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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'Pick Up the Poconos Day' Set for September

Litter efforts continue yielding impressive results in the Poconos

July 22, 2020 – The <u>Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau</u> (PMVB) is pleased to announce the 3rd annual <u>Pick Up the Poconos Day</u> will be held on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>September 26, 2020</u>. Originally launched in Monroe County, this year the event is being expanded to Wayne, Pike and Carbon counties. Volunteers are encouraged to <u>sign up online</u> to select the specific county and area they would like to clean.

Thanks to PennDOT and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the PMVB provides all supplies including gloves, bags and trash grabbers. The volunteer signup deadline for Pick Up the Poconos Day is Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 5 p.m. Please help spread the word by <u>sharing the event</u> on Facebook.

"Since Pick Up the Poconos Day began, nearly 700 volunteers have removed 1,500 bags of trash from our roads," said Chris Barrett, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau President/CEO. "In a time when social distancing is important, this is a great way to make a positive impact in your community while enjoying the open-air with family and friends."

Another anti-littering effort, <u>Pocono 3C</u>, is getting ready to relaunch after being sidelined for months due to COVID-19. The unique program employs homeless and at-risk individuals to remove litter year-round from major and side roads. Since its inception last summer, Pocono 3C has helped 25 homeless individuals secure housing, while crews have removed more than 5,100 bags of trash from 261 miles of roadway.

The PMVB also recognizes that municipalities are dealing with overcrowding and trash issues, which have worsened in recent months. In an effort to keep our communities clean, PMVB staff teamed up with Smithfield Township earlier this month to clean Minisink and River's Edge Parks.

"We thank the wonderful group of enthusiastic, dedicated folks that cleaned two of our parks after a hectic and messy weekend," said Brian Barrett, Smithfield Township Supervisor. "These efforts allowed us to reopen the parks for the public to use in a safe, clean environment."

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We recommend that you call ahead to your destination before traveling to ensure nothing has changed. Maskwearing is mandatory in Pennsylvania when entering any business. Please continue to practice social distancing.

Pocono Mountains visitor information is available online at <u>PoconoMountains.com</u> or by phone at <u>(570) 421-5791</u>. Follow @PoconoTourismPR on Twitter to stay current with up-to-date information. Established in 1934, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. The PMVB is the official destination marketing organization for the four counties of Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon in Northeastern Pennsylvania.