



# Welcome to **Excellence in Partnerships and Volunteer Award Webinar**

The conference will start at 1:00 PM Eastern Time

- Welcome to a Partnerships Webinar on MS Teams
- Presented by SAD PAC representative Francis Ferrell

## **Web Conference Etiquette**

- Please mute your microphone during the presentation unless you have comments or questions.
- Feel free to use the chat and “raise hand” features in MS Teams

# EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIPS AWARD AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Partnership Webinar  
September 20, 2023



*Berks Area Mountain Bike Club  
-Blue Marsh Lake  
2021 EiP Winner*



U.S. ARMY



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# Webinar Overview

- **Excellence In Partnership Award & National Volunteer of the Year**
  - History and Purpose
  - Application Process
  - Success Stories



# Excellence In Partnerships Award

## Purpose and History

- To recognize an outstanding partner within your area that provides substantial support to the Corps Recreation and/or Environmental Stewardship programs
- Began in 2001
- Co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation; [corpsfoundation.org](http://corpsfoundation.org)
- Selected based on achievements in 5 categories that your applications will address
- Winner is presented with the award at a ceremony held in the award recipient's location

# EIP Application Process

- Packages are due to Francis Ferrell by December 1st (routed through division MSCs)
- One nomination package per division will be submitted electronically by the MSC
- Package Requirements:
  - Corps Project Name
  - Corps POC
  - Partner's Name
  - Partner's POC
  - Corps project mailing address
  - Corps project phone number
  - Introduction: Briefly Describe the Project setting and your Partner's mission
  - A narrative describing the nominee's accomplishment that addresses the required criteria in the nomination package (maximum of four pages, with up to 4 additional pages of support material such as photographs, news articles, letters of recommendation)
  - A citation that provides a summary of achievements to be read at the award ceremony (750 character max.)
  - Spotlight slide with pictures and highlights of the partnership

# Nomination Criteria

Specifically address how the partner's accomplishments meet the following five evaluation criteria

- **Accomplishment of Management Objectives**
- **Creativity and Originality**
- **Improvement in Public Awareness/Education**
- **Involving Other Partners**
- **Serving a Diverse Public**



# Nomination Criteria

**Accomplishment of Management Objectives:** Assisted the Corps in accomplishing work items that could not have been completed without the partner

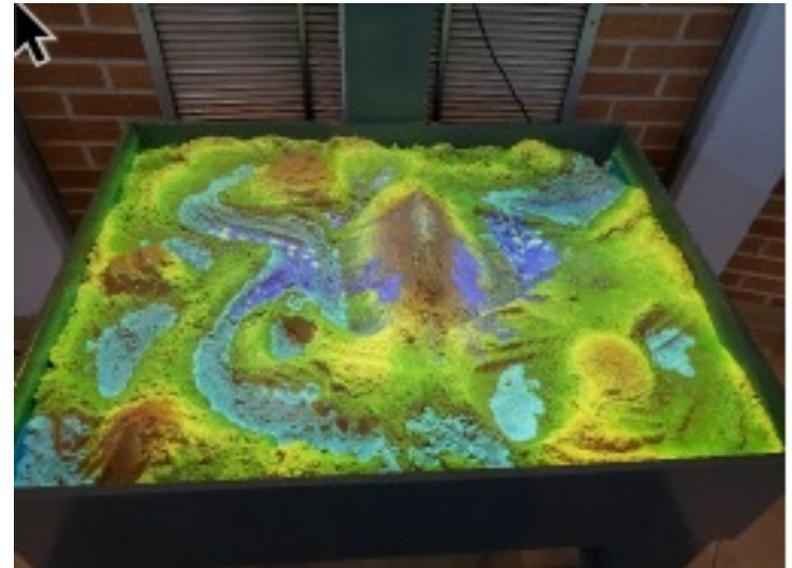
- How were goals accomplished only through the partnership?
- Did the project/partnership tie into greater regional or national goals or initiatives?
- What specific management goal did the partnership meet?
- How did the partnership improve cost-benefit/efficiencies?
- Did the partner provide any ongoing O&M?



# Nomination Criteria

**Creativity and Originality:** The nominee has shown creativity and originality in serving the public and assisting the Corps in meeting the needs of its customers.

- How is the partnership or project unique?
- Is their project/product/partnership a model that will be used by others?
- Does the partnership involve a non-typical or new partner?
- Has the partnership led to other partnerships?



# Nomination Criteria

**Improvement in Public Awareness/Education:** Enhancing the public's awareness of Corps missions. Providing the public with opportunities to acquire knowledge, values and attitudes related to Corps projects and public lands

- How does the partnership raise public awareness about Corps missions?
- Does the partnership have far reaching impacts regionally/nationally?
- Is there ongoing outreach, or is this just a one-time event?
- Are there a variety of programs/unique ways of doing outreach?
- Are there demonstrated actions by the public as a direct result of the partnership/project?
- What are the quantifiable interpretive efforts, products, programs?
- Were other partners or schools/universities engaged to increase public education?

# Nomination Criteria

**Involving Other Partners:** Increased community involvement and understanding of the Corps

- Did the partnership involve any other partners beyond the primary nominee?
- Did new partners join in the efforts beyond the initial project?
- Did the partner bring in grants or other outside funding, materials, supplies, resources?
- Did the partnership lead to regional or broader impacts beyond the initial Corps location?

# Nomination Criteria

**Serving a Diverse Public:** Partnership assisted in developing programs that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of diverse and various user groups

- How did the partnership improve the experience for multiple user groups?
- Did the initial partnership grow into future initiatives?



## Example of a Spotlight Slide

Spotlight slide

# PENNSYLVANIA STRIPED BASS ASSOCIATION

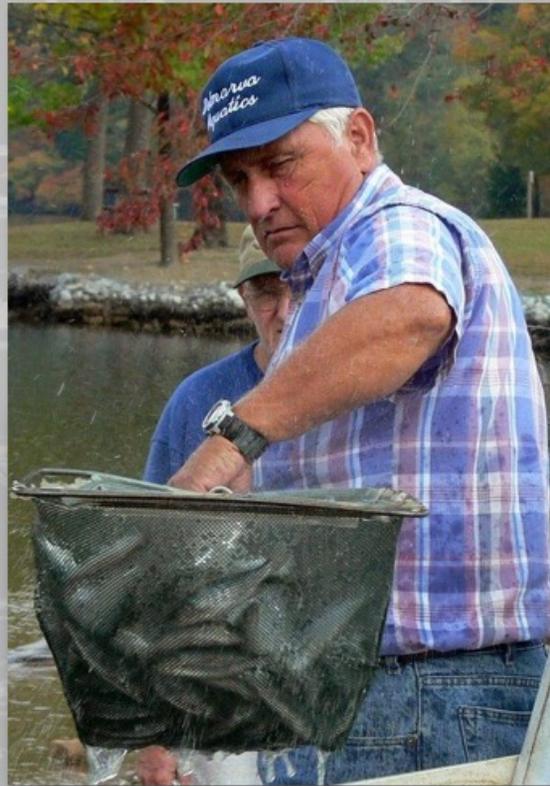
The Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association's mission is to preserve the striped bass fisheries at Raystown Lake. Since their inception, this group has been a dynamic leader in projects like fish stocking, spawning research, aquatic habitat improvement, community involvement, education, and much more.

- Established by a group of anglers in 2005
- Augmented state's striped bass stocking efforts by purchasing and stocking over 800,000 fingerlings and 1.8 million fry in Raystown Lake
- Partnered with 3 organizations to create the Raystown Lake Striped Bass Hatchery to spawn and raise striped bass in-house
- Participates in annual aquatic habitat improvement events, including Lake Cleanup and Fish Structure Building Days
- Contributes over 3,000 volunteer hours annually

\*The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.\*



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# Past Success Stories

## 2022 Winner: Summersville Lake and the New River Alliance of Climbers

### Objectives:

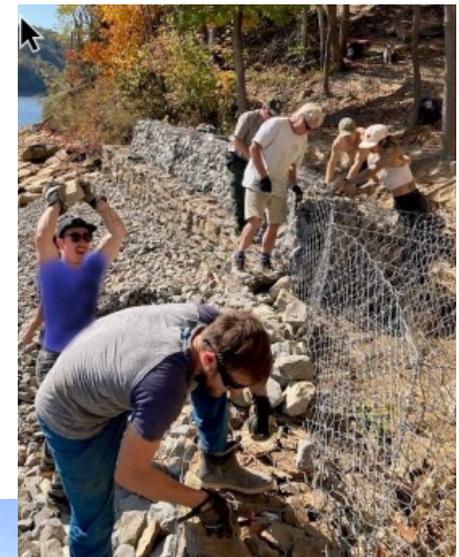
- Repair eroded shoreline located in remote road-less area.
- Improve trail access for emergency response.
- Protect hiking trail and climbing access from further degradation.
- Formalize long-standing partnership with NRAC.
- Leverage resources & allocate funding.

### Activities:

- Conducted several workshops on leave no trace principles and effective communication of these principles to the public for the Summersville Lake staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.
- Held several community outreach events to include: paddleboarding demo by Active Southern West Virginia, Trivia Night hosted by Gad Dam Brewery, as well as Climber Coffee in conjunction with the Access Fund and New River Alliance of Climbers.
- Directed an area clean-up at Dike Two which resulted in numerous bags of litter being removed from the project.
- Leave No Trace led workshops with Summersville Lake staff, volunteers, and stakeholders on how to address the current litter impacts and create plans going forward on how to mitigate its impact.

### Key Take-Aways:

- Community engagement and education that leads to a stronger relationship between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the local community, and stakeholders.
- Creating and utilizing educational programs to implement innovative solutions to protect our natural resources.



# Past Success Stories

## 2021 Winner: Blue Marsh Lake and Berks Area Mountain Biking Association

Berks Area Mountain Biking Association (BAMBA) supports the Blue Marsh Lake Project's trail restoration and improvement goals. This partnership assists with trail maintenance, trail restoration & improvements, and enhancing the trail user experience at Blue Marsh Lake.

- Partnership established in 2019
- Partnership type: MOU, Handshake Challenge Partnership
- Provided major project fundraising services, securing and contributing over \$250K in funds for trail improvements
- Projects Completed
  - Mountain Bike Skills Area (Handshake Funding)
  - 1.66 miles of reroutes/connector trails
  - 5.68 miles of new trails to create integrated loop trail experiences
- Contributed over \$30K of volunteer services



# National Volunteer of the Year Award

## Purpose and History

- A way to nationally recognize the extraordinary service provided by volunteers who have provided significant contributions to the enhancement of one or more of the Corps business lines
- Co-sponsored by the Corps Foundation
- Began in 2014
- Winner is presented with the award at a ceremony held in the award recipient's location



# Volunteer Award Application Process

- Packages are due to Francis Ferrell by December 1st (routed through division MSC)
- Three nomination packages per division may be submitted electronically by the MSC
- Package Requirements:
  - Complete nomination form
  - A narrative addressing the 4 award criteria (max of 3 pages on the fillable form)
  - Up to four additional support documents, including photographs or articles
  - A citation that provides a summary of achievements to be read at the award ceremony (750 character max.)

# Nomination Criteria

- **Eligibility:**
  - An individual, couple or family unit who has provided substantial support to operations in Recreation/Environmental Stewardship
  - Must have performed some of their qualifying work within the previous fiscal year
- 4 categories of achievements will make up each nominee's score



# Nomination Criteria

**Support and Dedication to Corps Mission:** Describe how the nominee's service supported one or more of the Corps missions. Describe how their service raised public awareness of the Corps missions in the local community.

- What missions were supported? (Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, FRM, Hydropower, Navigation)
- How did the volunteer service raise public awareness of Corps missions in the local community?

Examples include:

Flood Risk Management and Hydropower: "Mrs. Jones has a passion for the Corps and her community that is evident to each visitor she encounters. During a typical tour, Mrs. Jones discusses multiple missions and benefits to the region by informing the public about hydropower and flood risk management. She became an expert in forging an emotional connection between the visitors' interests and revealing a deeper meaning of the corps mission and purpose at our reservoirs (as indicated by the numerous comments and feedback surveys we received)."

Natural Resource Management: "Mr. Smith has assisted with special events at the project that support Natural Resource Management such as providing interpretive talks to visitors regarding salmon spawning and habitat as well as actively volunteering his time at the fish hatchery."

# Nomination Criteria

**Accomplishments:** Summarize what the volunteer did that made them great.

- How was the volunteer exceptional?
- Describe any challenges the volunteer faced and overcame.
- Can you **quantify** the service provided by the volunteer other than hours served?

Examples include:

“The invasive species, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), threatened thousands of trees at the park. In 2017 the Reynolds planted over 700 trees and shrubs in campgrounds and picnic areas with a diverse species of foliage to reduce the chance of mass pest invasions while providing shade that had been lost to the EAB.”

“The Carters completed pollinator initiative projects and prairie restorations at 5 locations. This included creating new prairies as well as smaller demonstration gardens in the campgrounds to raise public awareness of the pollinator plight

“Due to a short staffing of Park Rangers, it was difficult to meet the interpretive and outreach goals of Wolf Creek Lake. Mrs. Watson stepped up to the challenge and provided interpretive programs in 40 classrooms as well as the visitor’s center increasing public awareness of water safety practices”

# Nomination Criteria

**Impacts to Project, Resources, and Community:** What did the volunteer do that was great for the project/community?

- How did the volunteer address a real, identified need?
- What unique or innovative service or creative solutions or programs were provided by the volunteer?
- What did the volunteer provide that could not have otherwise been accomplished without their service?
- What were the quantifiable results?

Examples include:

“ The Smiths have spent a documented 9,259 hours of volunteer service at a value of \$197,008. They have strengthened the volunteer community by recruiting 8 additional on-site volunteers they met while travelling in their off season.”

“Mr. Harper has led approximately 95 trail walks in the last 10 years, providing interpretive information to local students of all ages. This has led to the development of additional nature talks in the classroom which Mr. Harper provides as well.”

# Nomination Criteria

**Collaboration and Partnerships:** Briefly describe the collaborative or partnership efforts associated with the nominee's project/activities

- Were there any funding sources and/or in-kind donations received as a result of this volunteer's project/activities?
- Did the volunteer collaborate with other partners? If so, what did they do?
- How did the volunteer's efforts build partnerships, boost public interest, or increase other community involvement?

Examples include:

- "When conducting trail maintenance, the Fleming family coordinates their efforts with the local SORBA chapter to ensure that work is not duplicated and resources are used efficiently and effectively while maintaining over 40 miles of trail."

- "It is very common to see Mr. Sigman at local festivals and events such as.... He relayed valuable information about the Corps' missions to thousands of attendees and boosts interest in visiting Lake Ouachita as well as other Corps lakes."



## Past Success Stories- 2022 Winner Red and Joy Lyons Carters Lake – Mobile District

Red and Joy have worked for the Carters Lake Volunteer Program since 2021. In 2022, they completed 2058 volunteer hours. The Lyons' dedication to the Carters Lake Project and the US Army Corps of Engineers is evident by their ongoing efforts to serve the public's and Project's needs. In 2022, they coordinated, led or supported a dozen interpretive events, and made hundreds of water safety contacts. Red saved the Project tens of thousands of dollars in repairs and specialty construction work. Joy's professional experience as a watercolorist provided thousands of dollars worth of training to produce a hands-on artistic experience for visitors. Their love and dedication for the Project, the staff and the area led them to create the partnering organization, Our Beautiful Carters Lake. Red's saying sums up the nature of their service, "I appreciate the opportunity."



## Past Success Stories- 2021 Winner Brenda Grano and Wynona Brakeman- SAM

Brenda and Nony have worked for the Allatoona Volunteer Program since 2016. In 2021, they completed 1022 overall volunteer hours contributing 686 hours towards the recycling program, 50 hours maintaining the project through cleanups and other duties, and an additional 286 hours assisting the recreation program.



They have built a Recycling Program at Allatoona that is second to none. Since Brenda took over lead on the program in 2016, it has flourished going from a few bins in a handful of areas to 43 bins in 20 areas around the lake. In that time, 2009 lbs. of plastic, 459 lbs. of aluminum and 2170 lbs. of cardboard and paper have been recycled. There has been a significant increase in recycling services during the last five years at Allatoona. Brenda has stepped outside of the box when improving this program – introducing new concepts, forging new partnerships, and finding ways to make the program work when very little funding has been available.



# Excellence in Partnership Award



Plaque and ceremony for overall winner, provided by the Corps Foundation



Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin and certificate for each regional winner (each division's nomination)

# Volunteer Award



Plaque and ceremony for overall winner, provided by the Corps Foundation



Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence Coin and certificate for each regional nominee as well as the overall winner

# Recap

- Both award nomination packages are due December 1st to [francis.e.ferrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:francis.e.ferrell@usace.army.mil)- must be routed through MSC
- Nomination criteria and past winners are available on the NRM Gateway
- One nomination per division will be accepted for the EIP award
- Three nominations per division will be accepted for the Volunteer award
- Winners will be selected and announced in January
- Award ceremonies will be held in 2024 (will be determined by availability of district and division representatives/recipient/staff)

# Questions?

For any questions contact Francis Ferrell – EiP and NVoY Program Coordinator

[francis.e.ferrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:francis.e.ferrell@usace.army.mil)

919-846-9332 ext 2224

or

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