



# THE recreation RETREAT

## Don't Miss These!

### Upcoming Webinars

**1 Feb. 15th, 2022: R1S Activity Passes.** Recreation 1 Stop Agency Program Manager, Jason Owen, will cohost a WebEx demonstration and Q&A on activity passes. If you're interested in attending, please contact your district's Recreation One Stop POC, CATT POC, or Jason for the details! A full article on R1S activity passes is included on page seven.

**2 Feb. 24, 2022 at 2:00pm EST: NRM Spatial Data Collection and Management.** Presented by Mr. Benjamin Silvernail, Institute for Water Resources (IWR), this webinar will provide a summary on the status of program level spatial data collection and management including: 1. Current and upcoming collection efforts for PSA operational status, PSA boundaries, and recreation facilities; 2. Spatial data standards and SDSFIE; and 3. Uses and applications, such as asset management, program inventory and reporting, public information, and interagency recreation data development. Webex: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/tara.j.whitsel>

**3 Mar. 10, 2022 at 2:00pm EST: Understanding the Federal Highway Administration's Grant Programs: FLTP, ERFO, and FLAP.** Presented by Ms. Allison Walker, Institute for Water Resources (IWR), this webinar shares helpful information on how FHWA grant programs like the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO), and the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) can benefit your project. Attend to find out more about these transportation improvement initiatives, a little history, and where these programs are going in the future. Webex: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/tara.j.whitsel>

### This Issue:

-  **Employee Recognition**  
**Going Green? Restrooms!**
- 4 Look to page 7 for National Invasive Species Week Webinars!**
- Introducing Activity Passes on Recreation.gov**



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## YOUR Thoughts

We are looking for contributors and ideas!

\*If you have a topic, success story, lesson learned, or helpful suggestion—let us know.

**Send to: [Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil)**

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*Campaign Hat Photo Credit:  
Cynthia Mitchell, USACE*

## 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest

The 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest that is being conducted by The Corps Foundation in cooperation with the National Water Safety Program is underway. Please help promote the Life Jacket Video Contest by distributing the news release, flyer, and social media image that are available on the contest website

([www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com](http://www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com)) under the Resources and Promotional Items tab.



Click here for link!

This contest is also being promoted on the Please Wear It Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages so please share those posts with your friends and followers. If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to follow and like the Please Wear It social media pages for more water safety information, blogs, videos, and giveaways.

## Brrrr, That Water is Cold!

### Here Are Some Resources That You Can Use To Keep Visitors Safe

POC: Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager

This time of year, cold water immersion, which can cause cold water shock, cold incapacitation or swim failure, and hypothermia, can happen anywhere in the United States and it can be deadly.

#### Key Messages:

- When on or near cold water it is important to dress for the water temperature. That means dressing in multiple layers of clothes that can handle moisture and dry quickly.
- If you would happen to fall in, your wet clothes will not pull you down. Instead, if you remain calm your clothes will provide flotation from the air trapped inside them.
- The most important thing to do is to wear a properly fitted life jacket. A U.S. Coast Guard approved float coat is a great life jacket to wear when the water is cold.

### COLD WATER FACT:

Body heat can be lost 25 times faster in cold water than cold air.



US Army Corps of Engineers



# 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest

CONTEST DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2022



#### THE PRIZE:

\$5,500 for 55-second Video PSA

\$2,500 for 25-second Video PSA

\*ONE WINNER PER CATEGORY WILL BE SELECTED



TO LEARN MORE:  
[www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com](http://www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com)

The National Water Safety Program has several resources available that you can use to promote water safety this time of year. On the program's website ([www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-SafetyProgram](http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-SafetyProgram)), which PleaseWearIt.com redirects to, there are cold water audio PSAs and banner artwork under campaign materials and blog articles under news releases and stories. The blogs can also be found at <https://medium.com/> [@pleasewearitarmycorps](https://twitter.com/pleasewearitarmycorps).





# Cold Continued

The Please Wear It social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, which are managed by the National Water Safety Program and the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation), are excellent resources for water safety social media posts that you can share and use on your office's social media pages. On the Bobber the Water Safety Dog website ([www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info)) under the Coloring tab there are book-marks and a coloring sheet featuring Chilly Dog.

OH NO, Chilly Dog fell through the ice! He could become hypothermic! (too cold)

**FREE** Coloring Sheet and Bookmarks!

Visit **WWW.BOBBER.INFO**

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Here are other websites that have good information regarding cold water and ice safety:

- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html>
- <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/boating/publications.htm>

Water safety is something that we need to promote year-round, so you are encouraged to utilize the resources available from the National Water Safety Program whenever possible. If you have any questions about any of the National Water Safety Program resources please contact your division representative on the National Water Safety Committee or Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager.

## In Case You Missed It

A new fire extinguisher regulation for recreational boaters becomes effective nationwide on 4/20/2022. The recently published regulation for fire protection for recreational vessels can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/10/22/2021-22578/fire-protection-for-recreational-vessels#sectno-reference-175.320>

These regulations will be incorporated into 33 CFR 175, Sub-Chapter S in the near future.

### What's New?

(From the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Recreational Boating Safety FAQs)

If your disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher has a date of manufacture stamped on the bottle (example: "05" means 2005), and it is older than 12 years, the extinguisher is considered expired and must be removed from service. Look for wording on the bottle stating "This product must be removed from service within 12 years after date of manufacturing".

Fire extinguishers approved for vessels will have a label on the bottle that will state "Marine Type—USCG Approved". Underwriters Labs approves fire extinguishers on behalf of the USCG.

There are no changes for when fire extinguisher are required or the number of extinguisher required on recreational vessels.



## Mobile District's Recreation BLM To Receive Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award

Article available at: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Stories/Article/2848184/usace-mobile-engineer-to-receive-science-spectrum-trailblazer-award/>

Ranell Franklin, Mobile District Natural Resources Program Manager, was chosen by U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology Magazine to receive a Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award at the 2022 BEYA STEM Conference to be held in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 18, 2022.

The Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award recognizes individuals who are demonstrating outstanding performance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Franklin said he was honored when it was announced he would be receiving the award and said his wife, Cherish, played a big part in his recognition.

"I was truly honored and humbled to be one of the recipients for this year's BEYA STEM award," Franklin said. "It bears a happiness that is almost indescribable. I'm grateful for the opportunities and challenges afforded to me by my organization, along with the confidence and trust to fulfill the Corps' mission. I attribute this award to my extraordinary wife and No. 1 fan. Her unwavering support and sacrifice provides me the encouragement and will to always perform at my highest potential."

Amy Cobb, Chief of Natural Resources Management Section and the person who nominated Franklin for the award, said that Franklin embodies Army Values and highlights what he does to advance the USACE mission.

"I nominated Mr. Franklin because he personally and professionally embodies Army Values," Cobb said. "He works tirelessly to support the Mobile District in protecting our valuable natural resources while providing diverse outdoor recreation opportunities to the public. He also serves as a mentor, supporting counterparts within his community of practice and exposing youth from underserved communities to career opportunities in the STEM field. I believe the example he sets by his leadership positively impacts mission success and can stand as an inspiration to our future STEM professionals."

Nelson Sanchez, Mobile District Chief of Operations, said Franklin is a true trailblazer and that he is a role model, not only within USACE, but to future STEM professionals.

"Mr. Franklin is a trailblazer in the sense that he is constantly seeking to improve the organization and himself, while opening the door for others," Sanchez said. "He has a 20-year Federal Civil Service career and a successful record of providing leadership, project management, and coordination of natural resources management activities for vital recreation projects throughout the Mobile District. Outside of his official responsibilities, he also actively participates in community service and recruitment initiatives which expose youth from underserved communities to the mission of the Corps and STEM professions. He is a role model within the agency and to potential STEM professionals."

Cobb said that Franklin's selection for the award recognizes the positive impact he's had as a trailblazer in the Natural Resources Community of Practice and the Mobile District.

"As a first-generation college graduate, he has overcome many challenges to become successful in his field," Cobb said. "Over the course of his career he has accepted roles with increasing responsibility, currently providing oversight of Mobile District's comprehensive recreation program, one of the most visited recreation programs nationwide. This recognition highlights the important work Mr. Franklin does to advance the USACE mission and to help others realize their own potential."

Franklin, who is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College, an HBCU in Louisiana, said he hopes his award can be an inspiration to others and help them to be passionate in their work.

"God works all the time," Franklin said. "There is no limit to what a team can accomplish as long as it doesn't matter who gets the credit is the mantra I follow daily in my profession. Embrace learning opportunities and new challenges. Be passionate about your work because you never know who is watching and the positive influence you can have on someone's life."





# Rend Lake Park Ranger Becomes First-Ever 2x Recipient of Chittenden Award

Full article available at: [https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408941/service-first-us-army-corps-engineers-present-second-national-chittenden-award-saint-louis-district?fbclid=IwAR08zGNnwOMi12kyZ\\_hWMLZINyQXsdww9R0\\_sfgDSa8oVcjQ2hP6M3SwsDo](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408941/service-first-us-army-corps-engineers-present-second-national-chittenden-award-saint-louis-district?fbclid=IwAR08zGNnwOMi12kyZ_hWMLZINyQXsdww9R0_sfgDSa8oVcjQ2hP6M3SwsDo).

Abbreviated article provided by Amanda Kruse.

Natural Resources Specialist Tim Bischoff received the 2021 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence during a virtual ceremony held 10 Nov 2021. Bischoff is the first ever two-time recipient of the award.

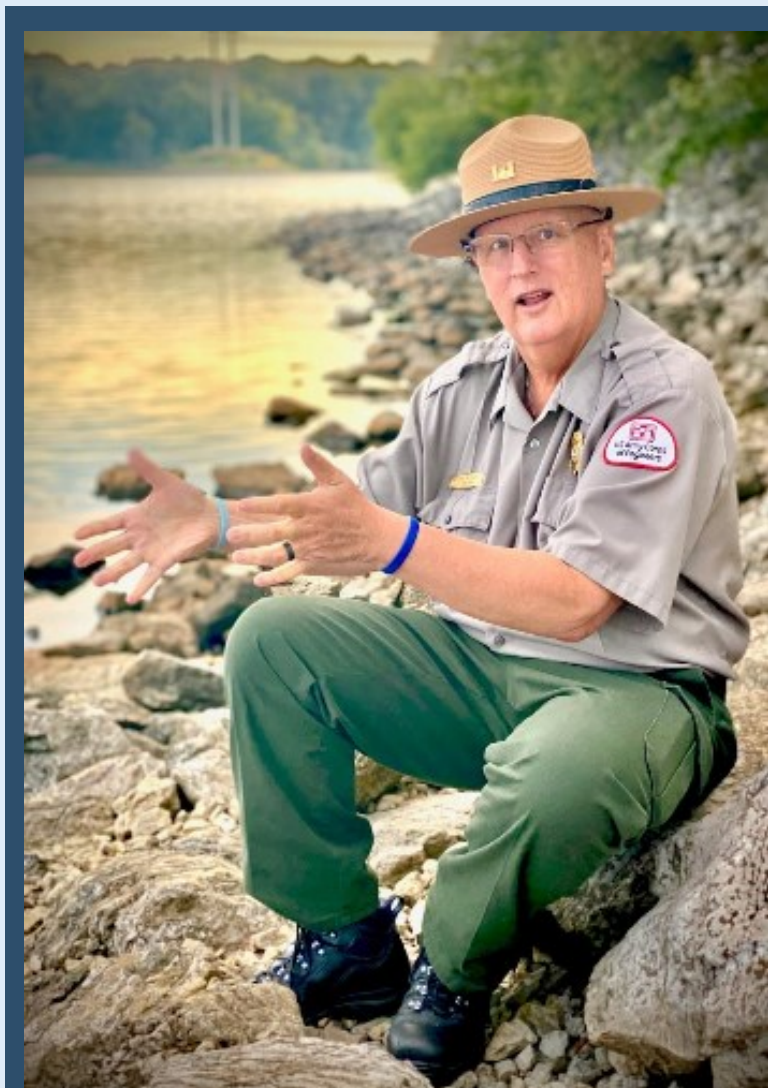
Tim was recognized for a second time for his outstanding service, professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to the USACE interpretative services and outreach program (ISOP). During an unpredictable time, Tim's dedication, and ability to adapt enabled educational outreach to continue across the nation. He went above and beyond his regular duties and created #USACEeducates, a national interpretive initiative that ensured public engagement throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Leading a team of USACE interpreters, Tim helped develop and coordinate #USACEeducates, which engaged the public with various social media posts that included information, games, and activities to promote the USACE, its missions and partners.

"I came up with the idea as to how to solve these problems, so I contacted our teaching team and we brainstormed and started recruiting talent to make it all happen," said Bischoff.

"We had 15 rangers that just dove in and figured it out by working in teams to satisfy the needs of each teaching theme with weekly fieldtrips to virtual dams, the Smithsonian and other activities all made available via Facebook," he added.

Interpretation runs in Tim's blood and he is passionate about sharing his love for interpretation with his fellow rangers. Even during the challenges of COVID, Tim ensured his enthusiasm and knowledge was shared with USACE rangers nationwide. During the pandemic, Tim understood how critical proper interpretive program training was and took it upon himself to work with the Interpretive Services Prospect teaching cadre to develop and present ten webinars, available to all USACE rangers, about how to develop and deliver a good live virtual program or pre-recorded video presentation. This effort helped many rangers become more familiar and comfortable presenting virtual programs.

"Teaching is what I love to do, it is one of the things I'm most proud of. In looking back on my legacy it's hoping to make the next generation of Corp's Interpreters better. We touch lives and I love that I get to do that."





## In Case You Missed It

### Recreation.gov's Outdoor Adventure Writing Contest

In case you may have missed it, Recreation.gov's Outdoor Adventure Writing Contest is now open from Jan. 5, 2022 - Apr. 30, 2022 for members of the public to share their adventures that occurred over the past two years (Jan. 1, 2020 through Apr. 30, 2022). Employees and volunteers of the participating sponsor companies and federal agencies are eligible to enter a staff story to share online. However, staff stories are not entered into the contest and are not eligible for prizes.

The Share Your Story contest marketing toolkit can be found at <https://www.recreation.gov/media-center>. Please share widely and use the toolkit materials to inform the public of this opportunity. There are gift card and America The Beautiful Pass prizes for the winners.

#### How to Submit and Learn More?

Submit stories at: [www.recreation.gov/shareyourstory](http://www.recreation.gov/shareyourstory)

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TRAVELING TRUNK?

There is no better way to share information on National Invasive Species Week than with the Travelling Trunk.

The Invasive Species Leadership Team developed an Interpretive Trunk to serve as a tool to enhance the public's understanding of invasive species, the negative impacts they have, management approaches and steps we can all take to help stop their spread. The Travelling Trunk is FREE to borrow!

#### Learn how on the NRM Gateway.

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/invasive/trunk.cfm>



## Going Green? Restrooms!

POC: Eric Haskell, SAM Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Coordinator

As USACE increasingly focuses on making our facilities more resilient and sustainable, options are available to replace old, inefficient park facilities with modern structures that save electricity, water, sewage costs, and are less vulnerable to flooding and severe weather. Prefab, modular or sustainably built GREEN facilities use the most energy efficient technology available, to include recaptured rainwater for use in flushing/washing. Replacing old restrooms and comfort stations with new prefab concrete restrooms that have modern LED lighting, occupancy sensors, low-flow water fixtures, and even recyclable water systems increases the resilience of the entire (recreation) area. Prefab restrooms are much easier to clean after flooding, do not suffer damage and rot as do older structures, and are less vulnerable to damage and graffiti by recreation users.

In FY23, USACE is seeking \$25M for Park Retrofitting, targeting the highest use and highest kWh-charged recreation areas to reduce energy and water use. Sustainable restroom replacements available include prefab restrooms that include recyclable rainwater for flush and other sustainable methods. These restrooms/comfort stations are an ideal option for Sustainability packages.

For remote locations and/or increased resilience, consider restrooms which do not need sewer connections. Normally, if the restroom is not connected to sewer, pumping should cost roughly \$0.15 per use. So 10,000 uses a year will result in \$1,500 a year in pumping charges, depending on local pumpers' rates. Contained units, or those using septic, can eliminate this cost and vulnerability. Water needs to be brought to the restroom with a city water line, collecting rainwater, water truck or irrigation line. Restrooms with rainwater collection options are available.

Lead time from some manufacturers typically takes about 5-8 months. This includes the time required to have engineering drawings approved and any permitting. Some, including Greenflush as an example, can provide customized options tailored to your specific needs. As we move forward with sustainable facilities, consider this opportunity to upgrade your aging infrastructure.



# Introducing Activity Passes On Recreation.gov

POC: Jason Owen, Recreation One Stop Program Manager, 817-886-1576

Good News! We now have another tool in the toolbox for day use fee collections through Recreation.gov: Activity Passes. These passes can be used for day use fees such as boat ramps, swim beaches, and area fees. Agency Program Manager, Jason Owen, will cohost a WebEx demonstration and Q&A for these passes on Feb. 15, 2022. If you're interested in attending, please contact your district's Recreation One Stop POC, CATT POC, or Jason for the details.

These passes can be complex, but in general there are three options:

**1** "Standard" Activity Pass can be sold in advance online or through the call center, just like reservable camping, but also at the park by scanning a QR code. This code takes the customer to the Recreation.gov website to complete the purchase, just as if they were on their computer at home. This inventory type does not allow you to enter quota, however. So, if you have a 15-space boat ramp, there is potential you could sell 50 passes online and a lot of people could get turned away. Here's an example of how these are presented to the customer online: <https://www.recreation.gov/activitypass/86feafcc-f694-11ea-a1ae-ae12105d3ef>

**2** "Scan and Pay" activity passes are NOT sold online, nor at the call center. It was essentially designed to be a digital honor vault. The customer MUST be in the park AND scan the QR code from their phone using the Recreation.gov mobile app. They will then be prompted within the Recreation.gov mobile app to complete their order details and submit their payment. Be advised, if you're in a spot with poor cell coverage, the sale can still be conducted offline, BUT the customer MUST have the app before arriving, so visitor advance communication will be critical. This method also does not carry a quota, but since the customer must be physically in the park to scan the code, there is less risk of turning someone away after paying. Here's an example of scan and pay: <https://www.recreation.gov/activitypass/d0a19231-090d-11ec-a8ae-266e42421966>. Note the park info is still available online, but the "purchase pass" button is replaced with scan and pay instructions.

**3** Activity Pass Field Sales is available for staffed locations that still want to conduct transactions at the gatehouse. Field Sales can be enabled as the only sales method, or in conjunction with the "standard" pass described in the first bullet. This method would be useful for parks that don't have other reservable inventory and cannot use the point-of-sale service. Note that a standalone gatehouse computer would be required with a Hughes satellite system for internet service.

As you can see, the nuances can be complex, and there are pros and cons to consider for Activity Passes in general, as well as the collection method. This is not intended to be a one-size-fits-all solution, but in the right environment this program can be very well received. If you have questions, please get in touch with Jason or plan to join the WebEx on Feb. 15, 2022.

## Customer Card Cards

### Mandatory Customer Comment Card Survey Coming Soon!

Are you curious as to what our customers may think of us and the services and facilities we provide? Well, it will soon be time to initiate our annual Customer Comment Card Survey. The survey cycle runs each year from April to May of the following year. Conducting the survey is optional two out of three years with every third year being a mandatory year. The last mandatory year was 2018-2019. Due to the COVID pandemic the mandatory year of April 2021 - May 2022 was changed to 2022-2023. This means everyone needs to begin thinking about the survey process and refresh on all that needs to be done to prepare (such as use of the Calendar Generator on the NRM Gateway), especially if you are new to this or have taken advantage of the optional years and it has been a while since you have done a survey.

The NRM Gateway will once again be your go-to resource for everything you need to know. Please keep an eye on the Gateway and for additional information that will be forthcoming as we move closer to April. While there has been some discussion of converting to a digital survey, it is doubtful that will be possible this cycle so use of the traditional hard copy card is currently planned. In case you have not heard, Christine Wibowo who provided a great deal of support to this program retired in Sept 2021. Until we identify a new point person please direct any questions to Scott Strotman at [james.s.strotman@usace.army.mil](mailto:james.s.strotman@usace.army.mil).

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/commentcard/commentcard.cfm>

## National Invasive Species Awareness Week



National Invasive Species Awareness Week is coming soon! Held Feb. 28, 2022 — Mar. 4, 2022, NISAW is a nationwide event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. The

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) will hosts education webinars on priority invasive species issue the week of NISAW.

- Mar. 2, 2022 (Wednesday) at 11:00am Central—Protect the Uninfested West from AIS
- Mar. 3, 2022 (Thursday) at 11:00am Central—Pacific Green Crab Management
- Mar. 4, 2022 (Friday) at 11:00am Central—Regulating the Movement of Firewood