

# 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.

## Southwestern Division

In the Southwestern Division, we are shining a light on volunteers at Navarro Mills and Kaw Lakes.

Located in central Texas, Navarro Mills Lake provides flood risk management and water supply to nearby towns. The project also provides opportunities for some of the best fishing, camping, and boating in the region.

Kaw Lake, with over 17,000 acres of water, is located in north central Oklahoma. There are nine public use areas and two lake access points located around the lake for visitors to enjoy.



**\$17,643,897**

VALUE OF TIME VOLUNTEERED



**589,112**

HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS IN SWD

## Wesley Blue



Mr. Wesley Blue has served as a volunteer at Navarro Mills Lake since 2018 and has amassed more than 5,000 hours in volunteer service for the project.

Wesley has completed a wide array of maintenance projects and work tasks over the last several years and has also been a key contributor during some of the lake's most crucial moments. For example, every year Wesley initiates a cold weather routine prior to a hard freeze to protect all of the parks' vital restroom facilities. He secures and drains the water pipes, then checks to make sure each space heater operates correctly. His efforts have saved the lake from countless expensive repairs during extreme weather events and have been instrumental in lowering maintenance costs and reducing downtime for repairs. Often after storms or an unwelcomed high-wind event he can be found searching the parks for hazardous trees that have fallen on or near campsites. Without hesitation, armed and outfitted with his safety gear, he removes the limbs and relocates them to designated brush piles. Later, he assists the rangers with burning these brush piles. Most recently, he improved numerous campsites, replacing broken and outdated fire rings with new, safer, and more user-friendly versions.



**5,000**

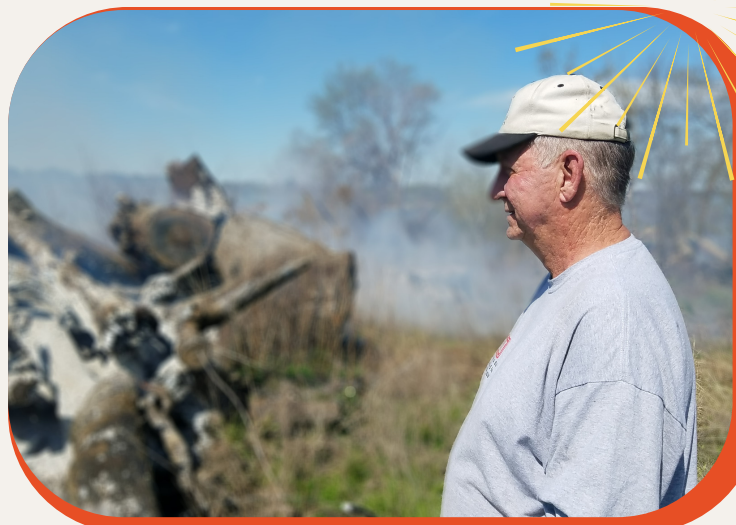
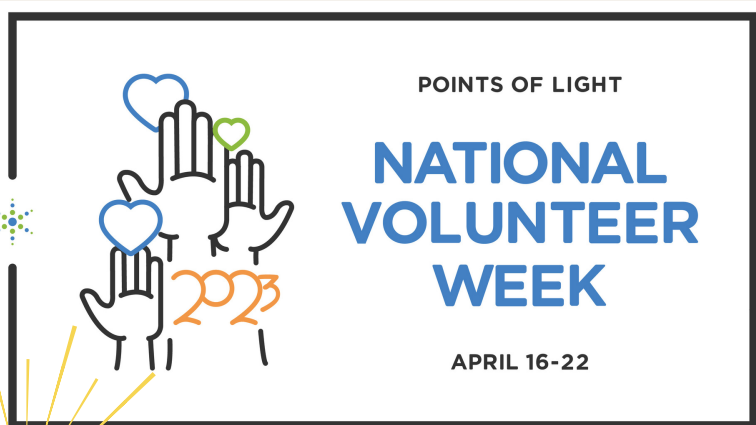
Over 5,000 hours of volunteer service provided since 2018.

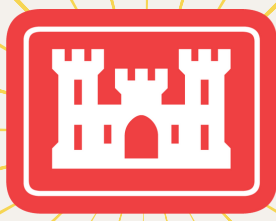


**Maintenance**

Provides important maintenance services and hazardous tree cleanup after storm events.

His commitment to improving the parks is unparalleled. On more than one occasion, he has served as the preliminary point of contact during non-working hours to relay critical information to lake staff to best determine action taken during critical events.





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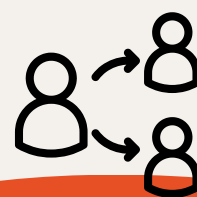
**Neal Majors**

**April 16-22, 2023**



**10,000**

Nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer service provided over the past 10 years.



**Information**

Shares information with visitors on project rules and regulations.



**Safety**

Provides important maintenance on safety barriers and cleanup after storm events.



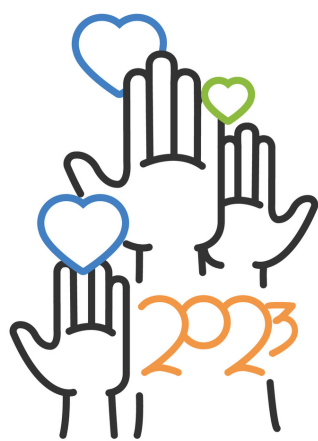
Volunteer Neal Majors has been a part of the Kaw Lake team since early 2014, contributing just under 10,000 hours of volunteer service at Bear Creek Cove. Neal is an extremely valuable asset to the Kaw Lake Team and is one of our top performing volunteers, both in hours and in quality of work. Over the past couple of years Kaw Lake has had major flooding.

Neal took an active role in helping to block off affected sites and maintain safety barricades as well as played a large role in the post-flood cleanup and restoration. In addition to his work within the park, Neal is a friendly face and source of information for all campers and helps to keep them informed of the regulations, rules and operating procedures for Kaw Lake.

During his nearly 10 years of volunteer service to USACE, Mr. Majors has completed many improvement projects for Bear Creek campground. Neal's efforts have contributed to the transformation of Bear Creek Cove into one of Kaw Lake's most pristine and highly sought-after parks for visitors looking for a quiet weekend getaway or easy access to some of Kaw Lake's best hunting and fishing opportunities. Neal is always willing to travel and assist at other recreation areas around Kaw Lake. He is always a presence at group/ community events such as National Public Lands Day, Earth Day and special work events. Neal truly is a representation and embodiment of a willing and giving volunteer to the betterment and improvement of Kaw Lake and USACE.

# THANK YOU

**To all of our volunteers in the Southwestern Division!**



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APRIL 16-22

