

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2016
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center**

District / Division:**Detroit/ Great Lakes**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Rip Current Awareness**

Corps POC Name: **Denise Wolvin**

Telephone:(**218**) **720** - **5260** ext. **35278**

E-Mail: **Denise.K.Wolvin@usace.army.mil**

A. Checklist:

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? Yes No
 2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? Yes No
 3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP? Yes No
 4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project? Yes No
 5. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2015 or review a 2015 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$30,000): \$6,000

C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. Do NOT include a copy of that agreement with this application. A copy may be requested if not already provided to the Partnership Team. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

This application qualifies for the Cooperating Association Bonus funding.

D. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score. The first category is for the partner contribution meeting or exceeding 70% of total project costs. A summary of the partners' contribution to the Handshake Project should be included in the financial worksheet below. The second category is for Lake or River Projects that have never been chosen as Handshake recipients.

Partner contribution total is 70% or greater (100 points).

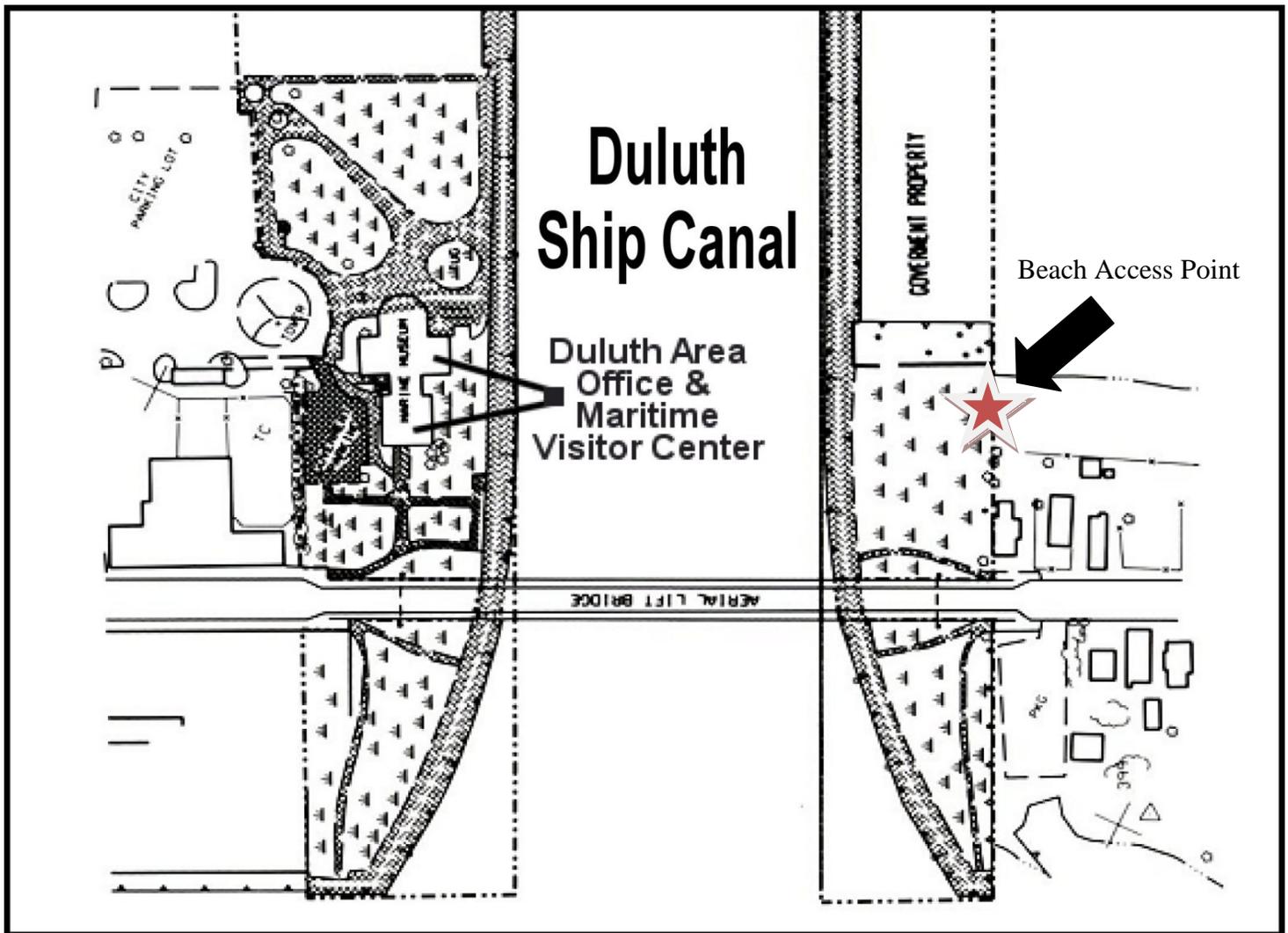
This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (100 points).

E. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness. Please address each in your description.

Summary Statement of Handshake Project:

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center (LSMVC) is a hub of activity in the summer months - averaging around 100,000 visitors within the building per month. Some of these visitors are simply using our restrooms facilities before they make the trek over the Aerial Lift Bridge to recreate on the sandy beach of Lake Superior. They access that beach by crossing through a portion of our park. Please refer to the map below. During the summer, hundreds of people make that trek to escape the heat of Duluth or simply wanting to put their feet into Lake Superior.



There is a danger to swimming in Lake Superior. That danger is rip currents. Rip Currents are strong, natural current flowing away from shore. They form at the surface and are created by wind and breaking waves returning to the lake. Swimmers have been caught in these currents and some have perished. Two years ago, a young woman was swimming just off the South Pier of the Duluth Ship Canal – within sight of LSMVC. She was caught in a rip current and fortunately was able to get over to the South pier and grab the wall. She was so exhausted; emergency rescue had to assist her up the pier ladder to safety.

Rip currents can be predicted and a working group was formed to educate and notify beach goers. This working group has many partners: Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant, City of Duluth Parks, City of Duluth Fire Department, National Weather Service Duluth office, Duluth YMCA, Park Point Volunteer Surf Rescue, MN

Department of Health Beach Program, American Red Cross Northland, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, and more recently the US Army Corps of Engineers – Duluth Area Office. Their mission is to educate the public about water safety. One of their main focuses is on rip currents. Outreach started in 2004 by the MN Sea Grant and organizations have joined together to assist in the process.

In 2008, the National Weather Service started publicizing the probability of rip current conditions on the Internet. But, like many of us, people do not check the Internet before they head out to the lake. A rip current notification system was set-up by using flags. There are three flags currently in place along Minnesota Point at various accesses to the beach. These flags are changed by 10:00 am by the Duluth Fire Department by using the information provided by the National Weather Service website and when conditions change during the day.

Why did the young woman venture out into Lake Superior if there is a warning system in place? It happened because the first flag placement is 12 blocks down Minnesota Avenue. Currently, there is no warning system by the US Army Corps of Engineers beach access point. We are hoping this Handshake Partnership Agreement will change all that.

Our group is proposing installing a flag pole on US Army Corps of Engineers property to warn beach goers of any dangers of rip currents. The Duluth Fire Department has agreed to add this flag station into their schedule when they change the flags as conditions warrant. This simple flag pole has the potential of saving lives.

The flag pole will be purchased by the US Army Corps of Engineers and installed a local contractor personnel. The flags will be provided by the Duluth Fire Department. There are small interpretive signs that mount directly on the flag pole explaining the meaning of the flags. The signs designs will be provided by the Minnesota Sea Grant. The Handshake agreement funds will pay for the manufacturing and installation of the signs.

Our group is also proposing creating an informational kiosk within the LSMVC to increase the awareness of rip currents. This kiosk will be located within the front entry of LSMVC. The plan is to build a kiosk that will house the computer and monitor to display the information located on the parkpointbeach.org website; current conditions, water temperature, surf, and bacteria warnings. Beach goers can use this continually updating website in making a determination if swimming is safe for themselves and their family. A computer would be purchased with the Handshake Funds. Minnesota Sea Grant will design the interpretive panel that will surround the monitor opening. The funds from the handshake partnership agreement would pay for the manufacturing of the sign and the kiosk itself.

Water safety is a national priority for the US Army Corps of Engineers. We feel that becoming a part of the working group is a natural extension of our mission here at LSMVC.

Longevity / Sustainability description:

The beach flag warning system has been in place for five years. It has been a very successful avenue to inform the public about water safety. It is expected to continue far into the future. We have chosen a hurricane force wind flagpole (since it will be exposed to gale force winds) that is expected to last 20 plus years. The Duluth Fire Department has no issues in added this additional flag location to its current work load. Once the flag pole is installed, there are no foreseeable issues with the project.

The informational kiosk in an enduring aspect of this program as well. LSMVC already has electrical and internet capability at the location. As long as the US Army Corps of Engineers operates this facility, this kiosk will remain. Since the information is based off of an internet viewing website, it will be updated with the latest technology. If that technology changes, this kiosk could easily adapt to the latest display techniques. We foresee using this kiosk for 15 plus years.

Partnership Value:

Being a partner in this working group is essential for the US Army Corps of Engineers. This group is focused on water safety and completely aligns with the mission of the Corps. They have been instrumental in setting on a strong foundation for water safety education in the Twin Ports. By becoming an active partner in the group (which consists of 10 governmental and non-profit groups), the US Army Corps will be able to keep on top of the trends for water safety in the area. The Corps will also be able to better participate in events that this group puts together for water safety.

Recreational Benefit:

The recreational benefit of this project is educating the public about current conditions. Individuals of all backgrounds can easily make an informed decision on whether or not to swim in Lake Superior due to the flag that is flown at the beach access site. It will make a safer area for beach goers.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

Although there is not a direct environmental stewardship benefit with a flag pole or the kiosk, we believe that this information system can set the stage for environmental stewardship. People are able to make a better educated decision regarding their recreation choices. The information kiosk will become a portal for the visitors to become more educated about Lake Superior and therefore other large water bodies.

Communication & Education Value:

This plan is bringing the information directly to the users. The flag pole is static but the information will change with the flag of the day. By placing it directly in the path of beach users, the information will be right there for them to use in making the decision to swim or not.

The information kiosk is a static display as well, but it is continually updated with information about the beach conditions along Minnesota Point. Visitors will be able to make an educated decision even before getting to the beach.

Innovativeness:

This is a very unique partnership. I have never witness a group that has 10 members actively educating the public. They work very well together and this is shown by the innovative way that they have designed the flag system and website.

Concluding statement:

Rip currents are very dangerous and an alert system needs to be in place for the visitors accessing the beach from US Army Corps of Engineers property. By adding the flag notification system and information kiosk, we can save lives. The flag notification system is familiar to most recreation users and has had great success in educating the public on dangers of rip currents.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center

Work Project Title: Rip Current Project

POC Name: Denise Wolvin

Address: 600 Lake Ave South

City: Duluth

State: MN Zip Code: 55811

Telephone: 218 - 720 - 5860 x35278

Location of Project: Duluth Ship Canal

Partner Organization 1: Minnesota Sea Grant Program

POC Name: Jesse Schomberg

Address: 31 West College Street

City: Duluth

State: MN Zip Code: 55812

Telephone: 218 - 726 - 6182 x

Partner Organization 2: Duluth Fire Department

POC Name: Brent Consie

Address: 602 West Second Street

City: Duluth

State: MN Zip Code: 55802

Telephone: 218 - 730 - 4391 x

Partner Organization 3: National Weather Service

POC Name: Carol Christianson

Address: 5027 Miller Trunk Highway

City: Duluth

State: MN Zip Code: 55811

Telephone: 218 - 729 - 0651 x726

Partner Organization 4:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 5:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 6:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 8:

POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 9:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 10:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 11:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 12:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 13:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 14:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 15:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone: - - x

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$3,000	N/A	\$2,000	\$1,050	\$5,000	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$2,500	\$1,050	\$5,000	\$0
Share of Total Cost	29.2%	29.2%	12.2%	5.1%	24.3%	0.0%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,050
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,500
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,550
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: