



SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
4601 Padre Blvd.  
South Padre Island, TX 78597  
(956) 761-8106 \* (956) 761-3888 fax

Contact:  
Angelique "Nikki" Soto  
[NSoto@myspi.org](mailto:NSoto@myspi.org)  
(956) 761-8106

### **SPI recognized as Gold Star Affiliate by Keep Texas Beautiful**

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB), a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement organization, recently named South Padre Island a Gold Star Affiliate, a designation conferred on just 66 of KTB's more than 395 affiliates in 2017. KTB works with government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to take individual responsibility for making Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. Gold Star recognition is the highest status any community affiliate can achieve.

South Padre Island has successfully implemented local programs and campaigns to clean up litter, reduce and recycle waste, educate local citizens and beautify and enhance the local community. Recycle Land is a yearly event held in South Padre Island to help raise awareness about the correct way to recycle items. The public is invited to recycle items that are not normally collected at South Padre Island's weekly recycle program. The 2016 Recycle Land event collected over 1,141 E-waste items, 20 used tires, 50 pounds of bottle caps and 399 phone books. Furthermore, South Padre Island also has a Keep SPI Beautiful Committee and an anti-litter program, TREASURE it...don't TRASH it!

The success of these programs has placed South Padre Island Beaches on the map as one of the cleanest beaches in the state and the nation. In 2016, Litter Patrol Officers educated 34,524 beachgoers about the importance of not littering, issued 561 citations for glass on beach and 68 citations for littering. There were 62 warnings issued for glass on beach and 178 warnings for littering.

To achieve this status, affiliates must share information on their mission and goals, answer questions about their educational programs and solid waste initiatives or participate in the Keep Texas Beautiful or Governor's Community Achievement Awards programs, and provide a letter of support from their community. Affiliates must also participate in KTB event, demonstrate community wide support and contribute to the sharing of best practices. KTB formally recognized Gold Star communities during its 50th Annual Conference in San Antonio, which was held June 12-14, 2017.

For more information about KTB, visit [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org).

###