

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 03
NOVEMBER 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-Chelsea.J.Jones

NAD-Jenna.M.Conner

MVD-Erica L. Nabers

NWD/POD-Tana K. Wilson

SPD-Pamela.B.Bowie

SAD-Emily A. Jones

SWD-Abby L. Jones

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Water Safety Initiatives

Buffalo District (LRB)

As of 30 September 2023, LRB has made 5,666 water safety interpretive contacts and participated in 280 events.

Staff continue to provide guided walking tours of Mount Morris Dam, which include water safety messaging. These efforts also include field trips for local schools.

Buffalo District Commander, Lt. Col. Colby Krug, enjoyed a weekend tour of Mount Morris Dam with his family complete with a discussion about water safety and handouts.



Chicago District (LRC)

As of 30 September 2023, LRC has made 13,794 water safety interpretive contacts, participated in 21 events, and conducted 25 boat patrol days.

Over 3 days in September, park rangers participated in a River Wild event where they fitted 7th graders from area schools for life jackets, delivered a water safety and paddlecraft presentation, and hosted an educational water shed model demonstration station along the float route. 349 area students participated.

Upper Wabash Park Rangers Jared Blocher and Amber Arena attended a field trip and conducted water safety interpretive programs for area 5th graders. The field trip was hosted at Allen farm, a nearby private property owned by retired educators. There were nearly 90 students in attendance and topics covered by the park rangers ranged from water safety, proper life jacket selection and fitting, throw bag practice, patrol boat rescue equipment, and how to become a park ranger. Park Rangers also provided water safety materials to teachers so they could take them back to their classrooms for students to take home.



Detroit District (LRE)

Park rangers at Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center reached an additional 150 visitors through their water safety coloring stations and provided approximately 180 water safety swag bags to visitors during Lake Superior Day at the visitor center.

Three hundred and sixty five visitors took a water safety pledge. As part of a safety awareness program, park rangers encourage visitors to pledge to follow safety precautions in and around deep water, including but not limited to wearing life jackets. Those who took the pledge went home with a goodie bag of water safety items and a reminder to stay safe around open water.

Huntington District (LRH)

As of 30 September 2023, LRH has made 121,109 water safety interpretive contacts, participated in 338 events, and conducted 318 boat patrol days.



Alum Creek Lake

Park rangers staffed a water safety interactive booth at the Delaware County Fair.

Delaware Lake

Park rangers took Bobber the Water Safety Dog to the Touch-a-Truck and Street Dance at Delaware State Park so that they could talk to visitors about the importance of being safe in, on, and near water.



Yatesville Lake

Park rangers on National Dog Day, August 26th, conducted an event at the marina on their lake. They provided water safety tips for attendees and their dogs, provided photo opportunities with Bobber the Water Safety Dog, and hosted Paddle with Your Pup sessions.

Burnsville Lake

On July 28, 2023, hosted a water safety event that was fun and educational for all ages! There were 13 educational stations that participants got to experience: DUI Simulator, face-painting, three STEM activities, Think Before You Drink, and Alcohol and Water Don't Mix obstacle course, water safety drowning awareness relay, water safety temporary tattoo station, water safety storybook creation, opportunities to win a water safety prize, mermaid photo booth, water safety tic-tac-toe, and water rescue demonstrations.



SAVING LIVES IS FUN!
This event is sponsored by Burnsville Lake US Army Corps of Engineers

FRIDAY, JULY 28TH
BULLTOWN CAMPGROUND INTERPRETIVE SHELTER

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM ← WVABCA DUI SIMULATOR

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Stop by and say HI to Bobber! Bobber will be making random appearances!

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
OTHER ACTIVITIES

There will be several stations and some may contain water, be prepared to possibly get wet!

FREE FACEPAINTING
Provided by Burnsville Public Library

ALL YOUTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT



Sutton Lake

Put in place a new water safety photo op board by revising Bobber the Water Safety Dog artwork created by the National Water Safety Program.

Louisville District (LRL)

As of 30 September 2023, LRL has made 135,886 water safety interpretive contacts, participated in 340 events, and conducted 191 boat patrol days.

On July 23, 2023, Louisville District employees and their families attended the Louisville Bats game as part of Military Appreciation Day. Park Rangers Freeman and Gibson staffed a water safety table and Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances during the game. 568 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On July 26 - August 6, 2023, Louisville and Huntington District park rangers staffed a water safety booth at the Ohio State Fair. 9,472 direct interpretive contacts were made.

Carr Creek Lake

On July 13, 2023, Park Ranger Smith gave a water safety presentation to 50 individuals at Camp Noah in Knott County, KY. This camp was designed to give hope to the area approaching the 1-year anniversary of the devastating historic flooding that swept eastern KY in 2022.

Green River Lake

Friends Group uses a different pattern every year for the corn maze in Green River Lake State Park and this year they made the corn maze look like a life jacket.



Nolin River Lake

Park Rangers Smith, Houk, and Watt partnered with Mammoth Cave National Park to provide a camp for thirty-two kids.

Caesar Creek Lake

Park Rangers Briggs, Crossgrove, and Damon and volunteers helped staff a booth at the Ohio State Fair for five days and passed out water safety items.

Cave Run Lake

Partnered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to distribute water safety materials to 895 sites across Kentucky.

On July 21-28, 2023, local area volunteer rescue squads came together at Cave Run Lake for a water safety refresher/demonstration day. This training was an opportunity for all local rescue squads to meet their required training hours while demonstrating rescue techniques to the public.

Cecil M. Harden Lake

Filmed a water safety video that included Park Ranger Isaac Redenbarger talking about their life jacket loaner stations. This video is on the Louisville District's YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1PKTcV3rwk>

Monroe Lake

Park Rangers Burton and Blankenship presented a water safety interpretive program at the Indiana Bass-N-Gals kids fishing tournament. Approximately 250 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Rough River Lake

On August 19, 2023, at the 13th Annual Rough River Lake Dam Triathlon Park Ranger Tucker presented a water safety interpretive program to the 40 participants, which included why it was required to wear life jackets during the race.

Nashville District (LRN)

As of 30 September 2023, LRN has made 175,944 water safety interpretive contacts, participated in 273 events, and conducted 367 boat patrol days.

Nashville District Public Affairs Office worked with park rangers throughout the district to create some water safety information videos on various topics including importance of wearing a life jacket, knowing your swimming limits, and boating and alcohol don't mix.

J. Percy Priest Lake and Old Hickory Lake park rangers staffed a booth and promoted water safety at the Tennessee State Fair.

Lake Barkley



Promoted water safety in the Murray 4th of July and Eddyville Founders Day Parades and staffed a water safety booth at the BBQ on the River event in Paducah, KY.

Center Hill Lake and Cordell Hull Lake staffed water safety booths at local county fairs and during Labor Day weekend conducted Chalk the Walk water safety events in their campgrounds.



Dale Hollow Lake



Park rangers presented water safety interpretive program as part of the Learn to Swim program at the Cookeville YMCA and Putnam County YMCA.

Park rangers staffed water safety tables in their recreation areas over Labor Day weekend.



Lake Cumberland

Promoted water safety at a Back to School event at the Somerset Mall. Over 2,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Park rangers made over 700 direct water safety interpretive contacts at the Lake Cumberland Raft Up event and conducted boat patrol and promoted water safety during the "Poker Run" event. Both of these events are large on the water events at Lake Cumberland.

Pittsburgh District (LRP)

As of 30 September 2023, LRP has made 83,076 water safety interpretive contacts, participated in 152 events, and conducted 196 boat patrol days.



Youghiogheny Lake

In August, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, Pittsburgh District Commander Nicholas Melin, and Youghiogheny River Lake Resource Manager Vincent Klinkner buried two time capsules at the 75th anniversary celebration of Youghiogheny Lake.

Crooked Creek Lake

Conducted a Lake Safety Day on July 15, 2023 resulting in 300 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Tygart Lake

Staffed a informational table at an off-site event at Meadowbrook Mall and made over 1,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Woodcock Creek Lake

Staffed a water safety booth at the Crawford County Fair.

East Branch Lake

Conducted a water safety interpretive program and project tour for 48 YCC students.

Berlin Lake

Staffed a water safety table and presented water safety interpretive programs in their campground, and August 30 - September 4, 2023 staffed a water safety table at the Canfield Fair.

Michael J. Kirwan Lake

Conducted a water safety blitz and made 97 direct water safety interpretive contacts and attended a Dog Days of Summer Fest where park rangers made 550 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

M V D

Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

Vicksburg District (MVK)

Wear It to Win It: Every Wednesday, May 27 - July 5, 2023, the Vicksburg District selected their favorite water safety photo from those that members of the public sent in to receive a prize. Every person in the photos submitted had to be wearing a properly fitted life jacket that was fastened/buckled to be eligible to win. A grand prize was given to the best overall photo. Winning photos were shared on the Vicksburg District Facebook and Twitter pages.



Lake Ouachita

Natural Resources Specialist Amy Shultz, presented a water safety interpretive program to a group of 73 Students and 3 adults at St. John's Catholic School's Summer Program.

Conducted boat patrol every weekend promoting safety, conducting vessel inspections, and handing out water safety promotional items to visitors.



Received 50 life jackets of various sizes from the Sea Tow Foundation to stock their life jacket loaner stations.

St. Paul District (MVP)

St. Paul District conducted an open house at the Mississippi River Lock and Dam 4 on July 29, 2023. The free event was from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow people to get a behind-the-scenes view of the site while also getting a better understanding of what the staff do to ensure safe, reliable navigation. In addition to the open house, USACE staff and partners had a variety of water safety booths and displays on site. Visitors had an opportunity to see some of the boats that are used on the river as well as learn about the importance of wearing a life jacket while on the water.

Northern Mississippi Headwaters

Seven new life jacket loaner stations were put in place the Northern Headwaters area that covers Pokegama Lake, Lake Winnie, Leech Lake, and Sandy Lake.



A lot of paddlers tackled the Mississippi River this year - more than previous years including the group of paddlers that beat the world record for shortest time paddling the entire Mississippi. They completed in 16 days, 20 hours, and 16 minutes.

Gull Lake

Volunteers designed and built a new life jacket loaner station. It is located at the entrance to their day use area and next to their fee station.



Rock Island District (MVR)

Coralville Lake

Metal frame holders were added to all the vault toilet doors at in their day use areas. Each day use area located near a beach contained proper life jacket fitting information or a water safety message.



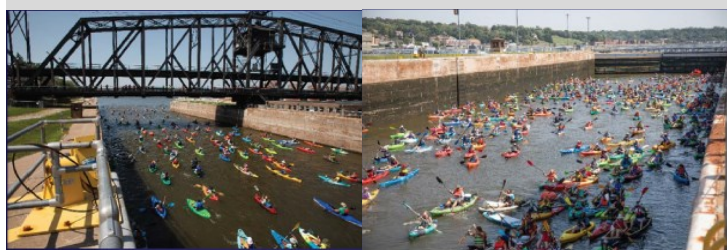
Staffed a water safety booth at Herbert Hoover Hometown Days on August 5, 2023 and Pelican Fest on August 27, 2023. Approximately 1,500 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made between both events.



On August 26, 2023, Bobber the Water Safety Dog threw out the first pitch at the Cedar Rapids Kernels game. Coralville Lake staff had a water safety booth at the game and made 425 direct water safety interpretive contacts.



Mississippi River Project



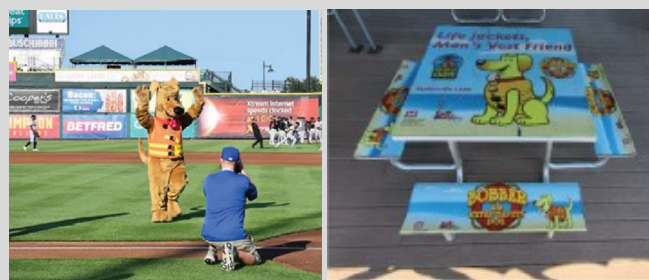
On August 19, 2023, Mississippi River Project Park Rangers and Lock and Dam 15 operators helped conduct the annual Floatzilla event. During the event park rangers kayaked with 700 other paddlers to help guide them through the lock safely. The lock operators provided lines for paddlers to hold onto while they locked through. In preparation for the event, park

rangers went over some water rescue scenarios with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Mississippi River Project provided water safety promotional products for “Fishing Has No Boundaries” event that took place on July 19, 2023. A Quad-Cities non-profit organization runs this event where people with disabilities are teamed up with local fishermen to provide them access to fishing on the Mississippi River. Sixty people with disabilities were able to participate in this event.

Lake Red Rock

On July 18, 2023, park rangers and volunteers from Lake Red Rock and Saylorville Lake spread the message about water safety and made over 5,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts at an Iowa Cubs Game. Bobber the Water Safety Dog met fans as they entered the stadium to hand out water safety promotional items and was honored by making the first pitch of the game. Through a partnership with the Iowa Cubs a water safety banner has been placed on the outfield wall and picnic tables wrapped with water safety messages are in the visitor concourse area.



Interpretive staff and volunteers presented a Junior Rangers camp for area 8-10-year-old kids. Participants received water safety messages during their dam tour about staying away from the restricted area below the dam and also participated in a "Sink Fast" interpretive program that demonstrated the importance of wearing a properly fitting life jacket when boating. Nine children took part in this year's day camp. Water safety messaging regarding life jacket wear and safe paddling was also provided to twelve participants at the Outdoor Adventurers Day camp prior to their kayaking/canoeing activity.

Lake Red Rock partnered with members of the Central College football team from Pella, IA to promote life jacket wear. Approximately a dozen of the young athletes donned life jackets for a photo shoot at the Whitebreast Beach, and the image was then shared on Lake Red Rock's Facebook page.



Saylorville Lake



On June 20, 2023, park rangers conducted a water safety interpretive program for the students of Altoona Campus Kids Klub. Students were introduced to water safety and the importance of wearing a life jacket by trying on different sizes of life jackets to see which one fit properly. This was followed by a life jacket relay race to see if the students could put life jackets on correctly in a short amount of time. 100 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On August 1, 2023, a park ranger attended the annual Polk County Sheriff Office National Night Out. During this event, a table was set up with giveaways and informational brochures about water safety. Additionally, a Plinko board was set up for kids to earn prizes by answering water safety questions correctly. With each question they got correct, they earned a chip to put in the Plinko board to earn a prize! 250 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Illinois Waterway Project

On July 29, 2023, park rangers staffed a table that included water safety at the Starved Rock State Park Junior Ranger Day. Visitors to the table were given water safety handouts, information on life jackets, state boating laws, and participated in a water safety trivia game. Approximately 500 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On August 26, 2023, park rangers conducted a water safety interpretive program at I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Day. Eleven direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Boat patrols on the Illinois River have been taking place throughout the summer. Courtesy water safety checks have been conducted and loaner life jackets provided during boat patrol. The #1 violation is children under the age of 13 not wearing or not properly securing/fitting into life jackets. Boaters were educated on life jackets, bow and stern riding, overloaded boats, and other safety equipment required on boats.

Boater education safety courses were provided on June 17, 2023, July 15, 2023, and August 20, 2023 at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center. A total of fifty-eight individuals took and passed the courses provided. After passing the course participants received their Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boater Education Card.



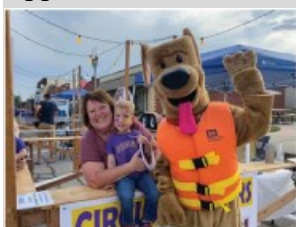
St. Louis District (MVS)

Carlyle Lake



On Fourth of July weekend, park rangers conducted “Beach Blast” in the Dam West Recreation Area. There was an array of family-friendly activities at the event that encourage safe practices in, on, and near the water. Participants learned how to properly size life jackets, how the impact of alcohol can affect the body and that it shouldn’t be mixed with water activities, and were asked various water safety trivia questions. Walmart of Carlyle, IL donated a "day at the beach" basket for the event that included sunscreen, beach toys, and other items.

On July 19, 2023, park rangers along with Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance in the Clinton County Fair Parade.



On September 8, 2023, Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance at the Carlyle Street Fair in downtown Carlyle, IL. Approximately 200 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



The "I Got Caught at Carlyle Lake" initiative entered its eleventh consecutive year in May 2023. This year, 32 local businesses and organizations committed to being partners to incentivize those actively wearing their life jackets at Carlyle Lake throughout the summer. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, park rangers awarded 210 individuals with t-shirts, dry bags, and beach towels. The local businesses and organizations provided donations for the t-shirts and those were awarded to kids and adults caught wearing their life jackets. The dry bags and beach towels were donated by the Corps Foundation and distributed by the National Water Safety Program. The dry bags and beach towels were awarded to adults wearing their life jackets. USACE offices are not authorized to use O&M funding to purchase personal items such as beach towels and t-shirts to give to the public. Those kinds of items must be acquired through donations from partners.



Mark Twain Lake

Park rangers made appearances in local 4th of July parades.



Life jacket loaner stations were installed and upgraded during the 4th of July holiday weekend at all water-related day use areas.

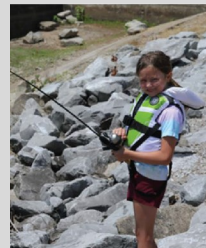
Over the 4th of July holiday weekend approximately 110 visitors to the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center completed a scavenger hunt that included historical, mission critical, environmental, and water safety items that they had to find in the visitor center. Those that completed the scavenger hunt received a prize.



During regularly scheduled beach patrol park rangers handed out water safety flying rings that were provided by the National Water Safety Program to visitors wearing their life jackets.

Rend Lake

Partnered with Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban Fisheries Program and Franklin County 4-H club to host a Kid's Fishing Derby. All participants (90 kids) were loaned life jackets that they had to wear during the fishing derby and were awarded with water safety goodie bags!



Partnered with the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council to staff a booth at the Southern Illinois Made Expo. They answered questions about Rend Lake and the USACE missions and promoted water safety.

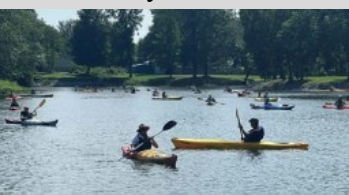
Along with presenting routine water safety interpretive programs at the beaches on 4th of July weekend, park rangers also took Bobber the Water Safety Dog to meet visitors in the campgrounds. The park rangers and Bobber went through the campgrounds and talked to 98 campers and provided them with water safety tips and flying rings that were provided by the National Water Safety Program.

Every Sunday during the summer months park rangers visit both of the beaches at Rend Lake to engage with the visitors and present water safety interpretive programs. 252 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made. In addition to that park rangers conducted boat patrol where they made 141 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Park rangers hosted the Environmental Science Series (ESS), a STEM education series, that took place every Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Before every program, the park rangers welcome visitors to Rend Lake and provide a short water safety interpretive program. 1,698 direct interpretive contacts were made.

Rivers Project and National Great Rivers Museum

On August 8, 2023, park rangers, staff, and volunteers welcomed the Motor Vessel Mississippi at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam for a public open house. Visitors could tour the MV Mississippi and learn about the navigation system, USACE missions, and water safety.



On August 12, 2023, park rangers partnered with the Mississippi River Water Trail Association to assist with a paddling event at Drost Park. Over 230 paddlers of all ages and skill levels participated in the event and were provided with instruction on how to paddle in a safe manner.

Lake Shelbyville

On June 3, 2023, Lake Shelbyville conducted their annual Kid's Fishing Tournament at Opossum Creek Recreation Area Fishing Pond. Every child had to wear a life jacket while fishing in the tournament and were provided information on why it's important to wear a life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.). Over 160 kids participated in the tournament.



Partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which performed vessel safety checks at Lake Shelbyville multiple times throughout the summer. They provided over 500 vessel safety checks.

Pathways Interns, Brook and Anthony, presented an interpretive program at the Windsor Public Library to teach kids about water safety and campfire safety. Thirty direct interpretive contacts were made.



"I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket" initiative was conducted at Lake Shelbyville again this year. Both adults and children that were caught wearing life jackets were awarded prizes by park rangers throughout the summer. Local businesses and organizations provided donations for t-shirts and those were awarded to kids and adults caught wearing their life jackets. Dry bags and vehicle windshield sunshades were donated by the Corps Foundation and distributed by the National Water Safety Program. The dry bags and sunshades were awarded to adults wearing their life jackets. USACE offices are not authorized to use O&M funding to purchase personal items such as beach towels and t-shirts to give to the public. Those kinds of items must be acquired through donations from partners.



“Community Cove” in Lake Shelbyville’s Dam West Recreation Area was officially introduced to the public this summer. The ramp to access this cove when not used during highwater is designated for paddlers only and provides a safe spot for those with human-powered vessels to launch. Many visitors have utilized this area and future plans include adding an EZ dock.

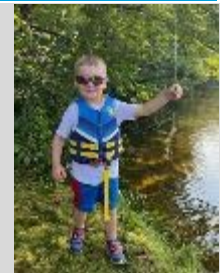
N A D

North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

New England District (NAE)

Blackwater Dam and Franklin Falls Dam

Park rangers provided young anglers an opportunity to fish from the bank of the Pemigewasset River and during the kids fishing program taught them about water safety, fish ID, and proper fishing etiquette. The kids were provided with fishing gear to use and all of them wore a life jacket during the program.



Merrimack Valley Paddlers got together for a paddle in August on the Pemigewasset River starting at Coolidge Woods Recreation Area. Park Ranger Briana Edwards got to interact with 15 paddlers at the event and took advantage of the opportunity to discuss water safety and hand out water safety promotional products provided by the National Water Safety Program to the paddlers!

Hop Brook Lake

Four concrete cornhole sets were installed this year at Hop Brook Lake to provide an additional recreational opportunity for visitors reserving one of the four shelters located in the park. Each cornhole set has the USACE water safety slogan, “Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns” on them to remind visitors of the importance of wearing a life jacket when enjoying water related activities. Vendor for concrete cornhole set: Doty and Sons Concrete Products, 1275 East State Street Sycamore, IL 60178, Toll Free: 1-800-233-3907, email: info@dotyconcrete.com, website: <https://dotyconcrete.com/portfolio-items/bring-your-own-bags-toss-game-cornhole/?portfolioID=61>.



Cape Cod Canal

Conducted various water safety events this summer, including Water Safety Day, “Canal Kids” programs, and family fishing clinics.

Colebrook River Lake



Park rangers took advantage of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo stencil provided by the National Water Safety Program and painted the logo at the top of the boat ramp facing the lake for increased visibility. On Memorial Day weekend, the park rangers conducted a water safety pop-up event at the boat ramp and made several direct water safety interpretive contacts.



Philadelphia District (NAP)

Blue Marsh Lake

One of biggest water safety highlights of the summer was having the chance to attend two local minor league baseball games for water safety promotional nights! During these events, park rangers staffed a booth, handed out water safety promotional products, and talked with the attendees about water safety and recreation opportunities. Bobber the



Water Safety Dog had the honor of throwing out the first pitch. During the game a 30 second water safety PSA was played on the stadium’s jumbotron. The PSA shown was one of the water safety PSAs developed by The Corps Foundation in cooperation with the National Water Safety Program. The PSAs available from the National Water Safety Program can be viewed and downloaded under campaign materials on the National Water Safety Program’s webpage, https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/, which PleaseWearIt.com redirects to.



Blue Marsh Lake staff completed their annual water safety and rescue training. The training included how to properly wear a life jacket, Reach-Throw-Row-Don’t Go retrieval technique, proper throw bag use, HELP and HUDDLE self preservation

positions, how to safely retrieve and secure an unconscious person in the water, in-water back boarding of an injured person, and loading a back board on a vessel.

In August, park rangers helped staff two National Night Out events. They showed the community proper safety practices that should be conducted in, on, and near water, such as proper life jacket wear, how to use boating safety equipment, and informed them of rules and regulations.



Baltimore District (NAB)

Jennings Randolph Lake

Held its 9th annual water safety festival on July 8, 2023 at Shaw Beach. Participants had the opportunity to dunk a park ranger, play water safety games, earn water safety prizes, and meet Bobber the Water Safety Dog. For this event USACE partnered with West Virginia Natural Resources, Kitzmiller Swiftwater Unit, and Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake. The Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake conducted a life jacket raffle during the event.



Raystown Lake

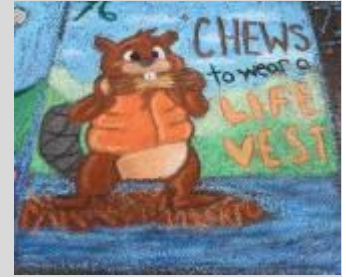
12th annual glow swim event took place in early July, attracting 350 visitors for an evening swim at the Seven Points Beach!



Raystown Lake park rangers and regulatory staff and Baltimore District NRM Specialist Andy Hoffman attended Penn State Ag Progress Days in August and shared water safety messages with over 1,000 people over the 3 day event! Park rangers performed life jacket fittings, played a water safety trivia game and gave out water safety promotional products.



In August, Raystown Lake hosted the 11th annual Chalk the Walk event, where 110 participants drew their favorite water safety message in chalk on the sidewalk at the Seven Points Beach! Over 250 beachgoers also by had a chance to check out the artwork and vote for their fan favorite.



This summer Raystown Lake welcomed their fourth Student Conservation Association (SCA) Water Safety/Interpretive Intern since 2015. This year's SCA intern, Eli Dunwoody, was an excellent ambassador of the water safety program and individually made over 1,500 direct contacts from May-August. Eli provided an invaluable service to the interpretive program by creating engaging water safety articles, signage and social media posts, independently leading school programs and events, and encouraging the lake park ranger staff to exceed an annual goal of 10,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Tioga Cowanesque Lake

Seasonal Park Ranger Steven Henneman swore in new Junior Rangers for completing the Junior Ranger book, which requires the completion of water safety related activities and a pledge to wear your life jacket in order to earn a junior ranger badge. The Junior Ranger book created by the National Water Safety Program and information regarding the wooden Junior Ranger Badge can be found on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section.

<https://corpsslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>



Approximately 300 Special Olympians and their families from Tioga and Potter Counties attended Mansfield University's annual Special Olympics. During the event, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, park rangers, and water safety volunteers educated attendees on the importance of being safe around water.

Staff, volunteers, and Friends of Tioga-Hammond Cowanesque Lakes hosted the 5th annual Every Kid Outdoors Event for all of Tioga County's 4th graders. A total of 545 students participated in hands-on interactive experiences covering topics on fishing, rattlesnakes, birding, water conservation, sailing, monarch butterflies, hiking, and water safety.



Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Portland District (NWP)

The Dalles Lock and Dam

Park Rangers participated in Wonderworks Childrens Museum “Touch a Truck Event”. The event featured construction vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, military and law enforcement vehicles. The park ranger vehicle was stationed next to the Safe Kids trailer. Park rangers gave out water safety materials and talked to children and parents about how to wear a life jacket and determine the correct size. Over 250 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Bonneville Lock and Dam



On 28 July 2023, park rangers staffed a booth at the Columbia River Indian Fisher’s Expo discussing the effect of cold water and the importance of wearing a life jacket when on or near water. Park rangers utilized a hands-on hypothermia demonstration and educational materials to explain the dangers of not wearing a life jacket, taught the importance of ‘Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go’. This event was free for all Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce fishers. 200 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On September 20, 2023, Bonneville Lock and Dam hosted its annual Every Kid Outdoors Day for 4th graders from Carson and Skamania schools. The event involved 48 students plus 6 adults. Park rangers presented stations on water safety, cultural resources, and wildlife pelts. Partners from the USFS, USFWS, Washington State Parks, Perch, and Oregon State Parks presented short programs on salmon, essentials to exploring the outdoors, scat, and tracks. The 4th graders received the Every Kid Outdoors America the Beautiful 4th Grade Pass.

Willamette Valley Project

To kick off 4th of July weekend, the Bobber the Water Safety Dog cartoons were shown at the Pine Meadows Campground Amphitheater. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance and got lots of pictures with visitors and handed out water safety temporary tattoos provided by the National Water Safety Program.

The City of Cottage Grove hosted their annual Emergency Preparedness Fair. Park Ranger Kyle Kapella educated visitors about water safety while Paul Sclafani, with floodplain management, displayed inundation maps for both Dorena and Cottage Grove Dams. Approximately 400 direct interpretive contacts were made.



Park Ranger Paige King and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended the Eugene Emeralds baseball game to celebrate the birthday of the team’s mascot Sluggo. The duo made about 250 direct water safety interpretive contacts at the game.

Dorena Dam tours were offered this summer to campers staying at Schwarz Campground. Park rangers shared the benefits and importance of dams in the Willamette Valley Project and water safety information during the tours.

John Day Lock and Dam



On July 29, 2023, park rangers attend the Irrigon, OR Watermelon Festival with Bobber the Water Safety Dog. The park rangers talked to attendees about water safety.

Employees, their families, and volunteers attended the John Day Lock and Dam Annual Summer Picnic. Natural Resource Management staff were on hand for boat rides to Philippi Park and park rangers gave a water interpretive program.

Provided water safety promotional materials to Boardman Parks and Recreation in Boardman, OR and Hermiston Community Pool and Rec Center – enough to fill 250 water safety bags for kids and families.

LePage Gatehouse Attendants filled and handed out 100 water safety bags with water safety promotional products for campers to receive when they checked in.

Lost Creek Lake/Rogue River Basin

Thirty life jackets were donated to Lost Creek Lake from the Sea Tow Foundation. The life jackets were

Walla Walla District (NWW)

Ice Harbor Lock and Dam

Cascade Natural Gas company has a gas line that runs through Hood Park next to the swim beach. A recent audit of Cascade Natural Gas pipeline markers showed a deficiency in their current signs for their 8” HP pipeline that crosses through Hood Park. Staff worked with Cascade Natural Gas to create a double-sided sign. On one side was what was required to correct the deficiency and on the other side was a water safety message. The gas company paid for the sign and installation and Ice Harbor Lock and Dam staff provided the Bobber the Water Safety Dog artwork that was



Kansas City District (NWK)

Rathbun Lake

Rathbun Lake park rangers, volunteers, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Moulton Jamboree Parade to promote water safety. The parade announcer provided a one-minute water safety message as the USACE parade entry drove by.



Park rangers are installing two new life jacket stations, so there is a loaner station at all of their beaches and boat ramps. Life jackets for the loaner stations have been received from the Sea Tow Foundation over the last three years.

Stockton Lake

On August 5, 2023, park rangers staffed a booth at a local school Back to School Fair on Saturday, reaching approximately 175 school aged kids and 100 parents and guardians.



On September 30, 2023, park rangers, volunteers, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Annual Black Walnut Festival parade in Stockton, MO.

Seattle District (NWS)

Albeni Falls Dam

In August 2023, Pend Oreille Rowing and Paddling Association and Long Bridge Swim Association conducted water safety instruction lessons at Priest River Recreation Area. During the water safety lessons, children ages 1-17 learned important techniques that they can do while swimming including how to safely putting their face in the water, blowing bubbles out their nose, kicking, and floating. Participants received a water safety bag and button from Albeni Falls Dam park rangers.



Lake Washington Ship Canal



Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance a few times this summer and handed out water safety bags with promotional items in them to the kids. Water safety posters were displayed in high traffic public areas, including lock operating house windows and restrooms. The visitor center has a dedicated table by the front entrance with water safety information on it. Park rangers utilize social media as an avenue to post numerous water safety messages.

SAD

South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

SAD FY23 Qtr 3 Water Safety Award Winner: Christine Dowell, West Point Lake within SAM
Park Ranger Christina Dowell was recognized for her innovative work promoting water safety. In addition to the community outreach she performed in the 3rd quarter to educate children on water safety, she partnered with the City of LaGrange to develop water safety videos that have reached several thousand viewers via social media. Check out some of her work at the links below.

<https://www.facebook.com/lagrangegagov/videos/2519511621551440>

<https://www.facebook.com/lagrangegagov/videos/959879768663666>

SAD FY23 Qtr 3 Water Safety Award Honorable Mention Winner: Will Daniel, John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir within SAW

Park Ranger Will Daniel was recognized for his remarkable dedication to outreach and for promoting water safety amongst all ages and groups that recreate at John H. Kerr Reservoir. In Q3 of FY23, Will made over 550 direct, onsite roving water safety interpretive contacts while working in the parks. He also assisted with the "I Got Caught" initiative and facilitated educational programs on many topics including water safety during campground programs making 90 direct interpretive contacts. Additionally, he participated in the HQ Organization Day event promoting water safety, led a water safety station at a Boys and Girls Club event, outfitted youth with life jackets at a partner event, and co-led a station during a school field trip totaling 385 more direct water safety interpretive contacts.

Jacksonville District (SAJ)

W.P. Franklin South Recreation Area

Park rangers and volunteers staffed water safety tables during the weekends at their boat ramps. In two months, approximately 130 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Mobile District (SAM)

Walter F. George Reservoir

At the annual Labor Day Fair at the Old Russell County Courthouse in Russell County, AL, Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer and Volunteers Kay Evans and Anna Bartel staffed an informational table that included water safety. A total of 433 direct interpretive contacts were made.



West Point Lake



In July, Park Rangers Christine Dowell and Mike Linville gave two separate interpretive programs at Troup County Sheriff's Academy for Youth camp-in at LaGrange, GA. The park rangers taught kids about the duties and responsibilities of a USACE park ranger and the importance of water safety. Approximately 50 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On July 15, Park Ranger Christine Dowell and volunteer Ellen Gue promoted water safety with a booth at the 6th Annual West Point Lake Dragon Boat Race at Pyne Road Park in LaGrange, GA. They gave out water safety items and brochures to both participants and spectators. Approximately 100 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On September 23, 2023, Park Ranger Christine Dowell and volunteer Tabby Robinson spray-painted the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo using a pavement stencil at Holiday Campground and Whitetail Ridge Campground as part of West Point Lake's National Public Land's Day Event. A new stencil painting was added to the boat ramps, and old messages were also repainted. The pavement stencil that was used was donated by The Corps Foundation and distributed by the National Water Safety Program.

Wilmington District (SAW)

Falls Lake

Visitors do not always correctly choose the correct sized life jacket and/or return a life jacket to loaner station properly. So, Park Ranger David Schwartz made an effort to spend more time at the loaner stations, helping people put life jackets on correctly, provided water safety messaging, making positive contacts, etc. From July – September 2023, Park Ranger Schwartz made an effort to be at the life jacket loaner stations around Falls Lake at least 10 times for an hour or so, helping more than 164 people find a life jacket that fit them, advise them on how to put it on correctly, and provide positive water safety messaging to them. Everyone has appreciated the extra help, knowing they have the right size and it's put on correctly.

John H. Kerr Reservoir

Throughout the month of July Rangers Emily Jones and Cassie Cross conducted seven different environmental education programs at three different public libraries in Mecklenburg County, VA totaling over 120 direct interpretive contacts. Water safety messages were included in each program.

On August 2, 2023, Park Rangers Jerry Jarman and Tyler Amos staffed a booth at the National Night Out event in Chase City, VA to promote water safety. 219 direct interpretive contacts were made.



South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

Albuquerque District (SPA)

On September 13 and 14, 2023, park rangers from Abiquiu and Santa Rosa Lakes and Operations Support Branch staff promoted water safety at the New Mexico State Fair. Over 10,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made. Recently the district Operations Support Branch purchased a Seamoor Safety remote-controlled robotic unit that was used during state fair to interact with the public. Seamoor Safety can talk, blink, move his head, and ride around on his personal watercraft (PWC). The Seamoor Safety robotic unit is only available from Robotronics, <https://www.robotronics.com/seamoor-the-sea-serpent-trade>. More information regarding Seamoor can be found on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section, <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>.



Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Fort Worth District (SWF)

Lake O' the Pines

On August 12, 2023, nine park rangers from across the Piney Woods Region partnered with four Texas Park and Wildlife Department Game Wardens to blitz the beaches and water of Lake O' the Pines. Over 300 boaters were checked for compliance of boating regulations. Of those contacts made, 66 of them were wearing properly fitted life jackets.



Wright Patman Lake

On July 17, 2023, Park Rangers Fiona Rabbakuk-Langthorn and Lynlee Russell taught Texarkana's Southwest Center summer campers about water safety.



Over the Labor Day holiday weekend, Wright Patman Lake Park Rangers conducted boat patrol with local game wardens.

Waco and Whitney Lakes



On September 2, 2023, Whitney Lake Park Rangers Kathryn Devers and Arianna Jacinto, Waco Lake Park Ranger Cara Niemietz, and Three Rivers Region CET Charles Kaluza represented USACE in the 47th annual West Fest parade.

Waco Lake

On July 25, 2023, Waco Lake Park Ranger Matthew Dutton attended McLennan County 4-H's Summer Wildlife Camp at the McLennan Community College's Highlander Ranch. Working together with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Wardens and the McLennan County Sheriffs Office, the group discussed water safety with the students. The camp consisted of 50-60 students between the ages of 8 and 13.



On July 8, 2023, Waco Lake Park Rangers Cara Niemietz and Matthew Hackler, Summer Ranger Ethan Janecka, and Acting Lead Ranger Matthew Jones supported the annual C.A.S.T. for Kids Fishing Event on the Brazos River outside McLane Stadium. Waco Lake normally hosts this event, but low lake levels forced the organizers to find an alternate location. Nevertheless, the Waco Lake Park Rangers still assisted with the event, presenting a water safety interpretive program for all participants and giving them all water safety promotional products.

Over 4th of July weekend, Waco Lake Park Rangers Cara Niemietz, Matthew Hackler, and Matthew Dutton, Summer Ranger Ethan Janecka, and Acting Lead Ranger Matthew Jones patrolled the lake by boat, making over 100 water safety contacts. The park rangers performed numerous water safety checks on boats and PWCs. They also enforced the restricted area at Twin Bridges Day Use Park and guided a swimmer back to safety. The swimmer had chased a beach ball past the buoy line into a restricted area. Park rangers made contact with the swimmer and lent him a life jacket so he could safely swim back to his family at the beach. The park rangers informed the swimmer about the risks of swimming into open water after objects without a life jacket and swimming into restricted areas.



Whitney Lake

On August 1, 2023, Whitney Lake Lead Ranger Jarod Briscoe and Park Ranger Aaron Szotka gave an impromptu water safety message to a man and his grandson at the Whitney Lake Project Office. The man and his grandson had come to the office looking for some information, and after answering their questions, Park Ranger Briscoe and Szotka decided to demonstrate some water safety topics, including proper life jacket fit and the importance of life jackets even for strong swimmers.

On August 1, 2023, Whitney Lake Lead Ranger Jarod Briscoe received some surprise visitors from Whitney ISD! The Whitney ISD teachers were participating in a scavenger hunt as a team building exercise which required them to complete a variety of tasks. One task was taking a photo with a park ranger, leading them to the Whitney Lake Project Office. Park Ranger Briscoe jumped on the opportunity to discuss water safety with the teachers, who appreciated the information.

On July 22, 2023, Whitney Lake Lead Ranger Jarod Briscoe and Three Rivers Regional Park Ranger Kyle Watter represented Whitney Lake in the Lake Whitney Library's Hometown Heroes Event. The Park Rangers stole the show, showcasing their new patrol vessel, demonstrating their rescue equipment, and providing the children and adults in attendance with a strong water safety presentation.



Proctor Lake



While patrolling Copperas Creek Park on Labor Day weekend, Park Ranger Jared Harris noticed several families playing some yard games together. Ranger Harris stopped to visit with the families and share some water safety information with them.

On July 29, 2023, Park Ranger Jared Harris staffed a table at Dublin ISD's Back to School event which included promoting water safety to students and their parents.

On July 20, 2023, Lead Ranger James Burger and Park Rangers Jared Harris and Ben Murphy conducted a water safety interpretive program at the Dublin Public Library, which included an appearance by Bobber the Water Safety Dog.



Over the 4th of July weekend, Three Rivers Region West Texas Lead Ranger James Burger, Proctor Lake Park Rangers Jared Harris and Ben Murphy, and Summer Ranger Hunter Murphy conducted boat patrol. They performed water safety checks on boaters and made water safety contacts with visitors. The park rangers passed out water safety promotional products and also issued beach towels donated by

The Corps Foundation and distributed by the National Water Safety Program to adults wearing life jackets as part of the "I Got Caught" initiative.

Belton Lake

On August 20, 2023, Park Ranger Arty Johnson had the opportunity to speak with KWTX-TV News10 regarding historic low water elevation at Belton Lake. Park Ranger Johnson shared historical data and information regarding closures, water safety including the importance of wearing a life jacket, and water conservation.



On July 26, 2023, Park Ranger Arty Johnson and on August 17, 2023, Park Ranger Justin Hoover had the opportunity to speak with FOX44 News in Belton, TX regarding the low water elevation at Belton Lake. Park Ranger Johnson and Hoover addressed concerns about the marinas and advised the public on water safety including the importance of wearing a life jacket.

Lavon Lake

SWF PAO (Richard Bumgardner, Audrey Gossett, and Patrick Adelman) recorded water safety messages for Lavon Lake and local partners. Participating partners included Collin County Sheriff's Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and fire departments from Wylie, Princeton, and Lucas, TX. The water safety messages will be used across a wide variety of social media platforms as well as local newspapers and possibly television stations.



Somerville Lake

Park Rangers Amber Owen and Dayziah Petruska promoted water safety at the Safety Day event at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center in Brenham, TX. The park rangers walked around the event with Bobber the Water Safety Dog and spoke to many kids and their families about water safety at the pool and lake. More than 300 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



Benbrook Lake

Over the 4th of July holiday weekend, Benbrook Lake park rangers performed over 200 direct, face-to-face water safety checks with their visitors on all types of vessels. The park rangers passed out water safety promotional products and also issued beach towels donated by The Corps Foundation and distributed by the National Water Safety Program to adults wearing life jackets as part of the “I Got Caught” initiative.

Lake Georgetown

Staff provided a water safety and heat related illness table at the Goodwater Loop Trailhead in Cedar Breaks Park during the 4th of July weekend. Flyers regarding heat related illnesses and water safety promotional products were passed out to hikers and they were reminded that jumping from cliffs into the lake is prohibited.



Canyon Lake



On July 1, 2023, Canyon Lake staff participated in a multi-agency water safety outreach event to explain the dangers of boating and alcohol and promote boating and swimming safety over the 4th of July weekend. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) coordinated the event to tie into the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators’ Operation Dry Water campaign. Park Ranger Kaiya Haines and USACE volunteers provided water safety information and promotional products to visitors at boat ramp 18. In addition to USACE, TPWD, Comal County Sheriff’s Office, Water Oriented Recreation District, and other organizations participated in the event.

Sam Rayburn Lake

Park Rangers Taylor McDaniel and Gina Jaworski became certified to wear auto-inflatable life jackets while on duty after completing the swim evaluation, performing self rescue, and successfully re-arming and packing the inflatable life jacket for the next use.



Park rangers visited high volume areas on the lake over the Fourth of July weekend and rewarded visitors for safe recreation practices and for wearing their life jackets. The team also performed vessel safety checks ensuring all boaters had their required safety equipment in good condition and easily accessible. 715 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

Galveston District (SWG)

On August 12, 2023, Galveston District Park Rangers Karly Sias and Eric Angle were at the Moody Gardens Air, Car, and Boat Show in Galveston, TX. Park Rangers Eric and Karly were on hand to talk to visitors about water safety and the importance of wearing life jackets when on, in, or near water.



Little Rock District (SWL)

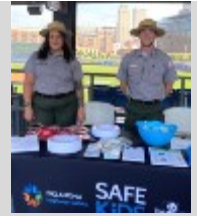
Table Rock Lake

Park rangers conducted interview on July 3 and 28, 2023 with KOLR10 regarding the importance of water safety and wearing a life jacket when in, on, or near water.

Tulsa District (SWT)

Fort Gibson Lake

Park Ranger Tiffany Natividad and summer ranger Colton Thomas staffed a water safety table at the Tulsa Driller Safe Kids Night at a Tulsa Driller minor league baseball game at OneOK Field in Tulsa, OK.



Park Ranger Cheri Dixon and maintenance worker Rex Treadwell installed two Life Jacket Loaner Stations; one at Wahoo Bay boat ramp and one at the Rocky Point boat ramp at Fort Gibson Lake. These life jacket stations were constructed by the project office maintenance department.

Keystone Lake

Lake staff worked with local news stations and the community to promote water safety over the holiday weekends.



Safe Kids Tulsa hosted a Labor Day Press Conference at the Saint Francis Children's Hospital in Tulsa on September 1st. Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Tulsa Police Department addressed being safe on the roadways along with seat belt safety from the Safe Kids Coalition. Keystone Lake Park Ranger Lauren Enloe addressed the importance of wearing a life jacket, different types of life jackets and other ways to stay safe around the water. Park Ranger Enloe's interview was on local news stations in the Tulsa area. She also conducted an interview with Channel 6 on Labor Day that was aired.

Skiatook Lake and Birch Lake



Staff visited La Petite Early Childhood Center to present a water safety interpretive program. 31 kids were in attendance.

Sardis Lake

Staff promoted water safety at the annual Mud Run at Poteau, OK. Water safety items were distributed to the more than 500 visitors and 270 runners.



Oologah Lake



Park Rangers Randi Clifton, Preston Jones, Niki Baker, and Bridger Montgomery were part of the "Who Works the River Event". The park rangers spoke with High School juniors and seniors about potential career paths with USACE and promoted water safety by doing a bag throwing activity with the students and gave water safety promotional products to those that participated in the activity.

District Operations, Regulatory, and Safety Offices

On September 8 - 17, 2023, staff staffed a water safety interactive area at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS. 10,633 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made. Fair attendees took a water safety quiz via I-Phone/Scan Code and upon completion received a water safety promotional product.



National Water Safety Program Resources and Initiatives

Partnering to Promote Water Safety

The Corps Foundation embarked on a new endeavor to help promote our Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign in July 2023. They purchased advertising on gas pump toppers, gas nozzles, and ice machines at convenience stores near the USACE lakes with the most water-related public recreation fatalities in recent years. Those lakes included Lewisville Lake, Lake Lanier, Percy Priest Lake, Lake Texoma, and Hartwell Lake.

For four weeks, gas pump toppers and gas nozzles were wrapped at 27 locations for approximately \$495 per station and ice machines were wrapped at 24 locations for approximately \$810 per station. The USACE National Water Safety Program created the graphic artwork needed for all the ads and for an 8" X 8" window cling that approximately half of the convenience stores put up for free on their front doors or windows. An idea for USACE offices to do is to take the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo window clings that they received from the National Water Safety Program and ask local businesses if they will place them on their windows and doors for free.



The Corps Foundation's total costs for these ads were \$32,805 and that was for four weeks through a company called AllOver Media (AOM) Advertising. Convenience store advertising is just one of a variety of types of advertising that AOM provides. The Corps Foundation worked with AOM's Kevin Spaniol and his contact information is Kevin.Spaniol@allovermedia.com and office number 763-762-2053. You can see more about what kinds of advertising they do at AllOverMedia.com. If you want to pursue this type of advertising, selecting more than one four-week period can reduce your monthly costs.

The Corps Foundation's funding for this initiative came from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. USACE offices can also purchase this kind of water safety advertising. USACE operation and maintenance (O&M) funds are authorized to purchase water safety educational products, which are considered necessary expenses for the O&M of USACE projects. This includes promotional items, advertising through airtime, printed material, and billboard space, but does not include items of personal value such as t-shirts, ballcaps, beach towels, etc. Items of personal value can be acquired through donations and partnerships, like the one that the National Water Safety Program has with The Corps Foundation that donates water safety products such as beach towels, t-shirts, etc. for our "I Got Caught" initiative.

HUGE Life Jacket Donation

Newell Brands, a leading global consumer goods company, donated 7,022 life jackets, valued at \$88,111.18 to the Corps Foundation that will be used in the life jacket loaner program at lakes throughout the South Atlantic Division. Newell Brands also donated over 10,000 life jackets to the Sea Tow Foundation, which some of those life jackets went to USACE lakes within the Kansas City, Tulsa, and St. Louis Districts so they can use them at their life jacket loaner stations. USACE National Water Safety Program Manager, Pam Doty, coordinated the effort between the USACE lakes, Sea Tow Foundation, Newell Brands, and the Corps Foundation to acquire the donation of life jackets mentioned in this article. The generous donation of life jackets will help keep our visitors safe when in, on, or near the water.



On July 18, 2023, Raystown staff escorted SCA Intern Rachael Gwinn to USACE-HQ to participate in an award ceremony recognizing her achievement as the National Boating Federation's 2023 National Water Safety Award winner. The award was presented by Director of Civil Works Edward Belk and National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty. Then, on July 19 Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon recognized Rachael's award during activities related to the Twilight Tattoo Ceremony showcasing the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).



On July 19, 2023, park rangers from across the nation staffed a booth before the Twilight Tattoo Ceremony at Fort Myer, VA. The park rangers answered questions and provided information on USACE lake and river projects, how to become a park ranger, recreation opportunities, and water safety. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances to help promote water safety and provide photo opportunities for attendees.

USACE Public Recreation Fatalities Dashboard on NRM Gateway

The dashboard shows the number of USACE public recreation fatalities by division, district, and project for FY18 - FY22. This dashboard is on the NRM Gateway towards the bottom of the main page and in the water safety section under Water Safety Program Statistics. <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/nrm.cfm>
Thanks to Ginny Dickerson for creating this dashboard and making it available!!!

How to access the NRM Community Team on MS Teams

Open MS-TEAMS, click the Join a Team link, enter code fmc90v1. It is just that easy and you'll have access to information regarding water safety, visitor assistance, partnerships, and much more.

Kansas City District Public Affairs Specialist Jessica Schaeffer interviewed National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty and wrote an article on the National Water Safety Program that was placed on the Kansas City District's DVIDS unit in August 2023. Read the article at this link.

<https://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Stories/Article/3485689/usace-national-water-safety-program-promoting-safety-in-style/>

The Corps Foundation donated some Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns promotional products including beach towels, t-shirts, and vehicle windshield sunshades to the National Water Safety Program and the products were distributed to 120 USACE lakes that requested them to use in their "I Got Caught" initiative. The products are only given to adults that are caught wearing a life jacket. The products were purchased by The Corps Foundation utilizing grant funds that they received from the U.S. Coast Guard to promote the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign, which is our campaign that targets adults. Products such as beach towels and t-shirts we are not authorized to purchase because they are considered items of personal value, so what The Corps Foundation has done and continues to do to help us promote water safety to adults is very much appreciated. Here are pictures of some of the adults caught at our lakes that were wearing their life jacket and received a product donated by the foundation.



Abiquiu Lake



Buffumville Lake



Caesar Creek Lake



Crooked Creek Lake

More "I Got Caught" Pictures



Greers Ferry Lake



John H. Kerr Lake



Lake Ashtabula



Lake Ouachita



Lower Granite Project



Michael J. Kirwan Lake



Mississippi River Project



Perry Lake



Nolin River Lake



Success Lake



Pine Bluff Lake



Trinidad Lake



West Point Lake



Willamette Valley Project



Allatoona Lake



East Lynn Lake

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.ercd.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.

Past issues of this quarterly water safety journal "Ripples" are on the NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/nrm.dfm>

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 life jacket loaner stations panels below plus much, much more can be found in the Water Safety Graphics Library.



LIFE JACKET LOANER STATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1) Life jackets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 2) Parents/Guardians are responsible for making sure their children are in the right sized life jacket. If the size is incorrect, the life jacket will not work effectively.
- 3) Borrower assumes all responsibility and liability of life jacket use/non-use.
- 4) Borrower will not hold liable any party involved in the distribution of life jackets.
- 5) Borrower must inspect life jacket prior to use to make sure life jacket is in good working condition.
- 6) Return life jackets to this station before leaving the park!

Thank You For Your Cooperation!

**Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns
PleaseWearIt.com**



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Thank You For Your Cooperation!



ALWAYS SWIM WITH A BUDDY, NEVER ALONE!

SIEMPRE NADE CON UN AMIGO, NUNCA SOLO!

Estación Para Prestar Chalecos Salvavidas
REGLAS Y REGULACIONES

- 1) La cantidad de chalecos salvavidas es limitada.
- 2) Los padres ó guardianes tienen la responsabilidad de asegurar que sus niños tengan la talla correcta del chaleco salvavidas.
- 3) El prestatario asume toda la responsabilidad del chaleco salvavidas.
- 4) En caso de ocurrir un accidente, el prestatario no cubre ningún representante del gobierno involucrado en la distribución de los chalecos salvavidas.
- 5) El prestatario debe examinar el chaleco salvavidas para asegurar que el mismo está en buena condición.
- 6) Devuelva los chalecos salvavidas a esta estación antes de salir del parque!

¡Gracias por su cooperación!



The Sea Tow Foundation has announced that those interested including USACE lake and river project offices can apply for life jackets that can be used to host a new life jacket loaner station, or restock an existing one at your location or in your community. All materials associated with this offer are free. As part of a grant administered through the U.S. Coast Guard's Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund, the Sea Tow Foundation has received funding to work with organizations and communities throughout the U.S. to provide life jackets for loaner stations for the 2024 boating season. Any organization, company, or individual that is interested in receiving life jackets can fill out the application on the Sea Tow Foundation's website. Here is the link to the application. <https://www.boatingsafety.com/page/2024-grant-application> Applications will be accepted until February 1, 2024.

National Water Safety Product Catalog and Order Form will be emailed out on December 7, 2023.

Products from the National Water Safety Program are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis so keep an out for an email from your Division Representative on the National Water Safety Committee on December 7th.

Dates to keep in mind:

National Water Safety Product Catalog and Order Form will be emailed out: December 7, 2023

Deadline for Divisions to submit their nominations for the National Water Safety Awards to National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty: December 8, 2023

Sea Tow Foundation Life Jacket Loaner Program Application Deadline: February 1, 2024

International Boating and Water Safety Summit
April 8-11, 2024 in Albuquerque, NM
Early Registration Deadline: January 15, 2024
Conference website: www.ibwss.org



There is an image hidden in this journal. Your job is to find it. This journal's image is this one of Ranger Buck. 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, pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil. Your email MUST include the subject as Ripples Journal Image, your name, shipping address, phone number, and the journal page number where you found the image. Entries need to be sent NLT December 8, 2023. The first five USACE employees that submit their entry correctly will receive Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns dry bag that was donated to the USACE National Water Safety Program by The Corps Foundation.

