

**NWP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**  
**Volunteer Coin Nomination**

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**PART 1: NOMINATION INFORMATION**

A. **Name of Volunteer:** Wayne Gibson

**PART II: VOLUNTEER PROJECT / ACTIVITY INFORMATION**

A. **Site location(s) where volunteer work was performed:** Work was performed offsite but for John Day Willow Creek Project.

Corp Lake / Project Name(s): The Dalles High School

Weblink: <https://www.nwasco.k12.or.us/Page/363>

B. Is the project or volunteer activity ongoing? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_x\_\_\_NO

If no, how long did event / project / activity last? \_15\_ Days \_\_\_Months \_\_\_Years

During which fiscal years did event / project / activity? FY17-18

Were the volunteer activities entered in the OMBIL? Yes

**C. Volunteer Information**

Total number of volunteers in the couple or family unit: 20 students plus Mr. Gibson

Total volunteer hours for consideration: 20 hours

Length of time (months/years) volunteer hours were served: 3 weeks

**PART III: VOLUNTEER PROJECT / ACTIVITY NARRATIVE**

The nominee(s) will be evaluated on the following criteria: Mission, Accomplishments, Impact, and Collaboration. Each criterion must be addressed in the narrative.

Park Rangers at The Dalles Project in the Portland District, Northwestern Division partner with local agencies and volunteers to purchase, install and maintain life jacket loaner stations along the lower Columbia River. The Corps life jacket loaner program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first-served basis, while recreating. Research shows that 90 percent of drownings at USACE projects could have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn by the victim. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket wear during water-based activities by having a variety of PFDs readily available at major water play areas where boating and swimming are undertaken.

During the 2017/2018 school year, Mr. Wayne Gibson, a wood shop teacher at The Dalles High School, volunteered his and his student's class time and services to build two life jacket loaner boards in The Dalles High School wood shop. These two new loaner boards are slated to be installed at Giles French and Philippi Parks located in the John Day Willow Creek Project.

Construction of the boards took place over the course of three weeks. About 20 students participated and contributed approximately 20 hours of labor to build. Construction materials were funded through a partnership with the Columbia Gorge Safe Kids and life jackets provided by the Nautical Safety Foundation. The Dalles High School, thanks to Mr. Wayne Gibson, is

now a pearl among a string of community leaders who work to prevent drowning fatalities and keep the recreating public safe.

His and his students' contribution to the Corps' water safety program is a success story that can be shared internally and externally to help raise public awareness about life jacket wear. The two new loaner board locations will be added to our growing list of options available and listed on our website. Mr. Gibson and his students remain available for building other loaner boards as locations are identified. Their efforts to support the Portland District's life jacket loaner board program is greatly appreciated.





