Volunteer Program FY 15 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 visits by the public to Corps managed lands and waters.

During the 2015 fiscal year 41,595 total volunteers donated 1,517,613 hours – the equivalent of 862 full time employees. The value of their labor was $35,011,332. 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 15, an hour of volunteer time was worth $23.07. Volunteers complete tasks that would otherwise go undone.

National Public Lands Day 2015

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 11,300 volunteers helped remove 128,000 pounds of trash, cleaned 191 miles of roadway and 1,001 miles of shoreline, built/maintained 192 miles of trails, improved 869 acres of habitat, and planted 1,689 trees and shrubs.



Corps-wide Volunteer Contributions: FY 99 – 15







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
2015	41,595	1,517,613	$23.07	$35,011,332

Volunteer Contributions by Division in FY 15

Division	# of Volunteers	Hours Served	Value of Service	Full-Time Equivalent
LRD	9,465	211,061	$4,869,177	120
MVD	7,683	213,492	$4,925,260	121
NAD	2,338	44,891	$1,035,635	26
NWD	3,594	108,550	$2,504,249	62
POD	136	2,531	$58,390	1.4
SAD	8,552	482,173	$11,123,731	274
SPD	3,342	70,477	$1,625,904	40
SWD	6,485	384,438	$8,868,985	218



America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass

As of January 1, 2016, Corps volunteers who have served 250 hours with the Corps of Engineers or other participating Federal land management agencies are eligible to receive an America the Beautiful Interagency Volunteer Pass. For information on the America the Beautiful passes, visit http://store.usgs.gov/pass/annual.html Volunteers who perform exceptional service are also eligible to receive a Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence coin.