

National Volunteer Week

April 16-22, 2023

Shining a Light on Those Who Serve

Across USACE we celebrate National Volunteer Week by shining a light on those individuals who give their time and talent to make a difference at our projects and in our communities.

Mississippi Valley Division

In the Mississippi Valley Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Lake Red Rock and Wappapello Lake.

Lake Red Rock is Iowa's largest lake with more than 15,000 acres of water and 35,000 acres of land for visitors to enjoy. The lake area offers numerous recreational opportunities such as camping, boating, hiking, picnicking, swimming, and an archery range.

The Wappapello Lake Project, located in the St. Francis River Basin of Missouri, provides 44,000 acres of land and water. A wide variety of outdoor recreation activities are available including 32,000 forested acres which highlight the unique hunting and hiking experience of the Ozark Region.



\$5,812,324

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



194,068

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN MVD

Don and Idy Foster



In 1999, Don and Idy Foster signed on as volunteers at Lake Red Rock in Marion County, Iowa. Now, 25 years later they are gearing up to start up their 25th season at the lake. In that time, the Fosters have become a fixture at the lake; a dependable embodiment of the warm and welcoming "Iowa nice" spirit that visitors have come to expect when they visit Red Rock. They can always be counted on to lend a helping hand and make a point to treat every visitor as if they were one of their closest friends.

In their time at Lake Red Rock, Don and Idy have contributed over 7,000 hours of volunteer service and have held positions at almost every one of Red Rock's recreation areas. They have done everything from welcoming campers at campground fee booths to cleaning, always with a smile on their faces and a great story to tell.

The staff and volunteers at Red Rock often joke that if Don and Idy were to count their time dedicated to "PR work," as service hours, it would be impossible for anyone to ever match the number of hours put in. While that may very well be true, it is even more true that the quality and level of commitment that they have put into their work has been beyond remarkable and has helped shape Red Rock into what it is today.

Don and Idy Foster are truly the kindest, most warm-hearted people you could ever hope to meet, and their positivity, passion, and friendliness continue to be an incredible asset to the campers, volunteers, and staff at Lake Red Rock.



7,000

Over 7,000 hours of volunteer service provided in the past 25 years.



Greeters

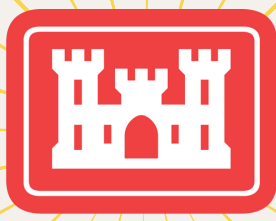
Dedicated to welcoming all lake visitors.



Helping Hand

Provide a helping hand where ever needed.





National Volunteer Week

Mike and Karen Williamson

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Mike and Karen Williamson have served at Wappapello Lake in Southeast Missouri for nearly 12 years. Their efforts in Recreation, Environmental Stewardship and Flood Risk Management missions are above and beyond the call of duty. They have maintained recreation areas, protected natural habitat, promoting water safety, collected/counted fees, conducting surveys, and interacted with customers.

Together they have provided over 13,524 hours of service displaying love for the outdoors and a devotion to public service, setting an incredible standard of personal commitment, diligence, dedication, and selfless service.

In 2022 Mr. Williamson received a Volunteer Coin of Excellence for his dedication and service at the Wappapello Lake Project.



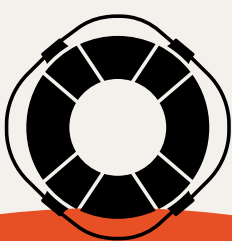
13,524

Over 13,542 hours of volunteer service provided in nearly 12 years of service.



Maintenance

Provide maintenance in recreation areas



Water Safety

Dedicated to promoting water safety to park visitors.



Collection

Collect and count fees.



Habitat

Protect natural habitat.

THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the Mississippi Valley Division!

