



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

CECW-CO

**MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, OPERATIONS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS**

**SUBJECT: Request for Nominations for the 2019 Excellence in Partnerships Award
and National Volunteer Award.**

1. I am pleased to request your nominations for an outstanding partner within your area of responsibility for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Excellence in Partnerships Award and outstanding volunteer(s) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Volunteer Award. These awards, which are co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation, will be presented in the spring of 2020 at the award recipients' locations, in ceremonies that recognize their outstanding partnerships and service to the Corps.

2. The Excellence in Partnerships Award began in 2001 and is now in its eighteenth year recognizing exceptional contributions by a partner providing substantial support to the Corps Recreation and/or Environmental Stewardship programs. Each year, the award recipient is selected based on accomplishment of management objectives, creativity, improvements in public awareness and education, serving diverse audiences, and involvement of other partners.

3. The National Volunteer Award began in 2014, and was created to nationally recognize the extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourage an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for Corps lands, facilities, and resources. The intent of the award is to distinguish those individuals, couples/family units who give their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty and whose creditable service to the Corps has resulted in the significant enhancement to one or more of the Corps business lines.

4. Nominations must be routed through each District to the Major Subordinate Command (MSC). Each MSC recreation/stewardship business line manager will electronically forward nomination packages assembled in accordance with the enclosed criteria and instructions to Taylor Saia, CESPCK-CO-SE, no later than 06 December 2019. A selection committee will review the nominations and provide me with recommendations for final selection.

5. More information about these awards can be found on the NRM Gateway at <https://corpslakes.erdcdren.mil/partners/awards.cfm>.

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6. The point of contact for this activity is Taylor Saia, SPD Partnership Advisory Committee member, who can be reached via e-mail at taylor.q.saia@usace.army.mil or by phone at (209) 772-1343.



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

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1. Excellence in Partnerships Nomination Criteria
2. Excellence in Partnerships Award Application
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Excellence in Partnerships Award Nomination Criteria



Purpose of the Award – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Excellence in Partnerships Award was created to recognize outstanding contributions of any partner organization which has participated in the Corps recreation or environmental stewardship activities and/or projects.

Eligibility – Corps partners who have provided substantial support to operations in the recreation and/or environmental stewardship arena.

Definition – A Partner is any group or organization whose partnership with the Corps results in the enhancement of and contributions to the Corps mission, particularly in regard to natural resources management. A formal agreement (such as an MOU, challenge partnership agreement, Economy Act, cooperative agreement, or cooperating association agreement) is not required to compete for this award.

Nomination Package – The nomination package will include the following:

- Corps project name
- Corps point of contact
- Partner's name
- Partner's point of contact
- Corps project mailing address
- Corps project phone number
- A narrative describing the nominee's accomplishments:
 - Should be a concise description of the nominee's project(s) or efforts that shows why the partner should be recognized.
 - Must address the criteria described below to enable the review committee to easily compare nomination packages.
- A citation that provides a summary of achievements which may be read at the award ceremony.
- Application requirements:
 - A maximum of four pages of narrative
 - Up to four additional pages of support material, including photographs or news articles may be attached.
 - One slide that briefly describes the partner's efforts and accomplishments and includes photographs of the partnership in action (example attached).
- One nomination package per Major Subordinate Command (MSC) will be submitted electronically by the MSC Rec/ES business line managers to the award point of contact, Taylor Saia, at taylor.q.saia@usace.army.mil.

Nomination Criteria – Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

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

(2) Improvement in Public Awareness/Education - Enhancing the public's awareness of the Corps Recreation and/or Environmental Stewardship missions. Providing members of the public with significant opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values and attitudes related to Corps projects and public lands in general.

(3) Accomplishment of Management Objectives - Accomplishing management goals and objectives and has assisted the Corps in accomplishing work items that could not have been accomplished without the partnership.

(4) Involving Other Partners - The partnership has increased community involvement and understanding of the Corps role in serving the Nation.

(5) Serving a Diverse Public - The partnership has strengthened and improved the Corps' ability to provide good customer service by developing programs that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of diverse user groups. Diversity may include but is not limited to ethnicity, people with disabilities, various socioeconomic backgrounds, or a variety of recreation user groups.

The nominee's efforts should have been completed within the **preceding two calendar years** and should result in the completion of field level products, projects or programs.

Citation – The nomination package must include a citation of no more than 750 characters summarizing the achievements by the partner that will be read at the award ceremony.

Spotlight Slide – Please include one slide that briefly describes the partner's efforts and accomplishments and includes photographs of the partnership in action (example attached).

Nomination Process – Each MSC can submit a total of one nomination for the Excellence in Partnership Award. Nomination packages assembled according to the enclosed information will be forwarded electronically by COB 06 December 2019 **from each MSC Rec/ES business line manager** to Taylor Saia, at taylor.q.saia@usace.army.mil.

The Partnership Advisory Committee and the Corps Foundation will review the nominations and provide recommendations to the Chief, Natural Resources Management HQUSACE. The winner will be honored in the spring of 2020 and will receive a plaque provided by the Corps Foundation at the partner's location.



National Volunteer Awards Nomination Criteria



Purpose – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Corps Foundation created this award to recognize the extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourage an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for Corps lands, facilities, and resources. The intent of the award is to distinguish those individuals, couples or family units who give their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty and whose creditable service to the Corps has resulted in the significant enhancement to one or more of the Corps business lines. The purpose is to identify volunteers who have exceeded expectations and set a higher bar of performance.

Eligibility – This award may be given to an individual, couple or family unit who has provided substantial support to operations in the recreation and/or environmental stewardship arena. Exemplary work performed may include such things as improving conditions for the resources, park facilities, operations, or visitors; addressing backlog maintenance items; developing community partnerships; or providing a positive, supportive work environment. The work performed can take place over multiple years, and at one or more projects. In addition to the general criteria outlined, the nomination must clearly identify how the nominee's work has fulfilled a project's needs, has had a positive impact in the USACE, and has made a lasting contribution.

Note: Outstanding organizations that volunteer for the Corps should be submitted for the Excellence in Partnership Award, not the National Volunteer Award.

For consideration, all nominees must have performed some of their **qualifying volunteer work during the previous fiscal year**. Nominees, such as hosted workers who have received payment other than incidentals from another source for their work are not eligible for the awards. Corps employees who volunteer during their non-duty hours are also not eligible.

Nomination Criteria – Selections will be made based on four criteria areas:

- (1) Support and dedication to the Corps missions – The nominee(s) service has supported one or more of the Corps missions and raised public awareness of the Corps mission in the local community.
- 2) Accomplishments – The nominee(s) has exceeded program goals through their improvements and contributions in accomplishing management objectives.
- 3) Impacts to the project, resources and community – The nominee(s) addressed an identified need, provided unique or innovative service to accomplish work that would not have happened without the volunteer's service.
- 4) Collaboration and partnerships – The nominee(s) efforts built partnerships, boosted public interest, and increased community support and involvement.

A winner cannot receive the award in consecutive years. Submissions will be rated based on the narrative which supports the criteria and references/support documents.

Citation – The nomination package must include a citation of no more than 750 characters summarizing the achievements by the partner that may be read at the award ceremony.

Nomination and Selection Process – Each MSC can submit a total of three nominations to be considered for this national award. The nominations should include the following:

1. Completed nomination form
2. Narrative addressing the four award criteria (maximum of three pages on the fillable form)
3. Up to four additional pages of photographs or articles that showcase/ demonstrate the nominee's efforts or accomplishments

In the event that a nominee has served at multiple MSCs and both MSCs would like to submit a nomination package for the same volunteer(s), the two (or more) MSCs can combine efforts and submit one multi-MSc nomination package.

Nomination materials must be received by 06 December 2019, and should be submitted electronically **by the MSC Rec/ES business line managers** to Taylor Saia, at taylor.q.saia@usace.army.mil. MSCs will ensure all necessary nomination materials are complete and forward their top three regional selections.

The Partnership Advisory Committee and the Corps Foundation will review the nominations and provide recommendations to the Chief, Natural Resources Management HQUSACE. The winner will receive a plaque and volunteer coin provided by the Corps Foundation, which will be presented by their Division or District Commander or other delegated representative.