

# Stanislaus County



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

# Adopt-a-Road Program Guide

### **MISSION**

Manage and improve infrastructure through safe and efficient use of resources and assets for the benefit of our citizens.

### **VISION**

Strive to be the leading Public Works Department through innovative stewardship of infrastructure and environment.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Prospective Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in the Stanislaus County Adopt-a-Road Program. The Adopt-a-Road Program Guide is designed to make the program easy to understand and participate in. The list below describes the contents of this Guide and gives simple directions to follow. To complete the application process, you will need to fill out and return pages 6, 8, & 10 of the Guide. Our Program Manager will meet with you to fill out page 7, and after each cleanup, you will need to fill out and return page 12, (and page 8 if updated). Please read each section of this Guide and call the Program Manager at (209) 525-4130 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Randy Avants  
Adopt-a-Road Program Manager

The following is a summary of the activities detailed in the following guide.

**GUIDE CONTENTS:**

**Fact Sheet (Page 3)**

This sheet provides general information about the Adopt-a-Road Program.

**Frequently Asked Question Sheet (Page 4-5)**

This sheet answers some of the most frequently asked questions about the program.

**Adopt-a-Road Application (Page 6)**

The form needs to be filled out by the organization or individual wanting to adopt a road. The group leader should mail the application to the Adopt-a-Road Program Manager.

**Acceptance and Conditions (Page 7)**

The form defines the responsibilities of the adopting organization as well as the Stanislaus County, Department of Public Works. The form needs to be filled out and signed by the group leader. This form shall be mailed along with the application. The Program Manager must receive the signed form before the first cleanup can be scheduled.

## **GUIDE CONTENTS – CONTINUED**

### **Hold Harmless (Page 8)**

This form needs to be signed by each volunteer participating in the cleanup. All participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian signature. A copy must be sent to the Program Manager and the group leader should keep the original. If any new volunteers participate during following cleanups and did not sign the original, have them sign and send an updated copy to the Program Manager.

### **Recognition Sign Request (Page 9 and 10)**

Group leaders must complete this form to request the installation of two Adopt-a-Road recognition signs. As shown on this sheet, the County will provide two plates showing the organizations name, one located at the beginning of each street section. Organizations also have the option of placing their organizations logo on the plates after the logo has been approved by the County.

### **Equipment Kit Contents (Page 11)**

The group leader should use this list as a guide when picking up the safety equipment. All listed items should be included inside the Equipment Kit. If any items are missing, please inform the Program Manager. During your Adopt-a-Road cleanup, safety equipment is required. This equipment can be reserved for your group by calling the Program Manager at least five business days in advance of the cleanup date to arrange for a specific time to pick up the safety equipment.

### **Completion Form (Page 12)**

After each cleanup, group leaders must mail, fax, e-mail, or bring in the Completion Form to the Program Manager to repost the figures as requested. The group leader should make several blank copies of this form to keep in their Adopt-a-Road file for later use.

### **Safety Guidelines (Page 13)**

All volunteers participating in the cleanup will need to be familiar with the Safety Guidelines Sheet. This can be used as a reference in the field, in addition to the Safety Orientation Class.

### **Items to Bag, Move, or Leave (Page 14-15)**

Volunteers working along the roadside will find all types of garbage to bag. However, some of the items found should be left where they are found. The list on pages 14 and 15 clarifies which items to bag, move, or leave.

### **Garbage Bag Placement Plan (Page 16)**

The drawing on page 16 shows a sample setup for an Adopt-a-Road cleanup. Safety is the number one priority during all cleanups. Your Program Manager will make adjustments to the setup of safety equipment and garbage bag placement, if necessary.

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Fact Sheet

The Adopt-a-Road Program involves volunteer organizations picking up litter on the roadside of local Stanislaus County streets. The cleanup area may be as much as the volunteer organization can control, but no less than ½ mile long. Volunteer organizations will need to clean each street section 2-4 times per year. In addition, the leaders of each organization along with the initial volunteers are required to attend a Safety Orientation class. Group leaders will be responsible for training any additional future volunteers. Organizations are also required to fill out an Adopt-a-Road Application, and Release of Liability form, before cleanup can begin. Organizations are required to contact the Program Manager two business days prior to their scheduled cleanup and within one business day following the cleanup. In addition, once cleanup is completed the organization will need to fill out a Completion Form and return to the Program Manager via mail, fax, or e-mail.

Stanislaus County, to show its appreciation, will provide two Adopt-a-Road signs, one at each end of the adopted section to show where the organization is working. Signs will display the organizations name and logo (to be provided by its organization), but no addresses or phone numbers are allowed. How long will the signs be posted? For the length of adoption, which is two years.

The County will supply garbage bags and safety equipment to the volunteers and will provide garbage pickup service.

The Adopt-a-Road Program hopes to prove successful in improving appearance through litter pickup and is a great way for the community based organizations/groups and business to show their involvement in the community. This Program will provide another opportunity for business and community based organizations/groups to work together in this effort. Anyone interested in this program should contact the following:

Stanislaus County  
Department of Public Works  
1716 Morgan Road  
Modesto, CA 95358  
(209) 525-4130  
[www.stancounty.com/publicworks/](http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/)

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Frequently Asked Questions

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**1. *What is the Adopt-a-Road Program?***

It is a program where organizations take on the responsibility of picking up litter on a specific section of roadway. Volunteer organizations are recognized by having their name and/or logo (logo to be provided by organization) on two roadside signs provided by Stanislaus County.

**2. *How do organizations Adopt a Road?***

- Contact the Adopt-a-Road Program Manager, at Stanislaus County, Department of Public Works at 1716 Morgan Road, Modesto, California, 95358, (209) 525-4130.
- A member of our staff will discuss with you which street(s) are available for adoption and send you a Program Guide to complete.
- After completion of the application, and review by our Program Manager, arrangements will be made to finalize the adoption.

**3. *Is this anything like the Adopt-a-Highway Program sponsored by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)?***

Yes, the Adopt-a-Road Program is very similar to the state program, but it only involves local streets within Stanislaus County.

**4. *Isn't working along the road too dangerous for volunteers?***

Each volunteer's safety is extremely important to us. Therefore the leaders of each organization along with the initial volunteers are required to attend a Safety Orientation class. Group leaders will be responsible for training any additional future volunteers. In addition, safety vests and brightly colored garbage bags will be provided.

**5. *If someone is injured while participating in the Adopt-a-Road Program, who is responsible for their injuries?***

The Adopt-a-Road Program is a volunteer program. All volunteers agree to participate in this program at their own risk. During the adoption process, each member of the organization will be required to sign a Hold Harmless form.

**6. *Is there a minimum length of street to be considered?***

Yes, a minimum of ½ mile long is necessary for operational efficiency and bookkeeping. Exceptions may be made for difficult areas on a case-by-case basis.

## **QUESTION/ANSWER SHEET – CONTINUED**

**7. How long is an adoption period?**

An adoption period is two years.

**8. How many times per year does an organization have to pick up litter along the adopted street?**

Each adopted street must be cleaned of litter 2-4 times per year, depending on the street section. Some sections have a history of accumulating a lot of litter (4 times), while others only require an occasional cleanup (2 times).

**9. Once the organization's volunteers fill up the garbage bags, who picks them up?**

Once the County Program Manager has been notified by an organization that trash pickup has been completed, the County will schedule pickup of the bags.

**10. Who provides the Adopt-a-Road Signs?**

Stanislaus County will provide two Adopt-a-Road signs, one sign at each end of the adopted street section. The signs will provide the sponsoring organizations name in sufficient detail to identify the organization.

Organizations also have the option of placing their organization's logo/name on the sign. Organizations requesting a logo or name written in a special writing style (font) will be able to take the plate (described below) to a private sign shop where upon their logo and/or name can be placed. **All logos must be approved by the County.**

Once the plate is completed and returned to the County, arrangements will be made to place the plate on the permanent Adopt-a-Road sign within 30 days after the initial cleanup. No street address or telephone number will be included on the signs. The County will maintain the signs. The signs will stay in place for the two year adoption period, or longer if the adoption is extended or another two year period.

**11. What size are the Adopt-a-Road signs?**

Each permanent Adopt-a-Road sign measures 36" x 36". Within the sign is a removable plate which measures 30" x 12". Adopting organizations will be able to have their name placed on this plate by the County.

**12. How soon after adoption will the Organization be recognized with an Adopt-a-Road Sign?**

Volunteers will be recognized for participation in the Adopt-a-Road program within thirty days after the first cleanup.

Please call the Adopt-a-Road Program Manager with any further questions at: (209) 525-4130 or [avantsr@stancounty.com](mailto:avantsr@stancounty.com)

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Application

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| _____<br>Name of Organization                   | _____<br>Date of Application |
| _____<br>Mailing Address                        |                              |
| _____<br>City, State, Zip Code                  |                              |
| _____<br>Name of Contact                        | _____<br>Telephone           |
| _____<br>Name of Alternate Contact              | _____<br>Alternate Telephone |
| _____<br>Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code |                              |

Street Section you are interested in adopting. List in order of preference. Please specify limits from/to.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**The adopter agrees to follow safety tips and to indemnify and hold harmless Stanislaus County, its Board of Supervisors, officers, directors, agents, employees, and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, losses, liabilities, damages, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and damages of any nature whatsoever to any person or property, arising out of or resulting from the performance or non-performance of this Agreement.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature of Adopting Organization

Date

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Application Acceptance and Conditions

The adopting organization agrees to participate in the program by:

- Picking up litter along the specific roadway within the time limits agreed upon below.
- Following the Safety Tips and procedures as described in the Safety Orientation class.
- Signing the release of liability forms included.

If, in the sole judgment of Stanislaus County, it is found that the adoption group is not meeting the terms and conditions of this agreement, upon 30 days notice, the Department of Public Works may terminate the adoption agreement.

Stanislaus County will provide two 36" x 36" Adopt-a-Road signs, one at each end of the adopted street section. Affixed to each sign will be a 30"x12" plate displaying the organizations name in sufficient detail to identify the organization. Organizations requesting a logo or name written in a special writing style (font) will be able to take the 30" x 12" aluminum plate (provided by the County) to a private sign shop where upon their logo and/or name can be placed. Stanislaus County retains the right to reject, without cause or explanation, any symbol or seal the Stanislaus County determines unacceptable. **All logos must be approved by the County.** Once the plate is completed and returned to the County, arrangements will be made to place the plate on the permanent Adopt-a-Road sign. Organizations will be recognized via their name/logo on the permanent signs for participation in the Adopt-a-Road program within 30 days after the first cleanup.

Stanislaus County recognizes

\_\_\_\_\_ as the adopting organization and promoting a litter-free environment on the section of roadway described as \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and in the community for a period beginning on \_\_\_\_\_ and ending on \_\_\_\_\_ with cleanup to be \_\_\_ times per year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Avants  
Adopt-a-Road Program Manager

|       |     |      |
|-------|-----|------|
| Jan   | Feb | Mar  |
| April | May | June |
| July  | Aug | Sep  |
| Oct   | Nov | Dec  |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Authorized Signature for Group

Anticipated Clean-up Months  
(Coordinator to check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature for Group

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County  
Department of Public Works

## Adopt-a-Road Program Hold Harmless

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I/We have read and understand the safety tips provided by Stanislaus County, Department of Public Works.

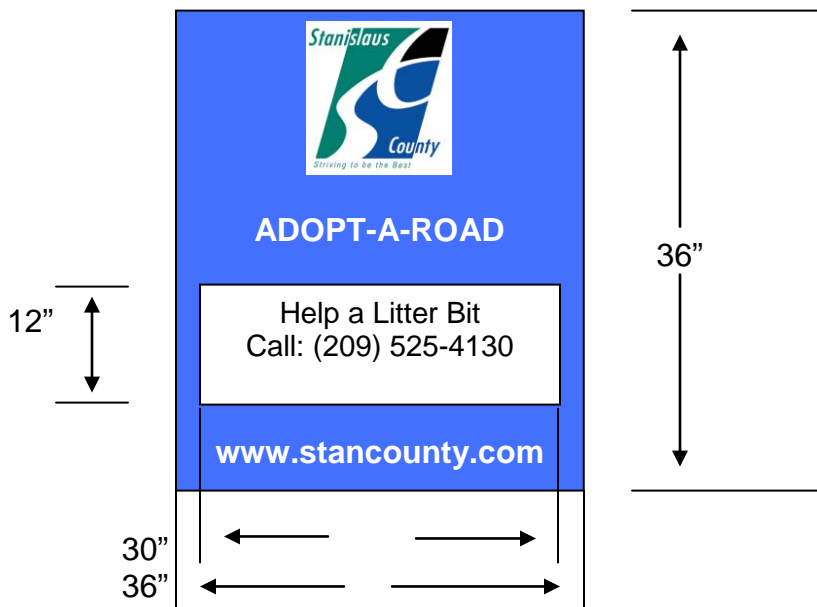
I/We will abide by these safety tips.

I/We agree to indemnify and hold harmless Stanislaus County, its Board of Supervisors, officers, directors, agents, employees, and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, losses, liabilities, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and damages of any nature whatsoever to any person or property, arising out of the performance or non-performance of this Agreement, regardless of whether caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder.

| Print Name | Address | Signature |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 2. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 3. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 4. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 5. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 6. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 7. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 8. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 9. _____   | _____   | _____     |
| 10. _____  | _____   | _____     |

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Program Recognition Sign Request



Stanislaus County will provide two 36" x 36" Adopt-a-Road signs, one at each end of the adopted street section. Affixed to each sign will be a 30" x 12" plate displaying the organizations name in sufficient detail to identify the organization. Organizations requesting a logo or name written in a special writing style (font) will be able to take the 30" x 12" aluminum plate (provided by the County) to a private sign shop where upon their logo and/or name can be placed. Stanislaus County retains the right to reject, without cause or explanation, any symbol or seal Stanislaus County determines unacceptable. **All logos must be approved by the County.** Once the plate is completed and returned to the County, arrangements will be made to place the plate on the permanent Adopt-a-Road sign. Organizations will be recognized via their name/logo on the permanent signs for participation in the Adopt-a-Road program within thirty days after the first cleanup. No street address or telephone number will be included on the signs. The County will maintain the signs.

### Lettering Size

#### **ORGANIZATION NAME:**

The County will provide each organization with a plate (size of letters depend on size of organizations name) stating organizations name as part of the Adopt-a-Road program.

## **RECOGNITION SIGN – CONTINUED:**

The following is proposed lettering sizes that may be used for the organizations name by the County, for the first and/or second lines of the Adopt-a-Road plate:

3" Letters = 12 Capital Letters, 16 Lower Case Letters

4" Letters = 9 Capital Letters, 10 Lower Case Letters

5" Letters = 7 Capital Letters, 10 Lower Case Letters

Organizations requesting a logo or name written in a special writing style (font) will be able to take a 30" x 12" aluminum plate (provided by the County) to a private sign shop where upon their logo and/or name can be placed. Stanislaus County retains the right to reject, without cause or explanation, any symbol or seal Stanislaus County determines unacceptable. **All logos must be approved by the County.** Once the plate is completed and returned to the County, arrangements will be made to place the plate on the permanent signs for participation in the Adopt-a-Road program within thirty days after the first cleanup.

Logos with or without wording shall be placed on the aluminum plate measuring 30" x 12" and shall be no larger than 29" x 11".

### **Plate Colors**

County Provided Plate:

Background – White (Reflective)

Letters – Black (non-reflective)

**Special Logo – A maximum of 50% solid color is permitted of which no more than 30% can be red, yellow, orange, or any combination thereof.**

### **Check One (1):**

- County will be supplying sign plate with organizations name as written below:

---

Organization name as it will appear on Recognition Sign **(Please Print Clearly)**

---

Signature of Organizations Leader

- Organization will place its own logo/name on plate. (Blank plate will be provided by the County, and logo is to be pre-approved by the County).

# Stanislaus County

## **Adopt-a-Road Program Equipment Kit Contents**

The Equipment Kit is designed to provide Adopt-a-Road volunteers with the necessary materials and tools to have a successful and safe cleanup event.

The Program Manager will arrange for a Safety Orientation to all adopting volunteer groups prior to their first cleanup, and will supply the Equipment Kit. Additional safety information is provided in the Safety Guidelines sections on pages 13-15.

The following items are included in the Equipment Kit:

- 1 Portable "Road Work Ahead" sign
- 2 Litter Pik-Stixs
- 10 Safety Vests
- 1 Box – Plastic Litter Bags (approx. 100 bags)

The Kit is designed to provide enough materials for ten volunteers. If any items are missing, notify the Program Manager immediately. Also, if you have any questions regarding the proper use of equipment, please ask.

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Program Completion Form

This form is used by the Adopt-a-Road Program Manager to keep track of program participants and the frequency of projects they are involved in. **Please remember to fill out and return a copy of this form after each cleanup.**

Cleanup completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of miles adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of volunteers that participated: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours the cleanup lasted: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how many bags of trash: \_\_\_\_\_

We anticipate our next cleanup will be on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

We participated in the recycling program: Yes No (circle one)

We turned in \_\_\_\_ (approx.) lbs. of recycling to \_\_\_\_\_ transfer station (Optional)

Were there any unusual incidents or injuries during the cleanup? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Call Randy Avants, Adopt-a-Road Program Manager at (209) 525-4130 the following business day after each cleanup to report completion.

Mail to: Randy Avants  
Adopt-a-Road Program Manager  
Stanislaus County  
Department of Public Works  
1716 Morgan Road  
Modesto, CA 95358

Or Fax to: Randy Avants, Adopt-a-Road Program Manager, (209) 541-2513.

Or E-Mail to: [avantsr@stancounty.com](mailto:avantsr@stancounty.com)

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Program Safety Guidelines

**You will be participating in a volunteer community cleanup near a County road, your safety and the safety of others is extremely important to us. In addition to the Safety Orientation, please read and follow these safety guidelines:**

- ❖ Review these safety tips each time before beginning work.
- ❖ Always park legally at a safe place when at the work area.
- ❖ Review the area for hazards before beginning.
- ❖ Do not touch possible hazardous materials. Contact the County Program Manager for further instructions.
- ❖ Wear County provided safety vests or bright colored clothing.
- ❖ Dress appropriately for weather conditions. Long pants are highly recommended at all times.
- ❖ If possible, always face oncoming traffic while working.
- ❖ Always be alert and have an escape route planned.
- ❖ Designate a lookout person with large groups.
- ❖ Wear protective gloves, sturdy boots, or shoes.
- ❖ Hats and sunscreen are recommended.
- ❖ Do not walk on the roadway.
- ❖ Never work in a median or center of the road.
- ❖ Avoid over exertion.
- ❖ Have a first aid kit available.
- ❖ Have water or other refreshment available for all participants.
- ❖ Never consume alcoholic beverages before or during the work period.
- ❖ Have transportation to medical services available.
- ❖ Do not enter or reach into drainage facilities.
- ❖ Do not touch poisonous or thorny plants.
- ❖ Never work along the road in the dark or low light conditions.
- ❖ Do not work in the rain or fog.
- ❖ Do not work when the road is wet or icy.
- ❖ Do not work on high traffic volume days such as holidays or the day before holiday weekends.
- ❖ Be sure of your footing on slopes, uneven ground, and unstable conditions such as rocks or loose soil.

**The most important tip is to use good judgment and stay alert!**

# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Program Items to Bag, Move, or Leave

### **BAG IT**

- 1. These items may be placed in a bag.**
  - A. Small items made of paper, cardboard, plastic, styrofoam, wood, rubber, glass, or metal.

### **MOVE IT**

- 1. These items should be placed alongside your stacked bags at the edge of the shoulder.**
  - A. Items with pointed edges that might tear a bag.
  - B. Large items that would prevent a bag from being properly tied closed.
  - C. Heavy items that could tear a bag provided that the item can be moved without causing physical injury.

**If in doubt, leave the item alone!**

### **LEAVE IT**

- 1. These items should be left where found without taking further action.**
  - A. Items that could cause physical injury if moved.
  - B. Any item in an unsafe location (within two feet of a traffic lane or on unstable ground, etc.)
- 2. Report these items to the Program Manager that day, or on the next working day, during normal business hours. You may leave a voice message.**
  - A. Items you are not permitted to bag or move that will not be easily visible to the garbage pickup crews collecting your filled bags. (If possible, place a filled bag near the item to mark its location.)
  - B. Securely closed items containing hazardous substances. \*
- 3. Report these items to the Customer Service Center as soon as possible at (209) 525-4130.**

**If the call is after normal business hours, or on weekends, the call will be forwarded to a County Communications office and an on-call supervisor will be notified.**

  - A. Any item that you cannot identify and/or suspect may be hazardous.
  - B. Unclosed or leaking items containing hazardous substances. \*
  - C. Items with hazardous material labels. \*
  - D. Items that could pose an immediate danger. \*
  - E. Items that could be crime-scene evidence. \*

**Keep a safe distance away from the item and do not disturb it in any way!**

**\* See next page for examples.**

## **BAG IT, MOVE IT, OR LEAVE IT – CONTINUED**

### **Items of Concern:**

#### **Hazardous Substances\***

Any item that you cannot identify and/or suspect may be hazardous  
Spills of liquid or powdery substances  
Fuels, Motor oils, transmission fluids, petroleum products  
Antifreeze  
Batteries  
Paints  
Aerosol cans (that are not empty)  
Human urine, bloody waste, (gauze, etc.)  
Syringes, labeled medicines, unlabeled medicines, and other drug paraphernalia  
Items with hazardous material labels  
Animal carcasses (Report to (209) 558-7387 Animal Control)

#### **Extremely Hazardous Items / Possible Crime-Scene Evidence\*\***

Bloody items that may be crime-scene evidence  
Explosives, possible bombs (capped pipes, wrapped packages, etc.)  
Weapons (guns, knives, etc.), unspent ammunition

**\* Report these items to the Sheriff's Department at (209) 552-2468 or Department of Environmental Resources at (209) 525-6700 on that day.**

**\*\* If you do not have access to a cell phone or call box, then someone other than your group's safety leader must leave the site to make the call to the Sheriff's Department or the Department of Environmental Resources. Then, unless advised to leave the area, the organization's leader must stay at the site until someone of authority arrives. Keep a safe distance away from the item and do not disturb it in any way!**

**In a life-threatening emergency, always call 911!**



# Stanislaus County

## Adopt-a-Road Program Garbage Bag Placement Plan

Fence line or

Private Property \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ x



Place Bags 2' - 4'  
behind Edge of  
Pavement

Edge of Pavement \_\_\_\_\_

Street Edge Line \_\_\_\_\_

Street Lane Line \_\_\_\_\_

Street Center Line \_\_\_\_\_