Volunteer Program FY 14 Annual Update



Making a difference
Volunteers play an invaluable role in helping the Corps of Engineers meet our recreation and environmental stewardship program goals. Each year, they give their time, expertise and resources to serve the more than 370 million visitors who enjoy Corps managed lands and waters.

During the 2014 fiscal year 48,200 total volunteers donated 1,494,051 hours – the equivalent of 849 full time employees. The value of their labor was $33,690,850. With more than 3,200 employees in the natural resources management community, volunteer work equals approximately 27 percent of our workforce. More than 60 cooperating associations and many more national and local partners also provide volunteers to help support the work of the Corps.

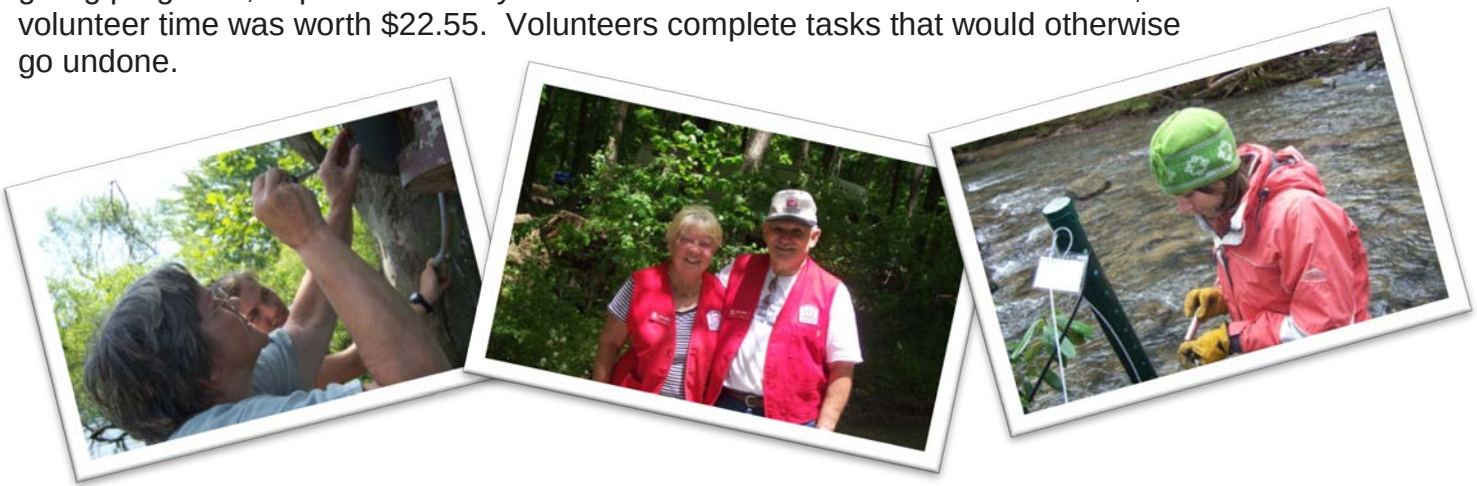
Where does someone find out about volunteer opportunities?
Corps personnel can recruit their own volunteers or get help from the Volunteer Clearinghouse, a national information center at www.corpslakes.us/volunteer/ and post their opportunities on www.volunteer.gov. There is also toll free number: 800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337) for people interested in volunteering at Corps sites.



Who Are Our Volunteers?
Our volunteers are people who want to give back to their communities and are interested in the work of the Corps natural resource management program. They are parents who want to bring their family out for a day of service together, retirees willing to share a wealth of knowledge and experience, outdoor enthusiasts wishing to create and maintain their favorite recreation opportunities, and concerned citizens of all ages interested in making meaningful contributions. Whether it is an environmental ethic, a love of parks, or enthusiasm for the outdoors, like-minded volunteers gather to share their passions while contributing to the good of their communities.

What Do Our Volunteers Do?
Volunteers perform a variety of tasks. Some work full-time; others give a few hours a week or month; and still others help during special events. We match our volunteers' talents and interests to work to be done, which varies from site to site, in order to achieve our natural resource goals. Volunteers serve as park and campground hosts, staff visitor centers, lead tours and educational activities, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, manage cultural resources, perform administrative duties, work with computers and other technical equipment, maintain Corps facilities, and much more.

Although volunteers' skills, knowledge, and time are priceless, the Corps uses the figure calculated annually by the Independent Sector, the leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, to put a monetary value on volunteer contributions. For FY 14, an hour of volunteer time was worth $22.55. Volunteers complete tasks that would otherwise go undone.



National Public Lands Day 2014

Each year, on the last Saturday in September, Corps volunteers come out in droves to participate in National Public Lands Day. This year, more than 16,600 volunteers helped remove 138,000 pounds of trash, cleaned 160 miles of roadway and 1,322 miles of shoreline, built/maintained 143 miles of trails, improved 132 acres of habitat, and planted 1,100 trees and shrubs.



Corps-wide Volunteer Contributions: FY 99 – 14







Fiscal Year	# of Volunteers	Hours Served	Hourly Value	Value of Service
1999	20,840	280,355	$ 14.56	$4,081,969
2000	48,291	568,875	$ 15.09	$8,584,324
2001	46,083	624,430	$ 15.68	$9,791,062
2002	51,649	893,263	$ 16.27	$14,533,389
2003	55,662	1,167,062	$ 16.74	$19,536,618
2004	55,522	1,156,360	$ 17.19	$19,877,828
2005	53,547	1,322,462	$ 17.55	$23,209,208
2006	52,505	1,324,042	$ 18.04	$23,885,718
2007	54,353	1,319,557	$ 18.77	$24,768,085
2008	59,815	1,434,140	$ 19.51	$27,980,071
2009	59,111	1,489,587	$ 20.25	$30,164,117
2010	54,939	1,348,328	$ 20.85	$28,112,639
2011	55,315	1,390,816	$ 21.36	$29,707,830
2012	53,039	1,580,039	$ 21.79	$34,429,050
2013	51,368	1,593,452	$ 22.14	$35,279,027
2014	48,200	1,494,051	$ 22.55	$33, 690,850

Volunteer Contributions by Division in FY 14

Division	# of Volunteers	Hours Served	Value of Service	Full-Time Equivalent
LRD	9,286	203,739	$4,594,314	116
MVD	9,587	242,175	$5,461,046	138
NAD	2,636	38,204	$861,500	22
NWD	3,919	111,541	$2,515,250	63
POD	147	2,612	$58,901	1.5
SAD	10,996	410,574	$9,258,444	233
SPD	4,156	76,317	$1,720,948	43
SWD	7,473	408,899	$9,220,447	232





Volunteer Annual Day Use Pass

In 2013, the Corps established a volunteer pass program to support and recognize volunteers who have served the Corps in an exemplary way. Volunteers who have served a minimum of 100 hours at Corps managed areas are eligible to receive a waiver of all day use fees via an Annual Day Use Pass. The main goal of the program is to increase visitation to Corps parks by enticing volunteers to visit new places, bring friends and family, and continue to explore and enjoy Corps recreation areas.