

Ripples

Journal



*"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."
Ryunosuke Satoro*

*A quarterly journal produced by the
USACE National Water Safety Program
with help from everyone within USACE
that promotes water safety.*



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

**ISSUE 01
MAY 2023**

UTILIZE THIS JOURNAL TO...

- Showcase agency-wide what your division, district, or project is doing to promote water safety.
- Share your water safety initiatives to spark ideas in others.
- Show that you care about saving lives on our nation's waterways and that you have fun doing it.



Your Help Is Needed to Make This Journal As Good As It Can Be.

- Send your water safety initiatives to your Division Representative on the National Water Safety Committee at any time and watch for emails from your division representative regarding their deadlines for submitting information.
- Include good quality pictures because a picture can be worth a thousand words.
- If it pertains to water safety send it in including but not limited to interpretive programs, special events, displays, promotional products, partnerships, visitor assistance items, etc.

Your Division Representatives on the National Water Safety Committee

LRD-Michael L. McCoy

NAD-Samantha K. Hutchins

MVD-Erica L. Nabers

NWD/POD-Tana K. Wilson

SPD-Carla C. Robinson

SAD-Emily A. Jones

SWD-Abby L. Jones

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Water Safety Initiatives

Buffalo District (LRB)

Black Rock Lock operators will distribute water safety promotional products received from the National Water Safety Program to boaters transiting the lock.

Regional events including Letchworth State Park's Learn to Catch a Fish Day, Letchworth State Park Outdoor Recreation Festival, Mount Morris Glory Days Parade, and "Paddles Up Niagara" kayaking event.

Will provide guided walking tours of Mount Morris Dam, which will include water safety messaging. This also will include field trips for local schools.

Thank You

Niagara River Greenway Commission thanks you for your participation at the 2022 Paddles Up Niagara event. You are doing a great service to our environment and overall health & wellness of our community by spreading awareness about the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and water safety.

You and your organization truly added a significant benefit to our event, we hope you will be willing to participate again next year. We welcome any suggestions or comments you may have on how we can make the event better.



Paddles Up 2022



On behalf of the Greenway Commission, we sincerely thank you.
Greg Stevens & Michelle Lockett



Chicago District (LRC)

Continuing the "I Got Caught" initiative.

Grand Opening of first life jacket loaner station.

Partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to coordinate lake patrols with local conservation officers and participating in Operation Dry Water.

Continue to find partners to engage in water safety outreach.

Repainting Life Jacket Zone stencil markings on pavement.

Place water safety messages on local billboards.



Detroit District (LRE)



Park rangers from the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center attended the Duluth Sport Show to support the St. Paul District, made approximately 200 direct water safety contacts.

Water safety social media posts reached 33,000.

Huntington District (LRH)

Increasing life jacket loaner stations in FY23.

Yatesville Lake partnered with state park to conduct 1st annual Run for Water Safety 5K.

Utilizing 30 second water safety video public service announcements (PSAs) created by National Water Safety Program in cooperation with The Corps Foundation in multiple movie theaters across district.

Water safety video PSAs created by National Water Safety Program in cooperation with The Corps Foundation aired on CBS & FOX 59 News. Video PSAs were viewed in their entirety 41,000 times, which resulted in 65% of people watched the video PSAs in entirety.

Park ranger took a certified paddle craft safety class and then instructed multiple classes in the district.

Vinyl wrapped 17 Automated Fee Machines with water safety artwork created by the National Water Safety Program.

Partnered with “Movies in the Community” at Summersville Lake to show water safety video PSAs in the pre-roll.

Created a visitor assistance boat patrol training within the boat operator training for all NRM staff.

Partnered with a local Convention Visitors Bureau to advertise the Park Ranger “Your Safety, Our Concern” poster created by the National Water Safety Program in 20,000 copies of visitors guide.

District goal is to increase Direct Water Safety Interpretive Contacts by 20%.



Louisville District (LRL)



The Louisville area lakes participated in Louisville Boat Show and Indianapolis Boat Show.

Completed life skills adult care programs.

Water safety advertisements in Indiana Fishing Regulation Guides.

Purchased water safety billboard space on I-70.

Utilizing water safety video public service announcements (PSAs) in movie theater in Spencer and Greencastle, IN.

Lakes will continue to put in an annual requests to receive life jackets from Sea Tow Foundation to

use to increase the number of life jacket loaner stations.

Several water safety interpretive programs and family safety day events will be conducted during the recreation season.

Conducting boat patrols and utilizing the vessel inspection app tracker.



Nashville District (LRN)

The Nashville Area lakes (Cheatham, Old Hickory, and J. Percy Priest Lakes) participated in the Nashville Boat Show in January.

Three projects (J. Percy Priest, Cumberland, and Laurel Lakes) have billboards promoting water safety along major highways.

Cheatham Lake had a water safety booth at the National Wild Turkey Federation convention, making approx. 5,000 water safety direct interpretive contacts.

Several weekly water safety interpretive programs will be conducted during the recreation season at Lake Barkley, J. Percy Priest Lake, and Center Hill Lakes.



Pittsburgh District (LRP)

Public Affairs has been a great help in producing water safety promotional videos.

Park ranger staff has been very creative with using social media as an outreach tool.

Outreach during this time of year took place in school classrooms.

Concentrating on paddle craft safety including guided paddles, lock-through demonstrations, informational handouts, and more.

Biggest goal this year is to increase outreach and event participation.

In FY22 increased events by 35 events and plan of bringing back pre-pandemic signature events this year .

Staff has noticed an increase in life jacket use, which may be contributed to making life jackets available at loaner stations.



M V D

Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

Vicksburg District (MVK)

DeGray Lake:

Update water safety information including cold water information on all bulletin boards and digital signs around the lake.

Added cold water information into all interpretive programs.

Shared the importance of swim lessons during the winter months.

Talked to kids about the dangers of playing on ice.

Depending on work schedule will try to add at least one new water safety interpretive program and event this year.

St. Paul District (MVP)

Blackhawk Park and Eau Galle Recreation Area



The La Crosse Sports Show took place February 9-12, 2023 in La Crosse, WI. Park rangers from Blackhawk Park and foresters from the La Crescent ES office assisted with staffing an informational booth at the show. The booth was setup near the only entrance to the show, which resulted in thousands of visitors coming to the booth to learn about water safety, boating on the Mississippi River, and Federal Rules and Regulations regarding federal waterways. Total attendance to the show was 18,789 and an estimated 6,263 direct interpretive contacts were made. Minneapolis Boat Show took place January 18-21, 2023 in Minneapolis, MN. Park rangers from Eau Galle Recreation Area assisted in staffing a booth during the show and made 350 direct interpretive contacts.

Leech Lake Dam Recreation Area

Focus was on presenting water safety interpretive programs at local schools utilizing the "Safe Passage" video produced by the National Water Safety Program and sharing water safety products and posters from the National Water Safety Program to the public at hockey tournaments.



Lake Ashtabula and North Dakota Flood Control Section

Lake Ashtabula park ranger staff conducted a radio interview with KOVC in January about ice safety.

Park rangers staffed a booth at Red River Sports Show in Fargo, ND March 2-5, 2023, resulting in 1,450 direct interpretive contacts.



Cross Lake Recreation Area

Park Ranger Ellie Tabako attended the Annual St. Cloud Sportsmen's Show where she interacted with visitors regarding water safety, discussed dam operations and navigation, and introduced hundreds of attendees to USACE parks and campgrounds. An estimated 800 direct interpretive contacts were made during the show.

In partnership with the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway, Cross Lake Recreation Area Staff participated in Crosslake's annual Winterfest. A water safety coloring contest coordinated by Park Ranger Daniel Williams was conducted and nearly 80 entries were made. Winners in four different age categories received a life jacket that was donated by the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. An estimated 160 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Rock Island District (MVR)

Illinois Waterway Project

Placed water safety messaging in three publications: LaSalle County Events, Ottawa Times, and Outdoor Adventure magazine

Five Illinois Boating Education Safety Courses that the public can register to take are scheduled for this year

Mississippi River Office

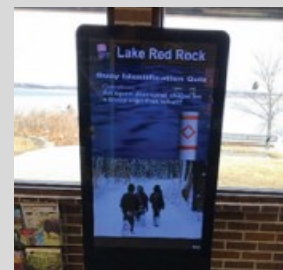


Staffed a water safety booth at the Fishing, Hunting, and Outdoor Adventure Show held on February 16-19, 2023 and at the RV Show on February 24-26, 2023. Participants at both shows could sign up for upcoming boating education safety courses, purchase America the Beautiful passes and USACE annual day use passes, pick up river charts, and receive water safety promotional products from park rangers and volunteers. The booths includes a life jacket try on station and water flotation demonstration. At the fishing show, a few lucky participants were able to participate in a scavenger hunt around the show to earn a free prize. Both events were well attended and 2,883 direct interpretive contacts were made.

The Mississippi River Project's annual recreation guide "Along the River" was published and 12,000 copies were received for distribution in January. This guide includes several water safety messages throughout it's 48 pages. A digital copy of this guide is available at www.missriver.org.

Lake Red Rock

The digital kiosk in the Lake Red Rock Visitor Center received an update in content recently, and part of the update included some new water safety messages and graphics. A quiz about the various types of buoys and other short water safety videos were provided by the National Water Safety Program.



Lake Red Rock purchased water safety ad space in the spring issue of the Iowa Outdoors magazine. According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, approximately 40,000 people subscribe to the publication and 120,000 readers are reached per issue. A water safety ad was also placed in the 2023 Pella Travel Guide using the same artwork that was provided by the National Water Safety Program.

Lake Red Rock renewed partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer Vessel Safety Checks at the lake and are working to schedule a Boating Education Safety Course to be conducted in the spring of this year.



Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
Your Best View of Starved Rock

- I&M Canal/Illinois Waterway Information
- Boat Safety Classes
May 7, Jun. 18, Aug. 20
- Group Programs
- Gift Store

Did you know over 80% of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket?
Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns.

Mention this ad during your next visit and receive a prize!

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam
950 N 27th Rd (Dee Bennett Rd), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054



Lake Red Rock renewed the partnership that they have had for years with local sprint car driver Dan Henning to continue sharing water safety messages to race fans and lake visitors. Henning sports several Bobber logos on his car and a water safety message is provided by the race announcer when Henning is introduced before each event. He also plans to take part in some meet-and-greet events at the lake to encourage visitors to wear their life jackets.



Saylorville Lake

On February 19, 2023, Saylorville Lake volunteers and Bobber attended Crash's Birthday Party at an Iowa Wild Hockey Game. Bobber participated in fun activities with mascots from around Iowa, including Cy from Iowa State University, Herky from University of Iowa, Crash from the Iowa Wild, and several others including broom ball and race. Approximately 500 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made and the entire arena full of spectators cheered on the mascots.

St. Louis District (MVS)

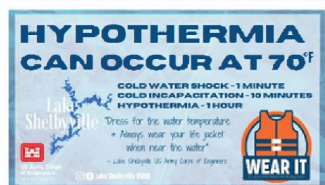
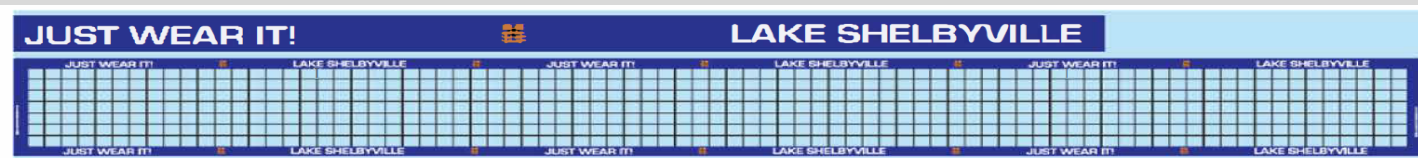
Carlyle Lake

Partnered with local gas station convenience store to install water safety window clings that were provided by the National Water Safety Program on their walk-in cooler.



Lake Shelbyville

While preparing for the upcoming 2023 recreation season, Lake Shelbyville ordered 12 custom made water safety volleyball nets to use in their recreation areas.



Lake Shelbyville created multiple water safety ads to be displayed at the local movie theater to be shown before every movie starts. A different water safety tip is used every month.

Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

In partnership with the City of Clarksville and in conjunction with Clarksville Eagle Days, Rivers Project staff and volunteers facilitated 22 guided tours of the dewatered Lock 24 in Clarksville, MO. In addition to the tours, they had an educational booth and approx. 600 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On February 18, 2023, in partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations, Rivers Project presented the second annual Ice Jam at the Dam at the National Great Rivers Museum. Over 1,000 visitors attended the family focused event. Attractions included tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, animal presentations, music, winter-themed educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Additionally, a special water safety Polar Passport was granted to children who visited 6 of the 11 educational booths.

Rend Lake

Conducting Small World Programs at their visitor center. At the beginning of every program the children and parents in attendance learn about water safety and the life jacket loaner stations at Rend Lake. At the end of the programs the participants receive Bobber the Water Safety Dog promotional products provided by the National Water Safety Program. A total of 225 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the January - March programs.

Rend Lake staff and local emergency response partners participated in an emergency action plan exercise as part of their Dam Safety Training. District 13 Illinois State Police, Franklin County EMA, Jackson County EMA, Rend Lake Conservancy District, and other partners were in attendance.



Wappapello Lake

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson and Student Trainee Matthew Watson presented Animal Adaptation and Water Safety interpretive programs to the Neelyville Head Start on March 10, 2023. The students and faculty received a surprise visit from Bobber the Water Safety Dog.

N A D

North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

New England District (NAE)



Local fire departments utilized Littleville Lake and Tully Lake to conduct ice rescue training and to try out their new equipment.

Buffumville Lake

Posted on social media about their life jacket loaner station and a reminder to always wear a properly-fitted life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes and rivers) in preparation for the summer recreation season.



Philadelphia District (NAP)



NAP Survey Section along with state and local first responders participated in a water safety training at a local YMCA in February.



Everyone in NAD is getting snow this year and are encouraging visitors to be like this snowman and get home with a smile.

N W D

Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Portland District (NWP)

Willamette Valley Project

Park Rangers at the Willamette Valley Project led their first tour at Lookout Point Dam since the COVID-19 pandemic. The tour, for Kalapuya High School's science class, provided an opportunity for Park Ranger Christie Johnson to train Park Rangers Paige King and Kyle Kapella. The park rangers provided information about the functions of dams and their importance in the Willamette Valley and also highlighted water safety on the tour. At the end of the tour, students were given bright orange water safety pencils that say "Always Wear Your Life Jacket" that were purchased locally.



The Willamette Valley Project staff hosted their annual All Hands Wellness Fair. Park rangers had an interactive display that included Ranger Jeopardy where employees could answer recreation safety questions to win a water safety prize. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance at the Wellness Fair and employees took advantage of the opportunity to have their picture taken with Bobber.



John Day Lock and Dam
Installed life jacket loaner station at Plymouth Day Use Area

Repainted water safety pavement stencil message at two boat ramps

Bonneville Lock and Dam

Purchased pencils with the “Always Swim With A Buddy” message on them to give to visitors who complete the Junior Ranger activity book.



Bonneville Lock and Dam staff maintain water safety promotional tables at the Bradford Island Visitor Center and Washington Shore Visitor Complex. The tables include Bobber the Water Safety Dog activity books, posters, Wear It Right brochure, and other promotional products provided by the National Water Safety Program as well as information on locking through.



Walla Walla District (NWW)



Staffed a booth at the Spokane Bighorn Show and took extra water safety bags provided by the National Water Safety Program to give to the event organizers so that they could be handed out to attendees as they entered the show.

Seattle District (NWS)

Libby Dam staff utilized water safety bags and promotional products provided by the National Water Safety Program to stuff 150 bags and provided them to the organizers of the annual Ice Fishing Derby held by the Fisher River Valley Fire and Rescue Auxiliary to hand out at their event that took place on February 18, 2023.

S A D

South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

Jacksonville District (SAJ)

Okeechobee Waterway

Park Ranger James Norris attended a meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9 in Stuart, FL to discuss and show appreciation for their partnership. The Flotilla provides services to the public including



Mobile District (SAM)

West Point Lake

Park Ranger Derrick Wilkerson attended a career fair at Lanett City Schools Junior High in Lanett, AL on February 24, 2023, where he introduced junior high and high school students ranging from 8th – 12th grade to the field of natural resources. He also included a water safety message as well for the students. During the event, Ranger Wilkerson made 387 direct water safety interpretive contacts.



Park Ranger Christine Dowell presented a water safety interpretive program to K-5th grade students and their parents at Clearview Elementary School in LaGrange, GA on March 16, 2023, as a part of the school's Family STEAM/Math night. Park Ranger Dowell demonstrated the principle of buoyancy by using oranges to show what happens if someone doesn't wear a life jacket while in the water. During the event, Ranger Dowell made 120 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Supervisory Park Ranger Ben Williams represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at W.F. Burns Middle School Career Day in Valley, AL, March 22, 2023. He spoke with 410 students about the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and water safety.



Walter F. George Lake



Park Rangers Anthony Strickland and Shannon Schaefer demonstrated the importance of life jackets and proper rescue techniques during a water safety school assembly for K-6th grade students at Parker Elementary School at Fort Rucker, AL March 9, 2023. Five hundred direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Savannah District (SAS)

J. Strom Thurmond Lake

Park Rangers Makayla Barlow, David Quebedeaux, Chief Ranger Henry Way and Professional Angler Charlie Evans promoted the Every Kid Outdoors program and water safety to every 4th grade student in Columbia County Georgia. 5th Grade students at North Columbia Elementary School also attended the program. A total of 2,104 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made and Every Kid Outdoors Passes issued. Chief Ranger Henry Way accepted a donation of 50 life jackets from Onyx Outdoor, sponsor of Major League Fishing, to help stock the life jacket loaner stations at Thurmond Lake.



Wilmington District (SAW)

Philpott Lake

Park Ranger Dillon Brown staffed a booth at the Anglers Choice Boat Show in Martinsville, VA. 400 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made. Next to the Philpott Lake booth was Fallen Outdoors, who partners with the lake to put on an annual Salute to Service Fishing Event.



Philpott Lake Park Rangers staffed a booth at the annual Fast Track convention in Martinsville, VA. The convention is where attendees can learn about local businesses and non-profit entities have to offer. A total of 650 attendees stopped by the booth to learn about water safety and what USACE has to offer.

John H. Kerr Lake and W. Kerr Scott Lake

On February 24-26, 2023, Park Rangers Johnny Jones and Grace Trimble from W. Kerr Scott Lake along with Park Rangers Emily Jones and Debra Hood from John H. Kerr Lake staffed a booth at the Central Carolina Boat & Fishing Expo in Greensboro, NC. A total of 875 expo attendees stopped by the booth to learn about water safety and recreational opportunities with USACE.



John H. Kerr Lake



On March 2, 2023 the John H. Kerr Lake staff hosted a safety meeting between partners and lease holders, which focused on water safety, sharing roles, responsibilities, and challenges in order to improve our communication and working relationships. The meeting was attended by Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Virginia State Parks, North Carolina State Parks, Virginia Department of Forestry, Mecklenburg County Virginia Sheriff's Office, and USACE John H. Kerr Lake staff.

SAD FY23 Quarter 1 Water Safety Award Winner

Park Ranger Jeff Mau, West Point Lake

Park Ranger Mau was selected as SAD's Quarter 1 Water Safety Award Winner for his work promoting water safety at the 43rd annual "Special Day for Special People" and a "Trunk or Treat" event at a local elementary school. Ranger Mau's participation in these events resulted in over 1,100 direct water safety interpretive contacts and several indirect water safety contacts in the community around West Point Lake.

South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

Los Angeles District (SPL)

Los Angeles District Park Rangers worked with their District Safety Office and Public Affairs Office to create fun and educational recreation safety videos on water safety and hiking safety in English and Spanish. In addition, the park rangers developed a stronger partnership with the Los Angeles County Lifeguards at the Santa Fe Dam, who were eager to collaborate with the team on the water safety videos. Links to videos in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)



Los Angeles District Team promoted water safety at the annual Day of the Dead Parade in Los Angeles County.



The Los Angeles District Team and Public Affairs Office staffed a booth and promoted water safety the Los Angeles Air Show.

Albuquerque District (SPA)

Water safety initiatives include billboards on Interstate 40 and radio public service announcements.



Santa Rosa Lake

Park Ranger Paul Sanchez presented a water safety interpretive program to area school children.

Sacramento District (SPK)

Englebright Lake

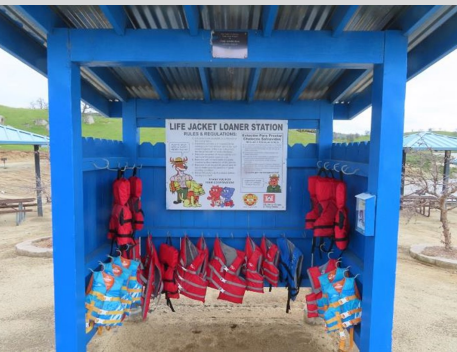


Park Ranger Tom Bookholtz presented a water safety interpretive program at Johnson Park Elementary in Linda, CA.



Hensley Lake

Park Rangers Mayumi Ezo and Walter Pope helped rescue a distressed swimmer by safely maneuvering their patrol vessel and deploying a throw ring to pull the swimmer to safety. They received a Lifesaving Award for their life saving efforts.



Life jacket loaner station installed at the swim beach that includes adult and child size life jackets.

Stanislaus River Parks

Throughout the year park rangers partake in throw bag rope training in different areas along the Stanislaus River to ensure they are ready to assisted in river rescues.



Stanislaus River Parks partners with local ice cream shop, Knights Ferry Creamery and Sweets, in their "I Got Caught" water safety initiative. Park rangers "catch" children wearing their life jackets and reward them with a free ice cream scoop coupon.

Pine Flat Lake

Life jacket loaner station at Pine Flat Lake.



San Francisco District (SPN)

Lake Mendocino

Park rangers are presenting water safety interpretive programs at local schools.



Bay Model



Bobber the Water Safety Dog cartoons are a big hit with visitors in the Bay Model Visitor Center's Life Jacket Movie Theater.

Sailing students from Spaulding Marine tour the Bay Model in their life jackets after sailing their boats to the Bay Model waterfront.



S W D

Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Fort Worth District (SWF)

Three Rivers Region

On March 14, 2023, Proctor Lake, Belton Lake, Waco Lake, and Whitney Lake Park Rangers, held a Water Safety Field Day at the Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation's Spring Break Camp. The field day consisted of four water safety games and activities. Fifty-five kids enjoyed the games and spending time with the park rangers.



Trinity Region

On March 18-19, 2023, park rangers from across the Trinity Region staffed a water safety area at the Annual Kids Weekend at Bass Pro Shops in Garland, TX. During the event, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, made an appearance entertaining young and old alike. Over 5,220 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Piney Woods Region



March 23 - April 2, 2023, park rangers from across the Piney Woods Region attended the South Texas State Fair in Beaumont, TX to speak with fair-goers about water safety and any USACE related questions they had.



Whitney Lake

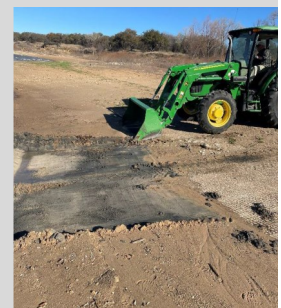
On February 15, 2023, Park Rangers Kathryn Devers and Matthew Jones staffed a booth at West High School's Health & Safety Fair. They talked to students and their family members about water safety. Students answered water safety questions to receive prizes from the park rangers. Over 300 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Proctor Lake



On January 11, 2023 Park Rangers Ben Murphy and Jarod Harris, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog went to school drop off at Comanche Elementary school to greet students on their first day back to school from Christmas break. The students were excited to see Bobber and the park rangers.

Park Ranger Ben Murphy and a few volunteers took advantage of the lake being 9' low to remove sediment that had accumulated at the bottom of the Promontory Park boat ramps. The two boat ramps are currently closed due to the low lake level, but will be able to reopen at a lower lake level due to the sediment removal.



On March 7 and 9, 2023, Proctor Lake Park Rangers Stephanie Jones and Jared Harris, and Waco Lake Park Ranger Mathew Dutton conducted water safety interpretive programs at J.L. Williams Ledger Elementary school in Copperas Cove, TX. During the two days the park rangers presented programs to 15 classes between kindergarten to 2nd grade.

Canyon Lake

On March 21, 2023, Canyon Lake hosted an interagency meeting with Comal County Sheriff Department, Joint Base San Antonio at Canyon Lake, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Game Wardens, and Water Recreation Oriented District (WORD) of Comal County to discuss boat patrol scheduling from May until September. TPWD will have ten game wardens every Saturday, Sunday, and Federal Holidays. WORD is paying to setup one area for TPWD Officers to perform BWI tests. Also, this group is putting together a list of on call rescue teams to perform rescue and recovery missions and an immediate call list for incidents at Canyon Lake.



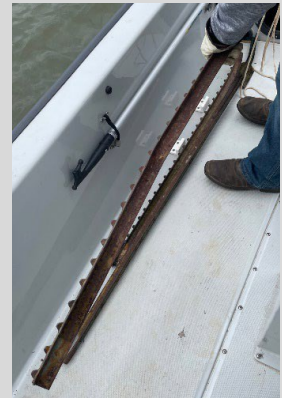
On March 23, 2023, Park Ranger Samuel Price presented an environmental impacts from flood events and water safety interpretive program to the 7th grade science class at Mountain Valley Middle School near Canyon Lake, TX. A total of 281 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On March 25, 2023, Park Ranger Samuel Price staffed a water safety booth at a community emergency preparedness event in Cibolo, TS. A total of 80 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Sam Rayburn Lake

On January 17, 2023, Park Ranger Tyler Slovacek and maintenance worker Shawn Bartlett pulled some T-posts out of stumps that had been placed there by a member of the public. A local fisherman reached out to let USACE know about the situation and the posts were pulled out immediately.



Bardwell Lake



On February 10, 2023, the Bardwell Lake staff held a community outreach meeting. At this meeting, Park Ranger Anthony Sanders gave a presentation to the various agencies and organizations within the Bardwell Lake community. As a result of this meeting, partnerships with USACE were made and future cleanup days, volunteer projects, and water safety and environmental stewardship events were scheduled.

Lake Georgetown

Lake Georgetown recently presented a lake history and water safety interpretive program to McCoy Elementary School. Over 700 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Waco Lake

On March 14, 15, and 29, 2023, Waco Lake staff conducted buoy replacements near recreation areas and boat ramps including Boats Keep Out buoys at the Twin Bridges swim beach. A total of 28 new buoys have been put in place.

Lavon Lake

Lavon Lake is partnering with Safe Kids of North Texas, which is led by Cook Children's Hospital, to improve their life jacket loaner program. The Lavon Lake staff and volunteers installed five life jacket loaner stations in day use areas. The information on the loaner station interpretive panels are in English and Spanish. Safe Kids North Texas has agreed to supply additional life jackets for the stations.

Little Rock District (SWL)

Little Rock District (SWL) and Vicksburg District (MVK)

Park rangers from Little Rock and Vicksburg Districts staffed a booth at the Little Rock Marine Expo and Big Buck Classic. Over 13,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Table Rock Lake



Park rangers staffed a booth at the 2023 Lake Life Expo in Springfield, MO. This three day event included a multitude of vendors associated with lake recreation and multiple water safety organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Missouri State Water Patrol, and Sea Tow. The park rangers focused on promoting the use of life jackets and how to pick the appropriate type and fit. During the event Park Ranger Angela Stone, established a partnership with Sea Tow Captain Jim Pulley at Table Rock Lake to donate a large number of life jackets that will be used to help stock the 15 life jacket loaner stations located around Table Rock Lake. A total of 475 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Tulsa District (SWT)

Keystone Lake

Park Rangers Lauren Enloe and Ashley Novar visited Rogers State University and staffed a booth at Claremore Sequoyah High School Career Fair to talk to students about summer ranger opportunities and careers with the USACE. During the career fairs they also promoted water safety. They spoke to 30 students at the university and approximately 120 students at the high school career fair.



Fort Gibson Lake

Natural Resources Specialists Tiffany Natividad and Josh Glazebrook staffed an interactive area, which included water safety activities, at STEM FEST 23 hosted by the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. SWT Public Affairs Specialist Stacey Reese and Outdoor

Recreation Planner Jason Knight also assisted in staffing the interactive area.

Natural Resources Specialists Tiffany Natividad and Josh Glazebrook staffed a booth at the Oklahoma Tackle, Hunting, and Boat Show.



Lake Texoma

In February 2023, Park Rangers Audrey White, Josh English, and Conner Rychilk promoted water safety at the Shrine Circus held at the Tulsa Expo Pavilion. This was a new event this year that was done in partnership with Safe Kids Tulsa.

Waurika Lake



Park Rangers Alan Harper and Destany Rochell staffed an area at the Stephens County Safety Day. Several agencies from across the area were in attendance promoting safety to all the 5th graders in Stephens county. The Waurika Lake Park Rangers focused on water safety. Approximately 500 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Tulsa District

On March 22, 2023, the Tulsa District Water Safety Project Development Team met at Fort Gibson Lake. The team discussed water safety promotional items, upcoming water safety events and past events, path forward, District Commander briefing, drowning numbers and statistics, and much more. The meeting was held after the personal protection training at the Park Ranger Workshop. On March 20, 2023, at the Park Ranger Workshop Abby Jones and BJ Parkey presented a 30 minute water safety presentation, similar to what was presented to their District Commander. To the presentation they added information on how to order water safety promotional items and gathering/sharing new ways to get the message out to the public from the park rangers.



Tulsa District Park Rangers and Safety Specialists staffed a water safety booth at the Tulsa Boat Show from January 30 -February 5, 2023 that was held at the Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Visitors that stopped by the booth learned about the different types of life jackets and the importance of wearing a life jacket.

On January 16, 2023, Tulsa District staff, including Park Ranger Matt Nolen and Bobber the Water Safety Dog, had a park ranger truck and boat in the Martin Luther King Parade Downtown Tulsa, OK.



National Water Safety Program Resources and Initiatives

National Water Safety Committee Meeting Conducted at Lake Ouachita

On March 28 - 30, 2023, the National Water Safety Committee Meeting was conducted at Lake Ouachita, AR within the Vicksburg District. The committee and Lake Ouachita staff conducted a video shoot of some water safety interpretive programs and roving interpretation scenarios that after finalized will be shared out for internal use to provide examples on how to present water safety interpretive programs and roving interpretation. During the meeting the committee discussed the Water Safety Forum for Commanders that was conducted by MG Graham, promotional products provided by the National Water Safety Program, quarterly water safety journal, and judged the 2021 - 2022 photo contest. Division representatives on the committee and Lake Ouachita staff gave updates on water safety initiatives in their areas. Lake Ouachita staff showcased how they participated in the "Running of the Tubs" event that is held annually in Hot Springs, AR. National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty and MVD NRM Program Manager Amanda Kruse presented Lake Ouachita Park Ranger Josh Tyler the 2023 National Water Safety MVD Employee Award.



2023 National and Division Water Safety Award Winners

These awards recognize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and teams that have contributed to boating and water safety in an effective manner that has made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways. These awards are done in cooperation with the National Boating Federation. These are annual awards so everyone that meets the criteria is encouraged to apply. Nominations for next year's awards will be accepted towards the end of this year, so start planning throughout the year to submit your nominations for these awards. Winning nomination packages are on the NRM Gateway.

National USACE Water Safety Employee of the Year
Ms. Rachael Gwinn, SCA ISOP Water Safety Intern,
Raystown Lake, Baltimore District



National USACE Water Safety Team of the Year
Abiquiu Lake Staff, Albuquerque District



Division Water Safety Employee Award Winners:

LRD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Lisa Freeman, Louisville District Locks and Dams Project Office
MVD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Joshua Tyler, Lake Ouachita, Vicksburg District
SAD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Stephen Cahn, Lake Sidney Lanier, Mobile District
SWD Water Safety Employee of the Year – Bobby “BJ” Parkey, Oologah Lake, Tulsa District

Division Water Safety Team Award Winners:

LRD Water Safety Team of the Year – Nashville District Motorboat Operators Course Team
MVD Water Safety Team of the Year – St. Paul District Motorboat Operators License Examiner Team
SAD Water Safety Team of the Year – Hartwell Lake Water Safety Team, Savannah District
SWD Water Safety Team of the Year – SWF Piney Woods Region Water Safety Campaign PDT

2023

Life Jacket Video Contest

CONTEST DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

THE PRIZE:

\$5,500 for 55-second Video PSA
\$2,500 for 25-second Video PSA

*ONE WINNER PER CATEGORY WILL BE SELECTED



TO LEARN MORE:

www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com



This video contest is done in cooperation with The Corps Foundation. Your help is needed to promote the contest out to your visitors, partners, colleges, universities, etc. Promotional resources can be found on the contest website. USACE employees and offices are not eligible to enter this contest, but can assist others in creating a video and should not use any USACE funds to create the video or be listed as a team member on the entry.

Check out the new America's Boating Channel on Roku and Fire TV, which includes 48 Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns videos produced by The Corps Foundation in cooperation with the USACE National Water Safety Program. Watch this video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60VLvm_ZQgc&t=9s, to learn more about the channel and search for Americas Boating Channel on Roku and Fire TV to watch boating safety videos and much more.



Resources to Help You Promote Water Safety

USACE National Water Safety Program's Webpage www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety-Program/ (PleaseWearIt.com redirects to this) Includes Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Materials, Water Safety Tips in English and Spanish, News Releases, and more.

Please Wear It Social Media Pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These are the National Water Safety Program's social media pages that are managed in cooperation with The Corps Foundation.

NRM Gateway Water Safety Section <https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm> Includes USACE Strategic Campaign Plan for Reducing Public Recreation Fatalities, Public Recreation Fatalities Data Summary and Statistics, Life Jacket Loaner Program Guidelines, Promotional Materials Policy, GSA Vehicle Public Safety Marking Guidance Memo, Life Jacket Mandatory Wear Policy Selective Expansion Memo, Water Safety Graphics Library, Media Interview Fact Sheet, Water Safety Resource Guide for Interpretive Services and Educational Outreach, Bobber the Water Safety Dog Costume Guidelines, and much more.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog website www.Bobber.info

National Water Safety Program's YouTube Channel and DVIDS Unit www.YouTube.com/user/USACEwatersafety www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS Numerous water safety video PSAs are available and can be downloaded on the DVIDS Unit page so you can use them however you can to promote water safety.

Artwork and graphics created by the National Water Safety Program is added the Water Safety Graphics Library in the Water Safety Section on the NRM Gateway throughout the year, so check it out and download whatever you need to help promote water safety to all ages.

The posters below plus much, much more can be found in the Water Safety Graphics Library.



Dates to keep in mind:

Wear a Life Jacket to Work Day: May 19, 2023

Take a picture wearing your life jacket at work, share it using hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday, and tag @safeboatingcampaign on your Facebook page to promote how comfortable life jackets are to wear. Also, please send your Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day pictures to Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager at pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil.

National Safe Boating Week: May 20 - 26, 2023

Resources from the National Safe Boating Council can be found at <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/resources/>.

Operation Dry Water: July 1 - 3, 2023

Operation Dry Water is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). This year's heightened awareness and enforcement weekend will take place on July 1-3, 2023. All USACE lake and river projects are encouraged to register as an Operation Dry Water Outreach Partner at <https://www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/outreach/outreach-partners>.



There is an image hidden in this journal. Your job is to find it. This journal's image is this one of Bobber the Water Safety Dog. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. If you find the image, email Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager, at pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil. Your email MUST include the subject as Ripples Journal Image, your name, shipping address, phone number, your t-shirt size (small, medium, large, or XL), and the page number where you found the image. Entries need to be sent NLT May 26, 2023. The first five USACE employees that submit their entry correctly will receive a long sleeve Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns t-shirt that was donated to the USACE National Water Safety Program by The Corps Foundation.



www.Bobber.info