

2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence

Nominee: Robert D. Buck
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Nomination of Mr. Robert D. Buck for 2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence

Executive Summary

Mr. Robert D. Buck, Natural Resources Specialist at Lake Barkley, is nominated for the 2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Mr. Buck recently joined the Lake Barkley staff in February 2019. During this short time, Mr. Buck displayed a positive attitude and an exemplary work ethic in all aspects of his duties, especially promoting the Corps' Water Safety Mission. Ranger Buck made over 8,300 direct contacts while conducting 22 water safety events that included youth camps, fishing tournaments, and project tours. He promoted the "Every Kid in a Park" campaign by conducting multiple school water safety programs and issued free 4th grade passes. Ranger Buck also partnered with LRL Park Rangers to staff a large water safety display at the KY State Fair.

1. Creativity and Originality

As a new ranger, Mr. Buck was able to take traditional interpretive programs and incorporate new ideas. He utilized his wildlife science background to incorporate reptile programs into weekly youth camp presentations. Robert's fresh outlook and small changes to routine programs improved the learning environment for nearly 2,000 youth campers.





2. Made a positive Experience for Visitors

Ranger Buck incorporated water safety messages into nearly every contact with the visitors. He conducted 26 boat patrol days and numerous vehicle patrols resulting in over 4,300 direct contacts, 298 vessel safety inspections, 157 enforcement actions and a boater assist. Ranger Buck utilized social media by posting multiple water safety messages as well as working with PAO to record and post a water safety public service announcement. Combined, these efforts provided a wide variety of opportunities to inform people with different interests, backgrounds, and age groups about the importance of water safety.



Additionally, Ranger Buck coordinated the placement of 25 secondary channel buoys and repaired beach swim lines to ensure safe boating and swimming experiences for all visitors. All of these accomplishments were made while balancing a heavy workload of shoreline management and participating in LRN's robust Ranger Training Program.

3. Enhancement of the Public's Understanding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Site

Mr. Buck definitely enhanced the public's understanding of the Lake Barkley project and the USACE mission. His positive attitude and genuine desire to inform visitors is very evident in every public interaction. Ranger Buck conducted multiple programs at a variety of venues to interpret Corps history and mission as well as water safety. On a daily basis, Mr. Buck also interacted with adjacent landowners explaining Corps policies while conducting shoreline management duties.



Citation

Mr. Robert Buck, Natural Resources Specialist at Lake Barkley, is commended for exceptional work within the USACE Interpretive Program. Mr. Buck took advantage of every opportunity to interact with visitors and educate them about the importance of water safety. His leadership, professionalism and humble attitude exemplify the Army Values and the Corps' commitment to providing safe and enjoyable recreation experiences for all visitors. Mr. Buck is awarded the 2020 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence in recognition of his service to the Nashville District, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.