

During the past seven months, Randy and Peggy Loyd have provided park host services within the Knights Ferry Recreation Area at Stanislaus River Parks. This site includes the Knights Ferry Covered Bridge, which is a National Historic Landmark, and various properties which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Loyds provide visitor tours during which they provide information of cultural and historical significance such as an explanation of the engineering requirements for the covered bridge trusses and how they were utilized and constructed. They also point out the many areas that remain culturally important to the local Native American tribes and the historical significance of their past and current contributions.



The Loyds operate the Information Center where they answer park visitor questions regarding the local area, USACE functions and purposes, and details regarding any of the 19 parks located on the Stanislaus River. They also provide information to encourage visitor safety such as wearing life jackets and avoiding river activities when the water is running high, which assists the Army in meeting its zero-fatality metric, resulting in over 2,000 water safety contacts! This interest and involvement in water safety and education interpretation led to the Loyds starting the Leave No Trace Program and Junior Ranger Program within the Stanislaus River Parks. These programs teach the public the importance of preserving public lands by learning the seven Leave No Trace principles and how they can be applied in our everyday lives. These principles teach visitors how to be good stewards of the environment as well as

how to safely recreate within the park settings. Peggy has also assisted Park Rangers in numerous salmon programs, in which students learn and experience the salmon life cycle through information center tours and the salmon life cycle game.



Knights Ferry hosts a Civil War reenactment on a yearly basis. Members of the American Civil War Association stage reenactments of battles to provide a living history lesson to the many visitors who wish to learn details of the historical era involved. The Loyds have assisted the Park Rangers during this event by providing information to the reenactment participants as they set up their camping sites and answering any questions they may have. The Loyds also actively take part in teaching young park visitors what life was like during the American Civil War.

The Loyds work closely with the Sunshine and River Journey licensed rafting concessionaires which operate rafting activities within the USACE river system during the recreation season. They maintain regular ongoing communications with the rafting personnel regarding water safety issues and any risks to visitors which need to be addressed.





Peggy and Randy have contributed to the Army Corps of Engineers mission of environmental stewardship and partnerships in many ways. Their participation in the natural resource management of the Stanislaus River Parks will have lasting positive effects on the environment and ecosystems within those systems for years to come. The Loyds fostered public reverence for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the assets they provide to the natural resource community. Their actions garner positive reflection and credit not only on themselves but on the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army as well. The efforts of Peggy and Randy Loyd are noted, respected, and recognized.