



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

MAY 14 2018

CECW-CO-N

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS, AND CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Announcement of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers award winner of the American Recreation Coalition's 2018 Legends Award.

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has selected Ms. Samantha Gray, Lead Interpretive Ranger at the Cape Cod Canal, New England District as the recipient of the 2018 American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award.
2. Over the past 21 years, Ms. Gray has been a leader in the promotion of recreational and educational opportunities at the Cape Cod Canal. Since the opening of the Canal Visitor Center in 2001, Samantha has been the force behind its transformation, making it the focal point of the Canal's interpretive mission, and a centerpiece of the New England District's Natural Resources Program. Her development of innovative programs such as Canal Kids, Sandwich Partnership for Families, and Exploring Engineering Club is helping to develop the next generation of public lands and waters stewards by reaching children from ages 1 – 17 with programs targeted to each learning level.
3. Ms. Gray has been a significant player in the promotion of partnerships opportunities at her project and throughout the New England District. She was instrumental in the development of the District's partnership policy and standard operating procedures. Her efforts have made it easier for other projects to cultivate relationships with outside organizations to improve the recreational opportunities at their parks. Leading by example, Samantha set up a cooperating association agreement with Eastern National to create the Canal Visitor Center Bookstore, started an Adopt-A-Shoreline program, and formed a partnership with the Sandwich Arts Alliance to display photos and artwork featuring the Canal. Ms. Gray's leadership and passion for imparting knowledge has resulted in devoted, life-long volunteers, longstanding partnerships with key stakeholders and the public, as well as a stellar interpretive program.
4. Samantha continuously shows vision and effective project execution, while always taking the time to mentor and assist co-workers, volunteers and visitors. She is an asset to the Corps of Engineers and has earned the recognition offered by the American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award.

CECW-CO

SUBJECT: Reference Memorandum, CECW-CO, 09 March 2018, subject: Request for Nominations for the American Recreation Coalitions 2018 Legends and Beacon Awards.

5. The Legend award winners from each agency will be honored at a ceremony during the American Recreation Coalition's Partners Outdoors annual conference to be held 31 May 2018 in Washington, D.C. Ms. Gray's accomplishments and efforts bring positive recognition to the Corps of Engineers and our partners. Her commitment to excellence has established a distinguished standard for others to emulate.

6. My point of contact for this award is Ms. Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, who may be reached at 503-808-4313.

Sincerely,



THOMAS R. SMITH, P.E.
Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
Directorate of Civil Works