

EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIPS AWARD AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

Partnership Webinar
October 12, 2018



FOREST Council
Mark Twain Lake
2017 EIP Winner

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**



Today's Webinar

- **Excellence In Partnerships Award**

- History and Purpose
- Application Process
- Success Stories

- **Volunteer Award**

- History and Purpose
- Application Process
- Success Stories



Excellence In Partnerships Award

Purpose and History

- To recognize an outstanding partner within your area that provides substantial support to the Corps Recreation and/or Environmental Stewardship programs
- Began in 2001
- Currently in its 17th year
- Co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation
- Selected based on accomplishment of management objectives, creativity, public awareness and education, serving diverse audiences, and involvement of other partners
- Winner is presented with the award at a ceremony held in the award recipient's location

EIP Application Process

- Packages are due to Taylor Saia by December 9th (routed through MSC)
- One nomination package per MSC will be submitted electronically by the MSC
- Package Requirements:
 - Corps Project Name
 - Corps POC
 - Partner's Name
 - Partner's POC
 - Corps project mailing address
 - Corps project phone number
 - A narrative describing the nominee's accomplishment that addresses the required criteria in the nomination package (maximum of four pages, with up to 4 additional pages of support material such as photographs, news articles, letters of recommendation)
 - A citation that provides a summary of achievements to be read at the award ceremony (750 character max.)

Nomination Criteria

Specifically address how the partner's accomplishments meet the following five evaluation criteria

- **Creativity and Originality**
- **Improvement in Public Awareness/Education**
- **Accomplishment of Management Objectives**
- **Involving Other Partners**
- **Serving a Diverse Public**



Nomination Criteria

Creativity and Originality: The nominee has shown creativity and originality in serving the public and assisting the Corps in meeting the needs of its customers.

- How is the partnership or project unique?
- Is their project/product/partnership a model that will be used by others?
- Does the partnership involve a non-typical or new partner?
- Has the partnership led to other partnerships?
- Has the partner fundraised for the project?



Nomination Criteria

Improvement in Public Awareness/Education: Enhancing the public's awareness of Corps missions. Providing the public with opportunities to acquire knowledge, values and attitudes related to Corps projects and public lands

- How does the partnership raise public awareness about Corps missions?
- Does the partnership have far reaching impacts regionally/nationally?
- Is there ongoing outreach, or is this just a one-time event?
- Are there a variety of programs/unique ways of doing outreach?
- Are there demonstrated actions by the public as a direct result of the partnership/project?
- What are the quantifiable interpretive efforts, products, programs?
- Were other partners or schools/universities engaged to increase public education?

Nomination Criteria

Accomplishment of Management Objectives: Assisted the Corps in accomplishing work items that could not have been completed without the partner

- How were goals accomplished only through the partnership?
- Did the project/partnership tie into greater regional or national goals or initiatives?
- What specific management goal did the partnership meet?
- How did the partnership improve cost-benefit/efficiencies?
- Did the partner provide any ongoing O&M?



Nomination Criteria

Involving Other Partners: Increased community involvement and understanding of the Corps

- Did the partnership involve any other partners beyond the primary nominee?
- Did new partners join in the efforts beyond the initial project?
- Did the partner bring in grants or other outside funding, materials, supplies, resources?
- Did the partnership lead to regional or broader impacts beyond the initial Corps location?

Photo Collage of Work Projects



Nomination Criteria

Serving a Diverse Public: Partnership assisted in developing programs that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of diverse and various user groups

- How did the partnership improve the experience for multiple user groups?
- Did the initial partnership grow into future initiatives?

Past Success Stories

2017 Winner: Mark Twain Lake FOREST Council

- A unique partnership initiative of multi-discipline public land management agencies, organizations, private industry, and local communities.
- Wide range of accomplishments including supporting special events and developing six major recreational developments at Mark Twain Lake.
- FOREST Council has developed a multi purpose trail restroom, a pond pavilion, ADA accessible fishing facility, Equestrian campground, and an archery park.



Past Success Stories

2016 Okaw Valley Community Unit School District

- Partner of Lake Shelbyville
- Created a program to teach students farm and natural resource management by treating 40 acres in ag leases at Lake Shelbyville as an outdoor classroom. This enables students to gain hands on experience by conducting experiments and recording data in the field, all while assisting in the protection of USACE land.
- Middle school and high school students assist USACE with hands-on projects such as fisheries management, fence installation, park cleanup, winterizing and de-winterizing facilities, building accessible hunting blinds, trail sign installation and more. These work days help reduce O&M cost across the project. Basic repairs, maintenance and projects that can be completed with students, enables the USACE staff to save valuable time allowing them to perform deferred maintenance that normally would not be completed.



National Volunteer Award Purpose and History

- A way to nationally recognize the extraordinary service provided by volunteers who have provided significant contributions to the enhancement of one or more of the Corps business lines
- Co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation
- Began in 2014
- Winner is presented with the award at a ceremony held in the award recipient's location



Volunteer Award Application Process

- Packages are due to Taylor Saia by December 9th (routed through MSC)
- Three nomination packages per MSC may be submitted electronically by the MSC
- Package Requirements:
 - Complete nomination form
 - A narrative addressing the 4 award criteria (max of 3 pages on the fillable form)
 - Up to four additional support documents, including photographs or articles
 - A citation that provides a summary of achievements to be read at the award ceremony (750 character max.)

Nomination Criteria

- **Eligibility:**

- An individual, couple or family unit who has provided substantial support to operations in Recreation/Environmental Stewardship
 - Must have performed some of their qualifying work within the previous fiscal year
- 4 criteria selections will be based upon:
 - **Support and dedication to Corps Mission**
 - **Accomplishments**
 - **Impact to project, resources and community**
 - **Collaboration and partnerships**



Nomination Criteria

Support and Dedication to Corps Mission: Describe how the nominee's service supported one or more of the Corps missions (Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, Hydropower, FRM, Navigation). Describe how their service raised public awareness of the Corps missions in the local community.

- What missions were supported? Bullet list
- How did the volunteer service raise public awareness of Corps missions in the local community?

Examples include:

Flood Risk Management and Hydropower: "Mrs. Jones has a passion for the Corps and her community that is evident to each visitor she encounters. During a typical tour, Mrs. Jones discusses multiple missions and benefits to the region by informing the public about hydropower and flood risk management. She became an expert in forging an emotional connection between the visitors' interests and revealing a deeper meaning of the corps mission and purpose at our reservoirs (as indicated by the numerous comments and feedback surveys we received)."

Natural Resource Management: "Mr. Smith has assisted with special events at the project that support Natural Resource Management such as providing interpretive talks to visitors regarding salmon spawning and habitat as well as actively volunteering his time at the fish hatchery."

Nomination Criteria

Accomplishments: Summarize what the volunteer did that made them great.

- How was the volunteer exceptional?
- Can you quantify the service provided by the volunteer other than hours served?

Examples include:

“The invasive species, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), threatened thousands of trees at the park. In 2017 the Reynolds planted over 700 trees and shrubs in campgrounds and picnic areas with a diverse species of foliage to reduce the chance of mass pest invasions while providing shade that had been lost to the EAB.”

“The Carters completed pollinator initiative projects and prairie restorations at 5 locations. This included creating new prairies as well as smaller demonstration gardens in the campgrounds to raise public awareness of the pollinator plight

“Due to a short staffing of Park Rangers, it was difficult to meet the interpretive and outreach goals of Wolf Creek Lake. Mrs. Watson stepped up to the challenge and provided interpretive programs in 40 classrooms as well as the visitor’s center increasing public awareness of water safety practices”

Nomination Criteria

Impacts to Project, Resources, and Community: What did the volunteer do that was great for the project/community?

- How did the volunteer address a real, identified need?
- What unique or innovative service or creative solutions or programs were provided by the volunteer?
- What did the volunteer provide that could not have otherwise been accomplished without their service?
- What were the quantifiable results?

Examples include:

“The Smiths have spent a documented 9,259 hours of volunteer service at a value of \$197,008. They have strengthened the volunteer community by recruiting 8 additional on site volunteers they met while travelling in their off season.”

“Mr. Harper has led approximately 95 trail walks in the last 10 years, providing interpretive information to local students of all ages. This has led to the development of additional nature talks in the classroom which Mr. Harper provides as well.”

Nomination Criteria

Collaboration and Partnerships: Briefly describe the collaborative or partnership efforts associated with the nominee's project/activities

- Were there any funding sources and/or in-kind donations received as a result of this volunteer's project/activities?
- Did the volunteer collaborate with other partners? If so, what did they do?
- How did the volunteer's efforts build partnerships, boost public interest, or increase other community involvement?

Examples include:

- Engaging local community groups in special events
- Developing new partnerships
- Recruiting additional volunteers
- Nominees projects received outside funding sources or in kind donations



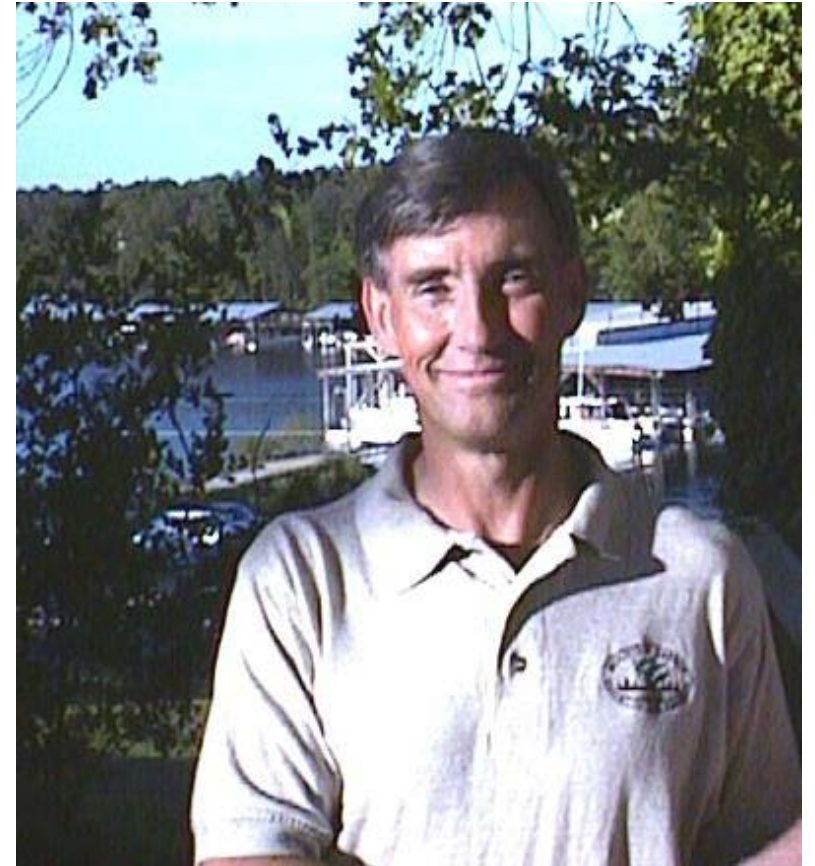
Past Success Stories

- 2017: Will and Judy Carter, MVD, Saylorville Lake
- 9,250 hours of service over a 12 year period
- Assisted in planting over 700 trees and shrubs
- Develop and maintain prairies and educational pollinator gardens
- Monitor monarch habitat activity
- Provide interpretation to visitors



Past Success Stories

- 2016- Bill Barnes, MVK, Lake Ouachita Project
- Over 500 hours of volunteer service in 2016
- Member of the Lake Ouachita Focus Committee
- Highlights Lake Ouachita in his role on the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Commission
- Partnered with USACE to host a wounded warrior squirrel hunt- provided lodging, food, and meeting space for participants free of charge
- Provided boats for Air Force training activities on Lake Ouachita
- Has engaged several other partners to support USACE missions at Lake Ouachita
- Has helped procure over \$15,000 in fundraisers to enhance safety around the lake



Bill Barnes, 2016 recipient

Excellence in Partnership Award



Plaque and ceremony for overall winner, provided by the Corps Foundation



Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin and certificate for each regional winner (each division's nomination)

Volunteer Award



Plaque and ceremony for overall winner, provided by the Corps Foundation



Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin and certificate for each regional nominee as well as the overall winner

Recap

- Both award nomination packages are due December 9th to taylor.q.saia@usace.army.mil- must be routed through MSC
- Nomination criteria is available on the NRM Gateway
- One nomination per division will be accepted for the EIP award
- Three nominations per division will be accepted for the Volunteer award
- Winners will be selected and announced in January
- Award ceremonies will be held in the spring (will be determined by availability of district and division representatives/recipient/staff)

Questions?

For any questions contact Taylor Saia

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or

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