

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Q) How many cigarette butts are tossed out on Texas highways each year?

A) 140 million*

Who: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Volunteer Fire Department
What: Annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off
When: Saturday, April 14, 2007 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Where: FM Road 1061

Amarillo- Boys and girls from Cal Farley's Boys Ranch will join more than 1,350 Adopt-a-Highway groups in 73 communities across the Lone Star State for a Texas-size cleanup on Saturday, April 14, 2007. The Annual Don't Mess with Texas "Trash-off," one of the nation's largest single-day cleanups, will help to clear up Texas roadsides from airlifting abandoned cars to picking up tens of thousands of cigarette butts. Last year, more than 70,000 volunteers statewide hauled an estimated 1 million pounds of litter from roadsides and city streets in the Lone Star State. At Cal Farley's, the Boys Ranch student-volunteer firefighters will clean their adopted highway, and then assist in the cleanup of 7 ½ more miles of highway. As an incentive, the participants have taken pledges for the cleanup from Cal Farley employees. *"Our kids use the funds to compete in the Panhandle Firemen's and Fire Marshalls' Annual Convention and Competition,"* says the group's sponsor, Mike Pacino.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, it costs more than \$32 million to clean up roadside litter in Texas last year. Tax dollars paid for 90% of

that. Additionally, more than half of roadside litter in Texas flies out of the back of pickup trucks and it is estimated that it will take a beer bottle one thousand years to biodegrade*. Since 1994, Trash-Off volunteers have picked up more than 14 million tons of trash. Pacino adds, "*It's just a good community activity for the boys and girls at Cal Farley's to take part in.*" For more information on the Annual Trash-Off day, you can visit this website:

<http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/>

Cal Farley's cares for approximately 300 at-risk boys and girls at its two campuses – Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. Children from pre-school through high school are accepted with no charge to their families. The Cal Farley programs provide a variety of academic, vocational, spiritual and extra-curricular activities for the children in care, in a Christ-centered environment.

*=source, the Don't Mess with Texas organization

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