



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA State Strategies in Building, Supplying and Maintaining Communities

South Carolina Lt. Governor Pamela Evette: *“Grab a Bag” and keep our communities beautiful!*



The appearance and cleanliness of a community can have a big impact on the quality of life for its residents. Studies show that litter and pollution affect environmental quality, economic activity, home and property values, and even blight and crime rates. According to a study by Keep America Beautiful, litter pickup costs businesses \$9.1 billion per year, and educational institutions spend \$241 million annually on litter abatement – money that could be better spent elsewhere.

To combat litter, it takes many people coming together to help clean up, and cleaning up litter has been near to my heart for several years. That’s why I partnered with several state agencies and nonprofits to launch **“Grab a Bag SC,” a statewide initiative to encourage businesses and citizens to get together and clean up litter, one bag at a time.**

First launched in October 2019, we announced this year’s “Grab a Bag” campaign in October as a safe, fun way to improve our communities and get outdoors during the pandemic. Litter pickup events are a great way for people to safely enjoy the outdoors while doing something good for the environment. When following CDC guidelines for social distancing, picking up litter in your community can be a purposeful way to take care of your well-being but still give back.

In short, getting outside and doing something for our community can make a tremendous impact on more than just our neighbors.

In 2019, participants of “Grab a Bag SC” picked up more than 116 tons of litter from our roadways. I’m hopeful this year’s campaign will result in even more garbage being removed from our communities.