

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.

South Atlantic Division

In the South Atlantic Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Lake Okeechobee and J. Strom Thurmond Lake.

Each year, more than 6 million people travel to South Florida to visit Lake Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Waterway. Whether it's to camp, fish, bike, or relax and enjoy nature's beauty, the lake offers many recreational opportunities. USACE manages eight recreation areas and three campgrounds with 109 campsites (including 16 boat-in sites) at W. P. Franklin North, Ortona South and St. Lucie South.

J. Strom Thurmond Lake is located on the border of Georgia and South Carolina on the Savannah, Broad, and Little Rivers. At full pool elevation, Thurmond Lake comprises nearly 71,100 acres of water and 1,200 miles of shoreline. The project was designed for flood control, hydropower, fish and wildlife, water quality, water supply, downstream navigation and recreation. It's one of the top 10 most-visited Corps lakes in the nation!



\$9,466,027

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



316,061

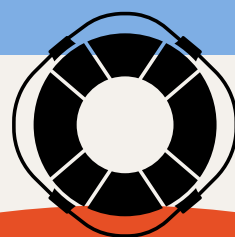
HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN SAD

Mike Ward and Greg Folk



Mike Ward and Greg Folk, aka "The Dynamic Duo", are long time volunteers in South Florida with the Jacksonville District. Mike and Greg always go above and beyond, surpassing the normal scope of their volunteer duties and hours.

Whether it's getting involved with public outreach and water safety events, leading equipment use trainings for other volunteer staff, or completing maintenance projects around the campgrounds, this team does it all! Mike and Greg never fail to step up to the plate and jump in to help wherever help is needed.



Water Safety

Dedicated to promoting water safety to park visitors.



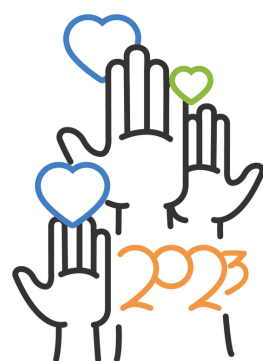
Maintenance

Complete maintenance projects.



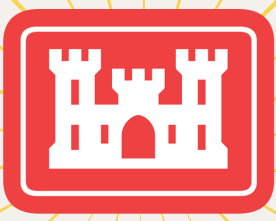
Helping Hand

Provide a helping hand where ever needed.



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Al and Tina Carpenter



J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake would like to highlight volunteers Al and Tina Carpenter.

Al and Tina grew up camping in many USACE campgrounds. Once married, they continued this tradition by camping with their children and then later in life with their grandchildren. While camping in their favorite, Ridge Road Campground, they would pick up any trash as they walked the park.

While camping, they learned of the USACE Volunteer Program. Al and Tina love the parks and lake, so they saw this as a great opportunity to help keep them clean. They started volunteering at Ridge Road Campground at the end of summer in 2014. They liked it so much that they decided to become year-round volunteers.

Tina states, "We now work the gatehouse at Ridge Road Campground where we love seeing 'our campers' making memories with their families as we did with ours. There are so many benefits to volunteering. You get a nice site with amenities, work with great rangers and other volunteers. We love what we do and look forward to many more years of volunteering for the Corps."

Recreation Chief Ranger Henry Way says that the Carpenters are instrumental in the success of Ridge Road Campground as it operates as an all-volunteer run campground. This couple encompasses the true meaning and spirit of being a volunteer.

The J. Strom Thurmond Project would like to thank Al and Tina for their dedication and years of service while looking forward to many more.



Gatehouse

Serve as gatehouse attendants at an all-volunteer run campground.



Litter pickup

Help to ensure clean recreation areas by removing litter from the area.



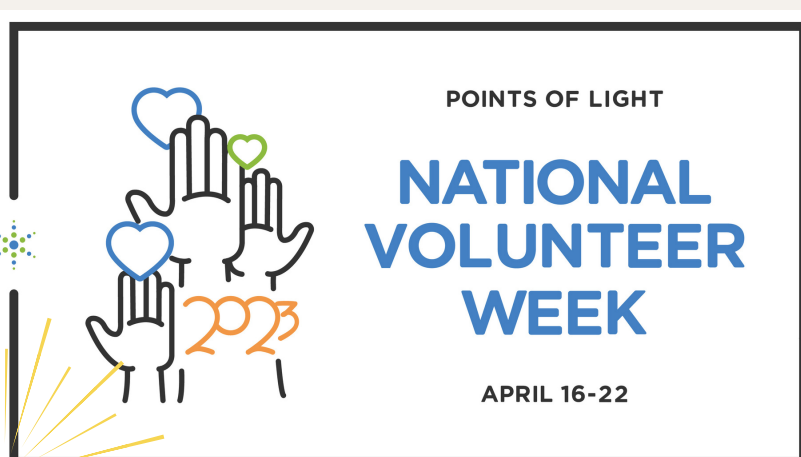
Helping Hand

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Looking forward

Looking forward to many more years of USACE volunteer service.



THANK YOU

To all of our volunteers in the South Atlantic Division!