

VOLUNTEER VILLAGE PROGRAM
THURMOND LAKE

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Volunteer Village is to provide a central location and staging area for volunteers who desire to camp at Thurmond Lake in exchange for their volunteer services.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Volunteers will work a minimum of 20 hours per campsite per week on various assignments in exchange for free camping privileges at the Volunteer Village. Volunteers will be selected according to their qualifications, skills, and experience as they relate to various volunteer projects. Volunteers will be required to exhibit or develop:

- a. A positive and helpful attitude towards visitors.
- b. The ability to perform specific tasks.
- c. The aptitude to understand and follow instructions.
- d. Flexibility to work in various settings.
- e. Ability to work with a wide range of cultures.
- f. An understanding of the mission/purpose of the Corps of Engineers and the Thurmond Lake Project.
- g. A thorough understanding of water safety/boating laws applicable to Thurmond Lake.
- h. A working knowledge of public facilities available at Thurmond Lake.
- i. A working knowledge of county, state and federal agencies associated with the Thurmond Lake Project.

3. VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The Volunteer Village Complex has twelve campsites and a gated entrance. Each campsite has 50/30/20 amp electrical service, county water, sewage hookups, grill, fire ring, utility table, picnic table, and lantern holder. A meeting hall and storage facility is located in the center of the complex. Village amenities include laundry facilities, boat ramp, dumpster, WI-FI internet service throughout village, and telephone service at meeting hall for local calls and emergencies. The U.S. Government will not be held liable for damage to personal property such as boats, vehicles, camping units and equipment resulting from volunteers' use of this facility. The Village is located adjacent to Gilchrist Ferry Road in Modoc, South Carolina, and is approximately 30 minutes from many shopping centers and restaurants in Evans and Augusta, Georgia.

4. VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Some projects which are available for volunteers to work on include:

- Water safety contacts with visitors
- Trail maintenance
- Boat patrol with park rangers
- Shoreline permit inspections with park rangers

- Restocking and coordination of the Life Jacket Loaner Boards
- Participation in the mid-winter waterfowl survey
- Operating informational booths at boating, camping and safety shows
- Updating bulletin boards at park areas
- Coordinating the Christmas Tree Recycling program
- Writing and coordination of the twice yearly Lake Times mass mailing
- Interpretive tours as needed
- Presenting water safety programs at local school systems
- Interpretive programs at campgrounds
- Shoreline and park cleanup
- Participation in school field trips to Thurmond Lake
- Leading Powerhouse tours
- Inspection of navigation markers
- Construction of fish & wildlife habitat enhancements
- Construct and maintain facilities at the Volunteer Village Complex
- Marketing and promoting the Corps
- Performing gate attendant duties in various day-use parks
- Performing office duties including staffing the visitor center and answering phones
- Adopt-A-Tree program coordination
- National Public Lands Day program coordination
- Completion of minor maintenance and work orders
- Bluebird and duck box inspection and maintenance

5. VOLUNTEER APPEARANCE

While performing various services, volunteers will be required to wear a volunteer uniform. The uniform will consist of a red vest with patch on left breast and white polo-type shirt, khaki pants/shorts and a volunteer nametag. The vest, patch and nametag will be provided by the Corps. Shirts, pants and shorts must be provided by the volunteer. Clothing is expected to be kept clean and in good repair so as to provide a professional image to our visitors. No open-toed shoes, jeans, cut-off shorts, or swimsuits are allowed during service hours.

6. PROGRAM COORDINATION

The Volunteer Village Program is coordinated by the Corps volunteer coordinator/park ranger under the direction of the Recreation Chief Ranger at Thurmond Project. The Corps volunteer coordinator is responsible for the development and implementation of the program, training of volunteers, work assignments, scheduling and meeting reporting requirements. In addition, a volunteer team leader may be designated to handle scheduling and reporting functions. On a monthly basis volunteers will turn in to the volunteer coordinator their volunteer hours for the month and a description of work performed.

7. VOLUNTEER VILLAGE GUIDELINES

- a. Volunteers must agree to a background check that will be completed prior to volunteering at the project or residing at the Volunteer Village. Volunteers that handle Corps user fees will be required to have a surety bond. Background checks and surety bonds will be paid for by the

Corps. Volunteer agreements at the volunteer village are valid until the Corps terminates the agreement or the volunteer chooses to leave.

b. Volunteers will be authorized to reside in the volunteer village for a period of no less than 90 days and no more than one year. Annual extensions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will take into consideration availability of other qualified volunteer applicants and the current volunteers' evaluation resulting in a good overall rating.

c. It is preferred that volunteers not be employed outside their volunteer commitment to the Corps to allow for flexibility of assignments and availability to meet requirements of the program.

d. Volunteers should be physically healthy and mentally capable to meet the demands of the volunteer assignments. Volunteers should be able to stand for at least six hours and be able to lift at least 25 pounds.

e. Each site will be limited to one set of volunteers not to exceed two occupants. No minors will be allowed to live in the volunteer village. Applicants should submit a personal photograph that was taken within the last six months.

f. Volunteer's camping equipment is limited to one self-contained travel trailer or motor home. Additional tents on the campsite impact area may be allowed. All applicants should submit a photograph taken within the last six months showing their travel trailer or motor home. Volunteers will keep their campsites clean and orderly in appearance.

g. Landscaping, planting and/or gardening is limited to containers and in a designated garden area authorized by the Corps.

h. All Title 36 Rules and Regulations apply to use of the area.

i. All signs, knickknacks, crafts or other handiwork in the volunteer village to include campsites should be limited and must be deemed appropriate by the volunteer coordinator.

j. No equipment (TV antennas, satellite dishes or clothes lines, etc.) may be attached to trees or government facilities.

k. Visitors are welcome to stay at a volunteer's campsite; however, campsite occupancy is limited to a maximum of 3 vehicles and 8 people. Visitors are limited to stay seven days in a 30-day period. Visitors of volunteers may not utilize any vacant campsite and may not use the laundry facilities.

l. Pets must be kept on a six-foot leash at all times. Pets will not be allowed to run at large even if the owner is present.

m. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the Volunteer Village or Corps operated parks.

n. The storage room located at the pavilion is for Corps supplies and equipment.

o. Telephone service for emergencies and local calls is available for volunteers in the meeting hall. Volunteers are encouraged to provide their own cell phones. Verizon Wireless has the best service/coverage area in the Volunteer Village area.

p. The entry gate to the complex must be closed and locked except when entering and departing the area to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the complex. Entry gate and meeting hall keys will be issued to volunteers. Duplicating keys is strictly prohibited. Keys will not be given or loaned to unauthorized personnel. If combination lock is used at front gate, entry gate keys will not be applicable.

q. Government vehicles are available for use by volunteers at Thurmond Lake. Some tasks may require use of volunteer's personal vehicle to drive to parks or events. A valid driver's license and successful completion of the online defensive driver training is required for operation of government vehicles.

r. Volunteers may receive mail at the Volunteer Village. The Volunteer Village address is 221 Three Camp Road, Modoc, South Carolina 29838. Mail may not be forwarded to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' office.

s. Smoking and smokeless tobacco is prohibited in all buildings and vehicles. Please be courteous to others by not smoking around entrance/exit doors. Please remain 20-30 feet away from these doors. All tobacco products should be disposed of properly.

8. CONDUCT

While serving as a volunteer and representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, volunteers shall abide by, support, and promote all agency programs, policies, Title 36 regulations, and established procedures. Volunteers shall conduct themselves in a professional, courteous manner and be polite and respectful to all customers, USACE employees, contractors, and fellow volunteers. Customer service and satisfaction are important to the Corps of Engineers. The Volunteer Coordinator will review all complaints received regarding volunteer actions and act accordingly.

Volunteers serve as liaisons between customers and the Corps. Volunteers must be friendly and enjoy sharing with the public both in and out-of-doors. Volunteers are expected to be a resource for lake visitors, informing them about Thurmond Lake, the Corps of Engineers, as well as, state and local attractions and amenities. Volunteers are expected to answer questions to the best of their knowledge, and/or contacting a Park Ranger to avoid giving out incorrect information.

Volunteers have no law enforcement authority and shall not argue with, threaten, or accuse customers of wrongdoing. Volunteer shall only politely remind visitors and shall not apprehend violators, nor commit Corps personnel to any type of action. While performing volunteer duties, volunteers shall not engage in commercial activities on project lands, including but not limited to selling of arts & crafts, homemade items, or provide childcare services. Also prohibited is being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs (except as prescribed by a doctor) while representing the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteers must agree to a background check prior to serving on the project or staying at the Volunteer Village. Defensive Driving training is required if volunteer services require use of a government vehicle. Safe Self/Verbal Judo training may also be required for volunteers. Both Defensive Driving and Safe Self/Verbal Judo will be offered by the Corps.

9. VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT TERMINATION

The Corps of Engineers or the volunteer may cancel the volunteer agreement at any time by written notice.

10. VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Coordinator: Dave Hatfield, Park Ranger

Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
J. Strom Thurmond Project
510 Clarks Hill Highway
Clarks Hill, South Carolina 29821

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Alternate Volunteer POC: Christina Westerberg, Recreation Chief Ranger, at (800)533-3478 ext. 1121