FY 17 Partnerships and Volunteer Program Summary Sheet

*Data from OMBIL

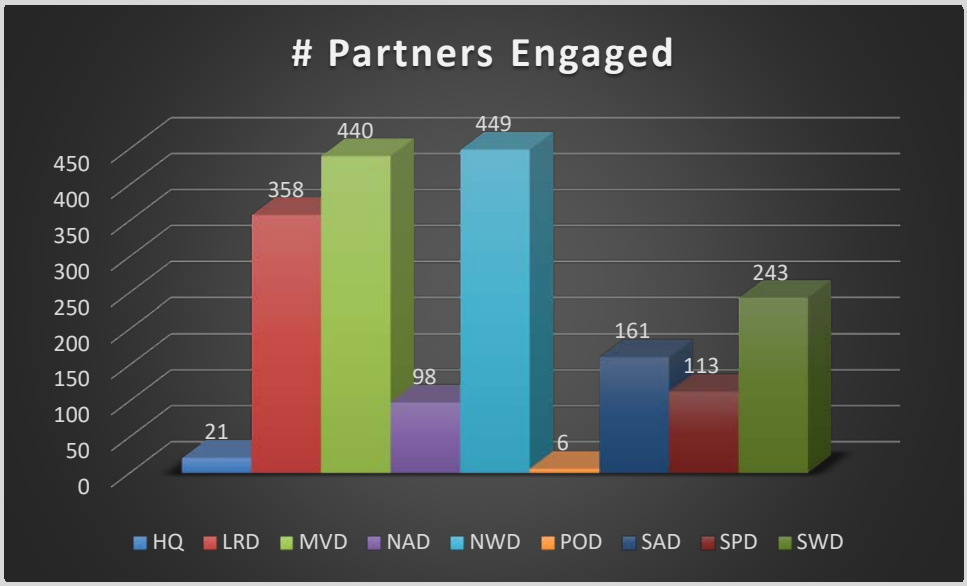
The Corps of Engineers' natural resource management mission is to manage and conserve natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations. The challenges facing this mission require a new way of doing business, by increasing community engagement and collaboration to ensure we meet the needs of the public. Our partners and volunteers are organizations and people who want to give back to their communities and are interested in being involved in the Corps natural resource management program. Whether it is an environmental ethic, a love of parks, or enthusiasm for the outdoors, like-minded partners and volunteers share their expertise, resources, time and energy to work together toward common goals.

Total partners: 1,889

Corps projects with partnerships: 303 of 403 (74%)

Total value of partnerships: $65,077,327

(Corps: $7.9 million investment/ Partner leveraged investment: $57.1 million)



We strive to match our partners and volunteers' talents and interests with work to be done, in order to achieve our shared vision. While partners and volunteers are not a substitute for Corps management of the federal resources, they help accomplish programs and activities for which funding is not available and therefore would not normally be performed. In FY 2017, 41% of our partnerships were for environmental stewardship projects, and 59% were for recreation projects.

- **Boy/Girl Scouts**: 2,690 scouts from 76 troops were able to complete eagle scout projects, learn new outdoor skills, beautify parks through shoreline cleanups, raise funds by recycling, perform service projects, earn badges, and participate in educational programs by park rangers to learn about natural resource careers



- **Cooperating associations**: 49 nonprofit associations held special events, operated bookstores, provided interpretive programs, and served as community advocates for the Corps

- **CVBs and businesses**: Almost 400 businesses, visitor bureaus, and chambers of commerce partnered with the Corps to offer recreation related services and supplies to visitors while also generating an economic benefit to the local communities.

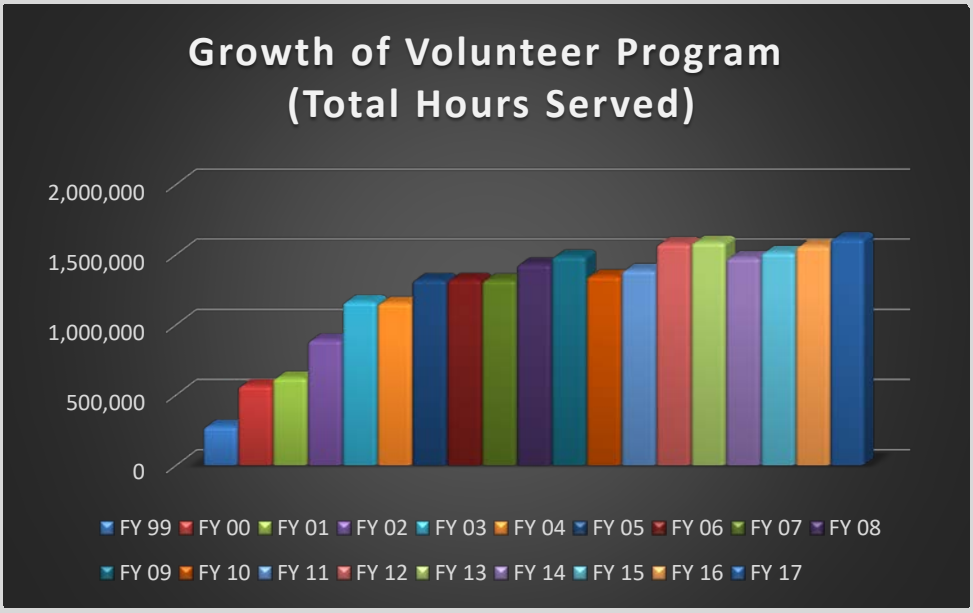
- **Educational institutes**: Corps lakes provided 74 universities and schools with hands-on learning in an outdoor classroom setting, research projects, volunteer projects to meet service goals, water safety and environmental education programs, and career days.



- **Youth service and conservation corps**: 39 Corps lakes worked with conservation service corps organizations to provide 16 to 25 year old youths with job training, academic programming, leadership skills, and experience in environmental stewardship and recreation projects.

- **Outdoor recreation organizations**: 148 clubs, national organizations, and other recreation groups partnered with the Corps to improve access, upgrade facilities, and create new opportunities for their members and the public at Corps lakes.

- **Conservation organizations**: 461 public and private entities, including federal and state land management agencies and non-profits wildlife and conservation groups, completed projects to improve habitat and meet their stewardship goals.



Total volunteers: 43,975

Volunteer hours: 1,616,259

Value of volunteer service: $39,016,492
(Total volunteer hours x $24.14/ hour standard rate set by the Independent Sector and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

Corps projects with volunteers: 314 of 403 (78%)

Average time served by each volunteer: 37 hours

Beginning in 2016, Corps volunteers who served 250 hours with the Corps of Engineers or other participating Federal land management agencies became eligible to receive an America the Beautiful (ATB) Interagency Volunteer Pass. In FY 2017, 55 America the Beautiful Volunteer passes were issued to Corps volunteers for their service. In addition to the ATB pass, Corps volunteers who serve 100 hours are eligible for a Corps annual day use pass.

Volunteers who perform exceptional service are also eligible to receive a Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence coin, and can be nominated for the Corps Foundation sponsored National Volunteer of the Year Award or the Enduring Service Award. In FY 2017, 32 Volunteer Excellence coins were awarded for exceptional volunteer service.

**(Note: 30.4K of total volunteers, 367.7K of total volunteer hours, and $8.8M of total volunteer service value were from volunteers with a partner organization)