

Executive Summary

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson is the driving force leading the outstanding Interpretive Services and Outreach Program for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake in southeast Missouri. In 2007, he accomplished extraordinary things through creative partnerships and a positive engagement of the local community. Ranger Jefferson transcends day-to-day program expectations by thinking outside the box. He uses a grassroots approach to prove anything is possible if your passion outweighs your position. Andrew is extremely successful at tapping into resources that are not traditionally associated with accomplishing our interpretive services and outreach program goals. His philosophy is to use your imagination. He believes it doesn't matter where you come from as long as you know where you want to go. Ranger Jefferson has inspired the Wappapello Lake team to use their imagination to get there.

Through Andrew's innate ability and unscripted skills, he has coordinated nine spectacular special events, cultivated media relationships, administered the volunteer program, operated the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center, and tenaciously spread the public safety awareness campaign across the region. With his creative ideas promoting safety, Ranger Jefferson's team has reached more people than ever before—potentially saving immeasurable lives. Andrew exemplifies the true spirit of Hiram M. Chittenden in each and everything he does and he genuinely deserves this recognition.