

Volunteer Dick Armstrong has greatly assisted the USACE with the water safety mission at Alum Creek Lake, in Central Ohio, and at IBWSS & USACE Washington, D.C., events. He has been very involved in doing “Corey the Safety Boat” programs, festivals, and parades. Mr. Armstrong is a volunteer that is always there to help educate children and to prevent drowning. Corey the Safety Boat is very popular character in Central Ohio and the children learn from Corey’s water safety rules



Mr. Armstrong has taken numerous photos at various programs and many of these have been on social media sites. He has also put together a notebook of information on the history of the USACE building the Alum Creek Lake project and assists the rangers lead public dam tours.

Mr. Armstrong has provided 1262 hours of service since he became a volunteer for the Corps in 2008.

In an average year he assists the Alum Creek Lake rangers with 30 classroom school programs; 3 parades featuring Corey and Bobber; 3 public dam tours; two shifts at the Delaware County Fair booth; and 2 shifts at the Ohio State Fair booth. Mr. Armstrong has also assisted Ranger John Wargo at two IBWSS presentations and at a ranger group water safety presentation at the USACE HQ’s picnic. All total he assists the Alum Creek Lake staff in making 20,000+ direct water safety contacts per year and over 150,000 more indirect contacts with the use of Corey in parades.

Mr. Armstrong has been a multi-agency volunteer in water safety for over 30 years. He was an active volunteer with Ohio Division of Watercraft for 25+ years before becoming a volunteer with the USACE in 2008. All total he has over 5,280 volunteer hours in promoting water and boating safety. Mr. Armstrong frequently stats, “it is all worth it if we can just save one child from drowning.”



Mr. Armstrong maintains a great rapport with visitors and steadily promotes water and boating safety to all members of the public. He is a walking billboard for the USACE in promoting water and boating safety.



Mr. Armstrong has received many words of appreciation from children and their parents for going the extra mile as a volunteer to promote boating and water safety. He was a principle member of the Alum Creek Lake staff that recently received the LRD Water Safety Team Award, along with a Commanders Coin from General Bostick for his great work at two USACE HQ’s events held in Washington, D.C., this past summer.



Mr. Armstrong recently indicated, "He has run a lifetime mile race over the last 30 years, in promoting water and boating safety to children and adults." Mr. Armstrong has reached out to thousands of children to be safe around the water by learning to swim and to always wear their life jackets. He is always willing to participate in any opportunity to teach children to be safe around the water. Mr. Armstrong is considered to be the true "Grandpa" of Corey the Safety Boat.

