



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

CECW-CO-N

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

SUBJECT: 2025 Excellence in Partnerships Award Recipient

1. I am pleased to announce that the Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO) at Lake Ouachita, (MVK) have been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recipient of the 2025 National Excellence in Partnerships Award.
2. FOLO has partnered with USACE since 2001, contributing over 22,000 volunteer hours and \$3 million in funding to foster community involvement, enhance recreational opportunities, and protect the natural resources of Lake Ouachita. Their ability to secure funding, navigate complex grant processes, and remain committed to the elevated walkway rebuild project exemplifies their dedication to enhancing recreation at Lake Ouachita, resulting in lasting benefits for the public, the environment, and USACE.
3. All nominees for this year's award made significant contributions to their projects and demonstrated remarkable efforts across USACE. Five partners deserve special mention for their outstanding work: Phillips 66 Ponca City at Kaw Lake (SWT), Libby Dam Cooperative Association at Libby Dam (NWS), Cadiz-Trigg County Parks and Recreation at Lake Barkley (LRN), Southern Off-Road Biking Association – Central Savannah River Area at J. Strom Thurmond Lake (SAS), and Pathfinders Motorcycle Club of Connecticut at Thomaston Dam (NAE).
4. The Excellence in Partnerships Award is supported by the Corps Foundation to recognize exceptional contributions to natural resource management programs at USACE projects. The award will be presented to the Friends of Lake Ouachita later this year.
5. For any inquiries regarding this award, please contact Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, via e-mail at heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil or by phone at 678-972-3824.

STEPHEN L. HILL, PMP, SES
Director, Operations and Regulatory
Programs