

James Johnston- Volunteer Park Host
Stanislaus River Parks
Sacramento District SPK

The Stanislaus River Parks project would like to recognize James Johnston for his work as a volunteer Park Host during the summer of 2015. James Johnston came to the Stanislaus River Parks as one of the most highly recommended volunteers for his outstanding work. During his 9 month stay he demonstrated his active work ethic and pleasant demeanor, leaving a lasting impression on the public and the staff alike.

Stanislaus River Parks is known for its “string of pearls” recreation areas that are popular for swimming, rafting, and fishing; with McHenry Avenue Recreation Area being one of the most demanding parks to run, with an average of four live-in park hosts year round. In the summer of 2015, Stanislaus River Parks had an exponential rise in visitation due to the California drought that made reservoirs less appealing and the rivers the only accessible source for water recreation. Not only was the visitation higher than what is standard, due to many unfortunate cancellations from incoming hosts, Mr. Johnston was left to carry out all of the Park Host duties at McHenry Avenue Recreation area on his own.

Mr. Johnston accomplished this feat and surpassed all expectations by effectively running the life jacket loaner program for an average of 75 visitors daily, while also making thousands of water safety contacts on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Along with his daily tasks, Mr. Johnston avidly assisted the Ranger staff and San Joaquin Sherriff’s Office in any way possible.

Mr. Johnston accomplished more in his 9 months as a volunteer than most accomplish in years. Jim was a valued asset to the Stanislaus River Parks Project during his stay and will always be welcomed back. It is volunteers like James Johnston that make the Army Corps of Engineers volunteer Park Host program great. For his exemplary performance and dedication, Stanislaus River Parks presents Mr. James Johnston with the U.S Army Corps Foundation’s Volunteer Coin.



Above: Park Manager Heather Wright presents volunteer James Johnston with his Corps Foundation volunteer coin



Above: Park Ranger Tina Hidalgo and volunteer James Johnston