

Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence
Executive Summary
Arthur G. Barragan
Hensley Lake

The Hensley Lake Team is honored to nominate one of its own, Student Park Ranger Arthur G. Barragan, for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Ranger Barragan is a prime example of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Interpretation Ranger recognizing a need and finding solutions, which Ranger Barragan did by developing water safety and environmental programs for an underrepresented group of children with special needs and disabilities. Through Ranger Barragan's hard work, dedication and innovation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now has a greater ability to make a difference in the lives of those affected with life changing disabilities.

Ranger Barragan's passion to help children with disabilities started prior to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he worked as a Teacher's Aide in special needs classrooms. This experience opened his eyes to the need to bring water safety and environmental education programs not only to the classroom, but bringing the classrooms out into nature to fully impact the specific needs of these children. Ranger Barragan utilized the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for the special education community to design specific programs that stimulate senses, force concentration, and promote the use of fine motor skills, while delivering USACE messages on water safety and environmental education. This was accomplished by modifying existing presentations to meet the needs of the target audiences; from non-verbal interpretation for the deaf, hands on for the blind, and/or a combination of the two.

Ranger Barragan's participation at several local schools and events has enhanced the public's awareness of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the delivery of interpretive programs that touched on several critical USACE missions. In addition, many of these classrooms and groups affected by Ranger Barragan's interpretive programs are contacting Ranger Barragan to schedule future programs for their classrooms. Through his hard work and innovation, Ranger Barragan modified numerous interpretive programs to reach out to many non-traditional audiences and delivered several important key USACE messages. For all his achievements and contributions to the lives of thousands of children with disabilities in 2014 and thousands more to come, we proudly nominate Park Ranger Arthur G. Barragan for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence.