguarding local beaches is encouraged to register, including individuals, families, or community groups. At least 2,000 volunteers are needed. For more information, call Keep Pinellas Beautiful at (727) 533-0402.

For additional volunteer opportunities (such as coastline watcher or bird counter), visit [www.pinellascounty.org/oilspill2010.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/oilspill2010.htm), and select Volunteer Opportunities. For information on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, call the Florida Oil Spill Information Line at (888) 337-3569 or visit [www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com).

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