



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
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CECW-CO-N

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

**SUBJECT: 2020 Excellence in Partnerships Award Selection**

1. I am pleased to announce that the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club (SVOC) at Rend Lake in the St. Louis District (MVS) has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recipient of the 2020 National Excellence in Partnerships Award.
2. The SVOC is an outstanding example of a 40-year partnership that organizes several special events in support of Rend Lake's missions. Even with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club prevailed and were still able to hold a few of their annual events at Rend Lake. The club participated in the Christmas tree drop in early March 2020 helping to build fish habitat at Rend Lake. They also held the 41st annual Rend Lake deer hunt for Individuals with disabilities in November 2020. To ensure the safety of all volunteers and participants, changes were made to the banquet which was held virtually. The deer camp, typically a hub of activity, included only a few volunteers, students, and participating hunters. Hunters still had the opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy a great weekend hunting with a small, dedicated group of people who gave their undivided time, attention, and energy to ensure hunters had the experience of a lifetime.
3. All the nominees for this year's award made significant contributions to their projects and demonstrated remarkable work being done across USACE. Three partners deserve special mention for their efforts: Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association at Raystown Lake (NAB), Austin Ridge Riders Bicycling Association at Georgetown Lake (SWF), and Rogue River Watershed Council at the Elk Creek Project (NWP).
4. The Excellence in Partnerships Award is co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation in recognition of exceptional contributions to USACE natural resource management programs. The award will be presented to the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsman Club later this year.
5. My point of contact for this award is Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, who can be reached via e-mail at [heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil](mailto:heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil) or phone at 503-808-4313.

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