

The Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence

Executive Summary

Park Ranger Kim Hammel has embodied the commitment, innovation, and passion required to be recognized for interpretive excellence. In her twenty one years of service to the Corps of Engineers, Kim has built special events, forged partnerships, and found creative avenues to deliver the interpretive message at Carlyle Lake and throughout the Kaskaskia River Watershed, touching thousands of lives in the process. Kim's success is derived from her dedication as a team member while on duty, along with a personal passion for civic involvement. This success has been evident, but never more so than 2009, where a culmination of her efforts have produced a year full of achievements. These achievements have created unprecedented value to the citizens of the Kaskaskia River Watershed—she has taken a grassroots approach to special events support and economic stability, she has inspired area children, created a safety-first atmosphere, nurtured education, and embodied a spirit of creativity and goodwill. Her work is the definition of excellence, and she deserves the Chittenden award in recognition of these efforts.