

# 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.

## North Atlantic Division

In the North Atlantic Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Blue Marsh and Raystown Lakes.

While the main purpose of Blue Marsh was to provide flood control to part of the Schuylkill River Valley, over the years the lake has become a recreational hotspot. With over 36 miles of trails, 6,200 acres of land, 1,148 acres of water, picnic areas, a small beach and boat launches the lake accommodates all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts.

Raystown Lake is the largest lake located entirely in Pennsylvania and offers 8,300 surface acres of clear water surrounded by 21,000 acres of forested mountain slopes.

Visitors come to Raystown to enjoy panoramic views of undeveloped land and waters, access to excellent public recreation facilities, and fishing and hunting opportunities.



**\$1,897,460**

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



**63,354**

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN NAD

## Emma Miller



Emma Miller joined Blue Marsh Lake as a volunteer through her high school's honors internship program, where students are given the opportunity to work with local employers to gain real world employment experience within their career interests. Since September 2022, she has logged over 220 hours as a volunteer.

Emma has provided valuable volunteer services by completing regular tasks such as facility and equipment checks, assisting ranger staff with annual boundary inspections, and trail maintenance activities.

A big project Emma worked on was to help a Girl Scout replace bluebird nesting structures at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area for Blue Marsh Lake's nesting structure program. She then took on the task of replacing all the bluebird boxes throughout the park. This helped revamp the program to have it ready for the spring nesting season. Emma also took extra time to assist with multiple Guided Hike programs throughout her internship.



**220**

Over 220 hours of volunteer service provided in less than 1 year.



**Inspection**

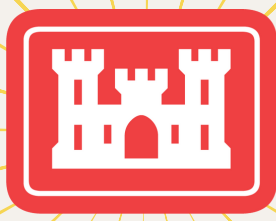
Assisted staff with facility and equipment checks, boundary inspection, and maintenance tasks.



**Bluebird Boxes**

Replaced bluebird nesting structures prior to nesting season.





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**Dave and Mary Jo Nelson**



2,500

Nearly 2,500 hours of volunteer service provided over the past 4 summers.



Helping Hand

Provide a helping hand where ever needed.



Safety

Taught hundreds of visitors in kayak safety.

Dave and Mary Jo Nelson joined the team at Raystown Lake in 2019, when they moved into the Volunteer Village.

Being from the area and regular campers at the lake, they felt right at home at Raystown. The Nelsons participated in Raystown's Volunteer Village program for four summers, contributing a total of over 2,500 combined volunteer service hours. The Nelsons were involved in almost everything going on at Raystown, energetically supporting maintenance, recreation, and environmental stewardship missions through their service. Mary Jo even created her own weekly water safety program, "beginner kayak lessons." Through the program's three years, Mary Jo joyfully taught kayak safety to hundreds of visitors. Although the Nelsons have taken their talents elsewhere for the 2023 season, their impact to Raystown Lake Project and its visitors will live on.



# THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the North Atlantic Division!



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