

2019 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence

Nominee: Grace E. Trimble
Natural Resources Specialist (Ranger), GS-0401-07
US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
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Nomination of Mrs. Grace E. Trimble for 2019 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence

Executive Summary

Mrs. Grace Trimble, the Natural Resources Specialist at the Upper Tuscarawas Project Office, is nominated for the 2019 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Mrs. Trimble is the Ranger for the five Upper Tuscarawas Projects in the Muskingum Area which consist of Atwood Dam, Beach City Dam, Bolivar Dam, Dover Dam, and Leesville Dam. During calendar year 2018 Mrs. Trimble served in a developmental Pathways Ranger position. She started as the Pathways Ranger for the Upper Tuscarawas Projects in March 2018. During the span of only one year, she demonstrated impressive creativity, tenacity, organization, and professionalism in her execution of the interpretive program. Shortly after Mrs. Trimble started in her position as the Pathways Ranger, the lead and only other Ranger in the Upper Tuscarawas Project Office was selected for a developmental assignment. Mrs. Trimble worked most of her first year with no senior Ranger to look to for guidance. She used her networking skills to reach out and learn from more experienced Rangers throughout the Muskingum Area and Huntington District, while keeping a fresh eye on new interpretive techniques and methodologies. Not only were Mrs. Trimble's work related accomplishments outstanding, but she was also able to maintain a 4.0 grade point average and graduated in December 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and a minor in Nonprofit Studies.

1. Creativity and Originality

Although Mrs. Trimble is new to the organization, she is always quick to assist and exhibits the Army Value of personal courage to lead when needed. She used her short time with the agency as an asset rather than an impediment, and drew upon her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, to relate and spread messages to younger audiences. She sees and listens to what people want to know, and how best to get that message across. She views these opportunities as strength building exercises and continues to look for new ways to connect.



Mrs. Trimble immersed herself in the events that had already been scheduled and quickly started seeking out new events to schedule. Mrs. Trimble has shown exemplary organizational skills to build and maintain a functional schedule, months in advance. She works diligently to become involved with local community events and activities to show positive aspects of our agency. She has shown great skill in building and growing working relationships with multiple agencies and

organizations to include the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Sustainable Wildlife Area Restoration Movement (SWARM), Rural Action, Tuscarawas County Healthy Kids, and Conotton Creek Festival to name a few. She uses local events to showcase the Corps mission and its impact on the community. Mrs. Trimble works with coworkers to staff events and to ensure the Corps message is expertly communicated.



2. Made a positive Experience for Visitors

In her outreach to local communities, Mrs. Trimble has shown initiative far beyond her limited years of experience. In the absence of a lead Ranger, she not only fulfilled the previously scheduled community obligations, she sought out new partnerships and events to improve the interpretive program. She worked closely with many community leaders to find the best times and most effective means to communicate to target audiences.



Mrs. Trimble quickly took interest in the national pollinator initiative and delved deeply into additional research. She made contact with multiple experts in the field who helped her to focus on efforts to promote native pollinator species. She further researched pollinator habitats and met with beekeeper's associations, the nonprofit founder of SWARM, and the Ohio State University Bee Lab Education Specialist to assess and develop a plan to create seven acres of pollinator habitat. In addition to her work with the pollinator initiative, Mrs. Trimble strived to connect with local law enforcement agencies to include them in her programs and to become involved with their activities within the community. This has led to improved partnerships and further spreading the message of the Corps and its mission.

Mrs. Trimble has enthusiastically volunteered for new opportunities. One such opportunity was offering to serve on the district's Ranger/Manager Committee. She used this experience to take the message of SWARM to the rest of the district, helping Rangers and Managers as well as members of SWARM to experience the diversity of the Huntington District and foster mutual cooperation.

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

Mrs. Trimble used her excellent organizational skills to deliver an intense outreach program with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education as well as Water Safety. The Upper Tuscarawas Flood Control System impacts numerous small communities. Many people in these communities are familiar with USACE and its various missions. However, Mrs. Trimble used dam tours, as well as onsite and offsite activities to further educate them on the varied and important missions of the Corps. She worked with the local high school and trade school to create internship opportunities and to develop a qualified pool of local candidates for positions within USACE. Students will benefit by learning about the agency and gaining experience in resume building and interview skills. They will take part in Atwood Dam pollinator habitat activities, including a planned Pollinator Blitz in which native plants will be established and promoted to improve the habitat for native pollinators. There will also be opportunities to remove invasive species and replace them with native beneficial species. Mrs. Trimble is creating and fostering partnerships to assist with this labor intensive program, as well as using them as educational tools to help spread a worthwhile message.



Citation

Mrs. Grace Trimble, Natural Resources Specialist for the Upper Tuscarawas Projects of the Muskingum Area, is commended for exceptional work within the USACE Interpretive Program. She demonstrates a true desire and enjoyment of outreach and partnering. She is a tremendous asset to the Upper Tuscarawas Projects of the Muskingum Area and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is with great pride that I recognize her dedication, outstanding achievements and contributions. Mrs. Trimble is awarded the 2019 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence in recognition of her service to the Huntington District, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.