

# Ripples Journal



*"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."  
Ryunosuke Satoro*

*A quarterly journal produced by the  
USACE National Water Safety Program  
with help from everyone within USACE  
that promotes water safety.*



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®

**ISSUE 06  
August 2024**

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## UTILIZE THIS JOURNAL TO...

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- Showcase agency-wide what your division, district, or project is doing to promote water safety.
- Share your water safety initiatives to spark ideas in others.
- Show that you care about saving lives on our nation's waterways and that you have fun doing it.



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### **Your Help Is Needed to Make This Journal As Good As It Can Be.**

- Send your water safety initiatives to your Division Representative on the National Water Safety Committee at any time.
- Include good quality pictures whenever possible.
- If it pertains to water safety send it in including but not limited to interpretive programs, special events, displays, promotional products, partnerships, visitor assistance items, etc.

- **Primary topics:**

1st Quarter (Oct - Dec) Life Jacket Loaner Stations and Drives

2nd Quarter (Jan - Mar) Water Safety Partnerships especially those with local businesses

3rd Quarter (Apr - Jun) Water Safety Promotional Products and I Got Caught Initiatives

4th Quarter (Jul - Sep) Media Tactics used to promote water safety and Water Safety Trailers

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### **Your Division Representatives on the National Water Safety Committee**

**LRD-Chelsea.J.Jones**

**NAD-Jenna.M.Conner**

**MVD-Erica L. Nabers**

**NWD/POD-Tana K. Wilson**

**SPD-Pamela.B.Bowie**

**SAD-Emily A. Jones**

**SWD-Abby L. Jones**

## Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Water Safety Initiatives

### Buffalo District (LRB)

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



#### Mount Morris Dam



On May 11, 2024, Park Rangers Jerome and Smith represented USACE at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 'Spring Spectacular' Event held at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, NY. Park rangers conducted outreach about the Mount Morris Dam and engaged youth in water safety activities. Over 250 direct interpretive contacts were made.

On June 1, 2024, Park Rangers Emke and Smith represented USACE at the Livingston County Family Fest at Al Lorenz Park. Park rangers engaged families with water safety demonstrations and emphasized the importance of the Mount Morris Dam.



### Chicago District (LRC)

#### J. Edward Roush Lake

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Detroit District (LRE)

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center in Duluth, MN participated in an annual community education event called RiverQuest. They joined several other local organizations to provide water-safety related information to about 1500 area 6th graders over 4 days. Park Rangers adapted the Corp's "Cold Hand Luke" interpretive program to use during this event. They also celebrated National Safe Boating Week Kick-Off, providing swag bags with water safety materials to over 400 people during this event and over Memorial Day weekend.

# Huntington District (LRH)

## Paint Creek Lake

Paddle With a Ranger Program conducted by Park Ranger Savannah Douglas. This event allows anyone to come learn to safely kayak and learn water safety. The kayaks are loaned from a volunteer who helps lead the program and the state parks partnership.



# Louisville District (LRL)

Park rangers across the District held dozens of school programs promoting water safety, making thousands of contacts with kids of all ages and posted water safety messaging on their projects social media platforms. Water safety radio ads were created by the District Water Safety Team and broadcasted across six radio stations throughout the District.

Barren River Lake Park Rangers participated in multiple television and radio interviews to promote water safety prior to Memorial Day weekend.

# Nashville District (LRN)



Park rangers across the District participated in 10 water safety video PSAs over a variety of topics including personal watercraft safety, boat ramp etiquette, filing a float plan, safety equipment onboard your vessel, and proper life jacket wear. LTC Robert W Green also filmed a water safety message with Lake Cumberland Park Rangers prior to Memorial Day weekend. These videos were posted to project Facebook pages during National Safe Boating Week, with more being released throughout the summer. Park Rangers at Old Hickory Lake were interviewed by NewsChannel5 prior to the holiday weekend where they discussed safe boating practices.

## Cordell Hull Lake

Nine new park ranger trainees and interns participated in a water safety training at the Cordell Hull Lake on May 24, 2024. This training teaches new park rangers different programs and talking points they can use to better educate visitors the importance of wearing a life jacket, swimming with a buddy, and safe boating practices. Since this training, these employees have been busy doing numerous programs and initiatives.



## Old Hickory Lake



On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

## J. Percy Priest Lake

Park Ranger Bethany Reagan worked with Lamar advertising to have a water safety message posted along three billboards within Metro Nashville during the month of July. These billboards are strategically located in high traffic areas and near major intersections that lead to the lake.

## Lake Cumberland

Park Rangers Codey Hensley and Emily Scoggins at presented water safety interpretive programs at “First Responder Day”.



Saved by Wearing Life Jackets: Just before 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13th, Russell County Search and Rescue, along with multiple other agencies, responded to a two-boat collision on Lake Cumberland between the areas of Low Gap and Marina Rowena. The collision caused three individuals to enter the water. Fortunately, all three were wearing life jackets, which undoubtedly saved their lives.

<https://z93country.com/archives/446353/local-news/>

Nashville District partnered with The Corps Foundation to place a full-page water safety message on the back cover of the Tennessee Hunting and Fishing Guide for 2024-2025. The state of Tennessee combined their Hunting and Fishing guides into one publication and will distribute approximately 500,000 copies across the state. Having a full-page ad on the back cover of this guide will help reach our target audience (adult men) about being safe around the water.



## Pittsburgh District (LRP)

On May 11, 2024, the District supported Water Safety Night at PNC Park during the Pittsburgh Pirates vs the Chicago Cubs baseball game. Over 35K fans in attendance and the first 20K fans received a promotional Pirates t-shirt that included a water safety logo on it. Over twenty park rangers and employees from throughout the District supported and staffed the event that included a three-hour street interactive area with over twenty water safety partners, first pitch thrown out by Colonel Melin, Bobber the Water Safety Dog on the field during pre-game ceremonies, and water safety promotional video filmed at PNC Park that was shown during all home Pirates games in the month of May.



The District Public Affairs Office released a National Safe Boating Week news release prior to Memorial Day weekend, coordinated news coverage with two local news stations to promote water safety, produced a Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day video that had over 15.8K views and boating safety tips video that had over 600 views.

The District has set a goal to have at least one USACE managed life jacket loaner station per project.

# Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

## Vicksburg District (MVK)

Vicksburg District Water Safety PDT held their Annual Spring Meeting. This was the first face-to-face meeting since 2019 due to COVID and budget restraints. The members that were not able to drive to Lake Ouachita for the meeting attended virtually. Also, attending the meeting was Aaron Posner Chief, Technical Support Section Project Resources Management Branch and PAO Chief Christi Kilroy. The projects discussed each project's initiatives, Annual Water Safety Award, and event that would be large enough and reach the most people that the Districts Water Safety Team would participate in. Amy Shultz and Diane Golden discussed how to get resources & a possible new water safety law that has been proposed in Arkansas. Attended the MVD and National Water Safety Program virtual update and then traveled to DeGray Lake to conduct a Boots On The Ground (BOTG) for a drowning that had recently occurred.

### Lake Greeson

Natural Resources Specialist Diane Golden spent the entire day of the Solar Eclipse at Parker Creek at Lake Greeson. The eclipse gave the perfect opportunity to talk about water safety.



On May 15, 2024, Lake Greeson, Millwood Lake and Dierks Lake partnered to provide the FCC Preschool in Murfreesboro a Water Safety/Alligator Safety. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the water safety program.

### Lake Ouachita

Natural Resources Specialists Pam Herrin and Amy Shultz presented environmental and water safety programs to 256 fifth graders from Jessieville and Fountain Lake Schools at Entergy Park for Arbor Day.



Natural Resources Specialists Jon Munz and Shawn McBay presented Backyard Critters and Water Safety programs to a group of 95 (K-8th grade) students at St. John's Catholic School and to 74 third and fourth grade students at Cutter Morning Star School.

### DeGray Lake

Natural Resources Specialist Jeffrey Arthur presented water safety and wildlife programs to Rug Ratz preschool group.

DeGray Lake staff partnered with Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful, Mt. Saint Mary's, Veolia, and Lake Ouachita staff to present programs to Arkadelphia 5th Grade students. Water safety, wildlife, environmental, fishing, and water quality testing were presented. 120 students were in attendance.

Arkabutla Lake, Enid Lake, and the MS Project Office participated in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day.



Natural Resources Specialists and Park Rangers from Arkabutla Lake, Enid Lake, Grenada Lake, Sardis Lake, and the MS Project Office staffed a water safety booth at the Bass Pro Shops-Memphis Pyramid during Safe Boating Week 18-23 MAY. Staff answered questions and handed out water safety items. Approximately 400 direct water safety contacts were made.

Louisiana Field Office  
On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



## St. Paul District (MVP)

### Mississippi Headwater Project

Staff at all 6 Headwaters Project sites (Gull, Leech, Winnibigoshish, Pokegama, and Sandy) conducted water safety programs over the Memorial Day weekend including the “I got caught” initiative, direct contacts while on patrol, and an orange pine cone and medallion hunt for water safety goodie bags.

### Eau Galle Lake

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Lake Ashtabula



Staff presented water safety programs and handed out water safety promotional items at local community safety festivals including Grand Forks, ND Safe Kids event and Brookings Water Safety Festival.

Water safety information was presented at a Lake Ashtabula Lake Association meeting.

## Rock Island District (MVR)

### Saylorville Lake

On April 28, 2024, Park Ranger Phipps hosted a lesson with Girl Scout Troop #1281 from Ankeny, IA. The scouts were presented a couple different programs including one on water safety. The troops learned “Reach, Throw, Row, Go for help” and how to tell if someone in the water is in trouble. A life jacket fitting lesson was also included.

On May 9, 2024, park rangers and a volunteer from Saylorville Lake and Lake Red Rock attended an ICubs game at Principal Park in Des Moines, IA. Park rangers staffed a water safety table on the concourse to hand out water safety information. Bobber the Water Safety Dog was also able to throw the first pitch during the game. Tables also had a new water safety informational wrap on them in the concourse area of the stadium, and outfield banners displayed a water safety message. 2,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during this event.



On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

Other employees from across the District participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Coralville Lake

Coralville Lake held program days every week during the month of May for local community schools. Each week, approximately 200 children and chaperones attended water safety, Devonian Fossil Gorge, and environmental habitat programs conducted by park rangers. Children learned about the importance of wearing life jackets and practiced emergency scenarios where life jackets are important.

Installed new volleyball nets with water safety messaging at two day use areas. New pavement stencils were also created and used at all beaches and boat ramps.



Park rangers attended the Cedar Rapids Rock, Mineral, and Fossil show and promoted water safety to attendees. Water safety messages were incorporated into the programs by using the lake's Dunkleosteus mascot, Dudley, as a life jacket model and handed out water safety items. Over 2,100 direct interpretive contacts were made during the event.

Attended five community events; Earth Expo, Beach Daze, Penn Elementary Science Night, Cedar Falls STEM event, and the Burr Oak Prairie Preview. At each event, the booth focused on water safety and history of Coralville Lake. Over 1,200 direct interpretive contacts were made.

### Illinois Waterway Project

Boat patrols have resumed on the Illinois River. On May 26, 2024, the patrol boat was taken out for the first time this season. With last season being plagued by multiple mechanical issues, the boat received a full service at the marina prior to launching. October will mark the 30th anniversary of this patrol boat on the Illinois River. Several upgrades were made to the boat including a new Garmin unit to replace the aged Humminbird, and whale tails being added to the outboard motors to help the boat to get up on plane. Rangers Kevin Ewbank and Bob Petruney used the first boat patrol of the season to address a safety hazard along the river. On an island owned by USACE, a rope swing was observed hanging over the river. The tree limb supporting the rope swing was sawed off, leaving nowhere for a rope swing to be attached to the tree. Another rope swing affixed to a rock outcrop was cut midway up, because the park rangers were not being able to safely reach the top of the swing to remove the entire rope.



Park Rangers Fisher, Ernenputsch, and Petruney attended the annual Clean Water Festival at the Peoria Civic Center. The event caters to middle and junior high school students from the greater Peoria area. Over 1,000 students were in attendance. The park rangers promoted water safety during the event. A working model of a Lock and Dam was demonstrated, and students learned about lock and dam safety, and the inner workings of a lock and dam.

Kayakers Self Rescue on Illinois River— Park Rangers Sarah Fisher and Bob Petruney observed an upside-down kayak with arms emerging and flailing from the sides. It was ascertained that a kayaker had capsized and was stuck inside the kayak having trouble freeing themselves of the boat. Several other kayakers were present, though did not attempt to render aid to the downed kayaker upon fear of capsizing themselves. After freeing themselves from the kayak, the boater unsuccessfully attempted multiple times to get back in the boat. Each attempt resulted in the boat capsizing on top of the kayaker's head, and the kayaker being pushed under the boat repeatedly. Due to a sand bar in the way, rangers could not get the boat closer than approximately 15 feet from the boaters. Rangers talked the group through swimming the capsized boat to a nearby shore and assisting the kayaker with emptying the water out of the boat to resume their paddling trip. Rangers called the company who had rented out the kayaks to alert them to the issue, in hopes that future customers will be better educated on what to do if they capsize on the river. It was also suggested that the concessionaire purchase a jet ski or other craft to be deployed to incidents, as the concessionaire does not have a motorized vessel for emergencies.

### Mississippi River Project

Throughout the spring park rangers participated on the Celebration Belle's Education Cruises on the Mississippi in the Quad Cities area. During the cruise participants learn local river history while on the outside decks. Inside they could attend interpretive programs on the life on a towboat and water safety. School groups are the primary audience for these cruises and there were 1,080 total participants this spring.



Every Saturday in April, project staff instructed at four public boating safety classes held at the Mississippi River Project Office. USACE partners with Illinois DNR and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary during these free classes. Participants who successfully complete the class are issued a Boater Safety Card recognized by all states. A total of 71 people attended with everyone passing the class.



On May 18, 2024, park rangers and Bobber the Water Safety Dog celebrated Armed Forces Day on the Rock Island Arsenal. The day started out with some running races and Bobber cheered on the kids before preparing to race against his fellow mascots. Bobber made a pitstop to brush up on his knot tying skills with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The rest of the event was spent at the water safety booth handing out promotional products to participants.



The Mississippi River Visitor Center hosted many field trips that park rangers gave tours and programs for students nearing the end of the school year. Students took lock and dam tours, learned about mammals, participated in water safety activities, and even played some Jr. Ranger Jeopardy. More than 1,300 students came in for a visit.

## Lake Red Rock

On May 24, 2024, park rangers and volunteers teamed with Iowa DNR officers to provide water safety messaging during the annual “Helmets and Hotdogs” event in Knoxville, IA. The Knoxville Police Department organized the event and teamed with local sponsors/donors to offer free bike helmets to area school children, give them the chance to win several donated bikes, and provided grilled hot dogs for lunch. At the USACE/DNR station, children played a Water Safety “Plinko” game and win water safety-related prizes and had the chance to meet Bobber the Water Safety Dog.



On May 20 2024, to kick off National Safe Boating Week, members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4 from Des Moines, IA provided free vessel safety checks for boaters at the Whitebreast Recreation Area boat ramp. Bobber the Water Safety Dog was also on hand to visit with participants during the event.

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



In late May, approximately two boxes of water safety coloring sheet/activity sheets were distributed to 15 area restaurants so they could use them as table placemats. The local restaurants were very willing to accept the coloring/activity sheets because they provide a great way to share water safety messages with their customers.

On May 6—8, 2024, Park rangers and guest speakers hosted the 45th annual “Outdoor Days” event for 5th and 6th graders. Programs included topics on wetland ecology, water safety, wildlife, geocaching, and powerhouse tours. USACE hosted the event in partnership with the Marion County Conservation Board, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Missouri River Energy Services. The lake’s Education Host Volunteer Natalie Mong and retired Park Ranger Mark Pollastrini also assisted with presenting programs. Approximately 441 students and teachers participated from five area schools.

## St. Louis District (MVS)

### Carlyle Lake



In April, Carlyle Lake park rangers actively visited three local high schools to promote water safety. Through fun, interactive challenges, students learned essential skills for staying safe in, on, and near the water. Excel Bottling Company of Breese, IL generously donated t-shirts and stickers to incentivize student participation. A total of 985 individuals participated in 23 separate presentations.

On May 16, 2024, during a monthly safety meeting, Carlyle Lake staff reviewed essential elements of water safety. New Pathways Interns received instruction on the proper use of a life ring and throw bag. In addition, the Carlyle Lake staff celebrated Where Your Life Jacket at Work Day with a visit from St. Louis District Commander COL Pannier.





This spring, Carlyle Lake park rangers teamed up with six local radio stations (WDLJ, WKRV, WJBD, WGEL, WMIX, and WCXO) to record public service announcements in preparation for the recreation season. The water safety messages were broadcasted from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

With the support of numerous local partners, Carlyle Lake park rangers conducted water safety patrols throughout Memorial Day weekend. Visitors who were caught wearing life jackets, both on the water and at the beaches, were rewarded. A total of 167 visitors received either “I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket” initiative t-shirts or ice cream coupons provided by DQ Grill & Chill of Carlyle, IL.



### Wappapello Lake



On June 1, 2024, Jack Miller Memorial Kid’s Fun Day took place at the Spillway Recreation Area. It was done in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, WalMart, Millie’s, and Friends of Wappapello Lake. Participants consisted of children ages 5.-14 years old. Activities included fishing, water safety games, and a cookout. Door prizes and trophies awarded to winners of various age categories.

Distribution of 5,000 water safety pizza stickers during Memorial Day Weekend to Dominoes, Pizza Hut, Godfathers, Little Caesars, Pizza Inn, and Rhodes 101 in Wappapello, Dexter, and Poplar Bluff, MO.

Local businesses were asked to display water safety messages on their electronic marquees during major holiday weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day in Poplar Bluff, Dexter, and Sikeston, MO.



### Rend Lake



On June 8, 2024, the Rend Lake staff hosted the annual Beach Blast event at South Sandusky Beach. Park rangers facilitated water safety games, hosted a sand sculpture contest, and gave away prizes. The

Sesser Fire Protection District and Abbott EMS brought their unique lifesaving equipment for participants to look at. The Air Evac Life team 11 landed two helicopters for beachgoers to see! Despite rainy weather, 228 beachgoers participated in the annual water safety celebration!

On April 2, 2024, park rangers facilitated a water safety training as part of the Volunteer Orientation. The team highlighted new additions in EM 385-1-1 regarding water safety training.



On April 12, 2024, park rangers presented programs at the Rend Lake College Career Connection event. The park rangers discussed the “Many Hats of the Corps” and interpreted the USACE mission and water safety to 93 local high school students.



Since the beginning of the recreation season, park rangers including new student interns have been conducting water safety programs at beaches and other recreation areas. They also conducted roving interpretation throughout the campgrounds.



On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

## Rivers Project

On May 18, 2024, the National Great Rivers Museum hosted the third annual REC Fest to promote safe recreation along the Mississippi River for the summer season reaching 1,700 event attendees. More than 25 organizations provided activities and information related to safe recreation, conservation, and environmental education. Notable attractions included tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, rock climbing, fishing and casting, water safety, and archery lessons. A mascot parade attracted guests of all ages featuring Bobber the Water Safety Dog, Fredbird of the St. Louis Cardinals, Smokey Bear, and Blazer of Lewis and Clark Community College. Additionally, water-safety bags were distributed to children that visited at least 10 booths and completed their adventure passport.

On June 8, 2024, park rangers and staff provided general and water safety support at the 35th Annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair. The event was hosted at Pere Marquette State Park and organized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 900 direct interpretive water safety contacts were made during the event.



The Rivers Project and Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary hosted Wellness Series paddling/kayaking programs throughout the spring in partnership with the Audubon Center at Riverlands and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association. Six public kayaking sessions were held engaging 30 paddlers on proper water safety practices, kayaking 101 skills, and how to fit/wear a life jacket.

On May 29, 2024, park rangers, staff, and volunteers participated in the 157th Annual Alton Memorial Day Parade, the nation's longest consecutive running Memorial Day Parade, with a safety-boat-float and special appearance by Bobber the Water Safety Dog.

## Lake Shelbyville

On May 9, 2024, Main Street to Corps Day brought over 350 students from Shelbyville Elementary for a day of outdoor fun. 1st graders spent their time at the beach playing water safety games and learning about the importance of wearing a life jacket and swimming with a buddy. 3rd graders at Lithia Marina all practiced finding, and putting on, the correct size life jacket.



In support of National Safe Boating Week, May 18- 24, 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was present the entire week at Dam West Recreation Area conducting Vessel Safety Checks.



Ten comfort station doors were recently vinyl wrapped with water safety messages at boat ramps and beaches.

On April 4, 2024, a Water Safety Task Force Meeting was held at Lake Shelbyville to provide water safety updates and discuss ideas on how to promote water safety at the lake. Local sheriff's deputies, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USACE, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other local partners were in attendance.



On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

# North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

## New England District (NAE)

Franklin Falls Dam, Blackwater Dam, and Hopkinton-Everett Lakes

On April 20, 2024, Park Rangers Samantha Schupp (Hopkinton-Everett Lakes) and Briana Edwards (Franklin Falls Dam / Blackwater Dam) represented the New England District at a large event for outdoor recreators called Discover Wild New Hampshire Day in Concord, NH. Park Rangers Sam and Briana promoted water safety through word of mouth, showing examples of different life jackets and their uses, and handed out promotional products. Their water safety trailer was utilized as a display and attention grabber for the booth.

Participants could practice their throw ring rescue skills with a frisbee ring toss game, try on different types of life jackets, learn about the role of a park ranger, and get information on the USACE flood control projects in the Merrimack River Basin.



West Hill Dam



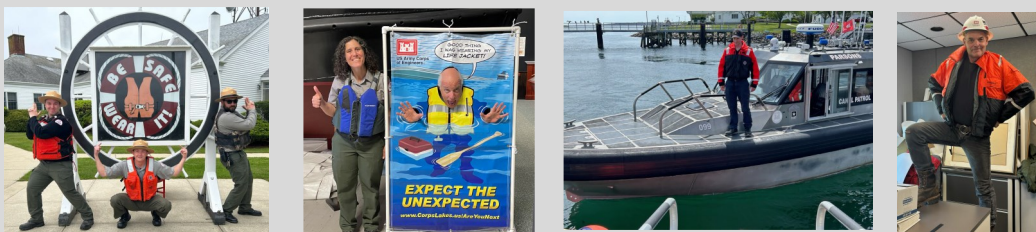
Around twenty young future USACE park rangers lined up along the banks of the West River to perform a “Sink or Float” science experiment with Park Ranger Viola and Volunteer Sarah, from Beginning Bridges. During their hike to the site, the young explorers prepared for their experiment by picking up various treasures along the trail, such as pinecones, rocks, sticks, flowers, leaves, and bark. Volunteer Sarah read the story Sink or Float and shared many swimming pool and beach safety tips before beginning the experiment. The participants then took turns tossing their collected treasures into the water to see if they would sink or float! The highlight was watching Park Ranger Viola toss her life jacket into the river, attached to a rope. The young explorers cheered, “It floats!”—just as our banner says, “Life Jackets Float, You Don’t!

Cape Cod Canal

On May 18, 2024, Cape Cod Canal staff and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary kicked off National Safe Boating Week at the Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center. Coast Guard volunteers and USACE park rangers set up a table with all sorts of important water safety information and promotional products. Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers also offered free vessels safety checks at the Sandwich Marina, inspecting and reviewing required safety equipment lists with boaters to ensure their boats have everything needed for a safe summer!

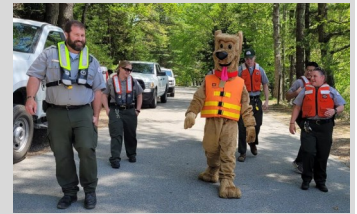


On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Buffumville Lake

Park rangers made great efforts to share water safety messages with visitors while patrolling beaches and launch sites, conducting vessel safety checks, prepping park facilities for the season opening, and providing dam tours.



On June 9, 2024, staff and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended a Worcester Bravehearts doubleheader baseball game to educate fans about the importance of wearing a life jacket this summer while on, in, and near the water.

### Littleville Lake

Park rangers attended a career fairs at Easthampton High School to chat with students about what it's like to be USACE park ranger, making sure to highlight our water safety program efforts. They also joined other New England District Park Rangers to attend the UMass Amherst Sustainability Career Fair and spoke with students about what it means to be environmental stewards and how water safety practices, such as driving slow in no-wake zones, help to protect our shared public resources.

### North Hartland Lake

Due to accumulated flood damage from last summer and winter, the boat launch and beach area remained closed throughout the spring as staff and contractors made repairs and removed debris and silt from the boat launch to make these areas safe for visitors. The staff worked hard to have the beach and boat launch fully cleared and open in July.

### West Thompson Lake

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



## Baltimore District (NAB)

### Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes

Approximately 400 4th-grade students from Tioga County visited the Ives Run Recreation Area to participate in Every Kid Outdoors programs. The 4th graders were exposed to topics such as land and water conservation, how dams work, stream ecology, sailing, bird watching, and water safety. The event was hosted by the Friends of Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes and USACE Park Rangers. The Friends received a grant to provide for each school's transportation costs and coordinated the activities as well as the volunteers who staffed the educational stations.



### Raystown Lake

On April 27, 2024, Supervisory Park Ranger, Allen Gwinn, and Park Ranger Jenna Conner had the privilege to represent the USACE Natural Resources Program at the Pentagon's "Bring Your Child to Work Day". They made nearly 2,000 direct interpretive water safety contacts during the event, taking advantage of the opportunity to inform DoD staff members from every branch of the military about USACE's Flood Risk Management, Natural Resource, and Recreation missions at the many lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and locks across the country. They were astonished at how few people knew that USACE owns so many water resource projects, let alone employs park rangers and natural resource specialists to help manage them as well. Bobber the Water Safety Dog was much loved by event attendees and Park Ranger Conner nearly lost her voice after talking about water safety for 6 hours straight! What an incredible opportunity!



On June 10-12, 2024, the Raystown Lake Project hosted motorboat operator training for Baltimore District team members. Eight NAB motorboat license examiners provided re-certification for 8 operators and new certification for 14 operators on the basics of safe boat operation and then used that information to complete practical exercises on backing, trailering, launching, docking, and maneuvering to demonstrate their competency. Students had the opportunity to experience the handling characteristics of five different vessels and learn how each performed through the training course. The practical test included boat operation in close space, operation through a serpentine and slalom course, and how to perform an emergency stop to avoid collision. Training included students from the Survey Crew in Navigation, from Washington Aqueduct, and from Raystown, Jennings Randolph, and Stillwater Reservoirs.



### Jennings Randolph Lake



In May 2024, opened a brand-new life jacket loaner stand at the Howell Run Boat Launch, stocked with life jackets provided by the Sea Tow Foundation. Staff also added a brochure/rack card holder on the new stand to make “How to Properly Fit a Life Jacket” brochures available to the public.

N W D

## Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

On June 12 and 13, 2024, the NWD NRM CoP conducted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual water safety virtual training for all NWD NRM employees and volunteers to attend. The training included an in-depth background of the water safety program, tips to improve communications skills, and outreach strategies from subject matter experts throughout NWD and MVD. This 2-day training was recorded to accommodate busy summer schedules.

## Kansas City District (NWK)

### Pomme de Terre Lake

On May 20 - 24, 2024, Pomme de Terre Lake staff along with NWK’s Water Management Office, partnered with multiple Swift Water Rescue agencies across Southwest Missouri to provide the setting for Swift Water Rescue Training. Agencies from the cities of Springfield, Branson, Battlefield, Logan-Rogersville, Nixa, Joplin and Ozark, MO were involved in the training. Trainees learned rescue skills and techniques in the turbulent water being released from the Pomme de Terre Lake dam. By swimming, using inflatable boats, or setting up cross-team rope rescue lines they tried out techniques for various swift water scenarios in the swift water that maintained a 1,500 cfs flow rate. Completing the course gave participants rescue certification for Dive Rescue International and allowed them to sharpen their skills in a realistic training environment. All releases were made within the parameters of the Pomme de Terre Lake Water Control Manual and Water Level Management Plan.



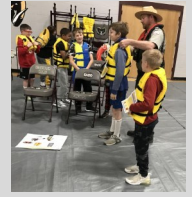
### Rathbun Lake

Park Ranger Jake Slechta reached a large audience at the Island View Group Camp “Reach, Throw, Don’t Go” Event.



Partnered with KTVO TV in Kirksville, MO and NWK District Staff to develop and broadcast a Water Safety Public Service Announcement (PSA) on live television.

Water safety volunteers at Rathbun Lake help staff with water safety parades, events, life jacket education, handing out promotional products, and they helped bring attention to water safety during an event called “Light up the Campground for Water Safety” at the Bridgeview Campground.



Park Ranger Scott Frieden presented water safety programs to Queen City, MO School District. There were over 324 youth and 18 adults at the school with over 25 groups attending the programs. Students gained experience through watching post-accident/drowning reports and learned about boating safety.

### Truman Lake



On May 3, 2024, the Kansas City District’s Safety Office, Park Ranger Allen Flint, and Missouri Highway Patrol provided boat safety training to soldiers stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, as part of the installation’s Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (B.O.S.S.) program. The training, originally developed by Jared Deckard, NWK safety and occupational health specialist, along with the Fort Leonard Wood Garrison Safety Office, was an opportunity to educate soldiers about safety while participating in water-based recreation. Since its development, Park Ranger Allen has taken the reigns and made the training impactful for those who receive it. “The training Mr. Allen Flint provided to our soldiers will help keep them safe while enjoying outdoor activities at Lake of the Ozarks and other water recreation areas throughout their lives,” said Craig Reeves, Fort Leonard Wood installation radiation safety officer and safety and occupational health

## Portland District (NWP)

NWP employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day during their virtual NRM Managers Meeting.



The Willamette Valley Project hosted the annual NWP Module 1f Visitor Assistance (VA) training course, which included multiple training sessions on water safety throughout the week. Nineteen park rangers throughout NWP attended.

### Bonneville Lock and Dam

On May 30 and 31, 2024, park rangers participated in Water Jam at the Spring Creek Fish National Hatchery. They presented water safety programs to local 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students through simulating a boat sinking and the importance of wearing a proper fitting life jacket any time they are around the water. Water Jam had approximately 300 participants this year. The USACE joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yakama Nation, U.S. Forest Service, Columbia Riverkeepers, Klickitat County Waste Management, Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the Underwood Conservation District in providing this educational event to students from the surrounding areas.

Starting in late May through the entire month of June, anglers swarm the Bonneville Dam recreation sites to fish for American Shad, a non native anadromous fish that migrates pass the dam in the millions during early summer. This is the busiest time for these recreation areas. The shorelines are packed with anglers of all ages and backgrounds. This year, 2024, park rangers made direct interpretive contacts with anglers about the importance of wearing a life jacket when in and around water, how to pick the right size life jacket, and handed out water safety promotional products to kids and adults. Their life jacket loaner station was heavily used during this time. 160 direct water safety interpretive contacts with anglers and their families were made during May and June.

### Willamette Valley Project

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.







After last year's success distributing water safety coasters to local breweries, a new design was used on the coasters this year. This year's coasters included a duck wearing a life jacket with the slogan, "Ducks Float... You Don't." Eugene, OR is home of the University of Oregon Ducks and is centrally located in the Willamette Valley. The coasters were provided to local breweries in the area during May, which is Water Safety Awareness Month.

Park Rangers assisted with several school programs in the spring including Earth Day with Veneta Elementary and a two-day outdoor focused STEM day with Cottage Grove High School students. Water safety promotional products were given to students that participated, and teachers were given water safety materials to share in their classes. Part of the spring curriculum in preparation for the outdoor STEM day included the whole sophomore class watching the USACE National Water Safety Program's educational video "The Young and the Reckless." The Veneta Elementary program reached approximately 400 people while nearly 160 people were reached over two days of the Cottage Grove High School program.

The annual Bikes to Blooms event was held at Bake Stewart Park, known for its wildflowers and pollinators. This annual event allows for great partnership opportunities with the local watershed council, non-profits, and Bureau of Land Management. Local Botanists lead wildflower and pollinator walks for the event. Park Ranger Paige King set up a table to provide water safety information to event attendees.



#### John Day Lock and Dam



Northwest Youth Corps Interns Angus Trousdell and Violet Woods gave out water safety promotional products while interning at John Day Project. They performed daily checks of the life jacket loaner boards, replace loaner life jackets if necessary, and educated the public concerning water safety. These interns started their work in mid-June and for 12 weeks they are invaluable regarding promoting water safety to visitors.

On April 24, 2024, Park Rangers Swicegood and Volkman provided a water safety presentation to kids and their parents at John Day's Take Your Kid to Work Day. 50 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.



On May 13, 2024, Park Ranger Ritz presented a water safety interpretive program at Sherman County preschool. 30 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

#### The Dalles Lock and Dam



On June 22, 2024, park rangers participated in the annual Gorge STEM fair located at the Columbia Gorge Community College to provide a hands-on interactive water safety booth for families. About 100 people stopped by the booth to learn the importance of wearing a proper fitting life jacket and the location of life jacket loaner boards along the Columbia River. Families were challenged to work together using the provided materials to construct a life jacket that would keep an action figure floating for one minute. Water safety coloring books and stickers were provided to families.

On May 16, 2024, park rangers partnered with Oregon State Police/Safe Kids to participate at a Family Night event that took place at Chenoweth Elementary in The Dalles, OR. Over 100 parents and students got the opportunity to try on life jackets, learn the location of life jacket loaner boards, and play "Roll the Die" to answer water safety questions and win water safety promotional products. Water safety brochures, coloring books, stickers, and flying rings were given to families.

On April 20, 2024, park rangers attended The Dalles Cherry Festival and set up a water safety table that included water safety trivia, life jacket demonstrations, and water safety promotional products. Approximately 150 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On March 29, 2024, Every Kid Outdoors was hosted at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center. Park rangers partnered with U.S. Forest Service park rangers to provide outdoor learning opportunities for 4th grade families. A water safety table was set up to teach “Bobber’s Golden Rules” and props were provided to practice “Reach, Throw, Row...Go get help!” Brochures, coloring books, and temporary tattoos were handed out to families.



## Omaha District (NWO)

### Fort Peck Project

Held a water carnival at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center. This event was complementary to the Montana Governor’s Cup Walleye Tournament on Fort Peck Reservoir and Kid’s Fishing Derby at Winter Harbor pond. A variety of stations and activities were provided for youth on the lawn of the Fort Peck Interpretive Center and inside.

### Garrison Project

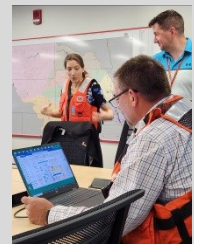
On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Tri-Lakes Project



On May 17, 2024, Natural Resources Specialist Gene Seagle participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



On May 17, 2024, NWO District employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

## Seattle District (NWS)

### Libby Dam

Park rangers partnered with Lincoln County Health Department to receive a donation of over 100 life jackets. The life jackets will be made part of Libby Dam’s Water Safety Program and will be matched with those in need of a life jacket throughout the 2024 recreation season.



### Mud Mountain Dam



On May 15, 2024, at the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch and Park in Black Diamond, WA, the Black Diamond Police Department held a Water Safety Day event in observance of International Water Safety Day. Several organizations set up booths, including USACE Mud Mountain Dam Project, Black Diamond Police, Mountain View Fire and Rescue, Washington State Fish and Wildlife, Enumclaw Aquatic Center, and Covington Aquatic Center. Park Ranger Shane Riley, Biologist Nathan Malmborg, and Public Affairs Representative Nicole Celestine staffed the USACE booth, handing out Bobber the Water Safety Dog fun books and other water safety promotional products.

# Walla Walla District (NWW)

## Lucky Peak Lake

Partnered with Ada County Sheriff's Office and a local ice cream vendor, The STIL, to provide free ice cream to kids caught wearing life jackets. Partners signed a multi-year MOU to share costs of the product and the production of coupon books.



S A D

## South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

### Charleston District (SAC)

On June 7, 2024, SAC District Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog appeared on LowCountry Live to promote water safety. USACE spoke about the importance of safe boating and wearing a life jacket on the Intracoastal Waterway. The USCG spoke about different tools to have in your boat and ways to get help in case of an emergency.



On May 29, 2024, Nathan Wilkes, Ronnie June, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog visited St. Stephen Elementary School to promote water safety. Nate and Ronnie did demonstrations with life jackets and the students got to meet Bobber. The students then received water safety bags, flying rings, and other water safety items.

### Jacksonville District (SAJ)

#### Okeechobee Waterway - Saint Lucie

During the month of May 2024, Park Ranger Robert Wiggins coordinated with Lamar advertisers to place three different USACE Water Safety public service announcements (PSAs) on digital billboards in English and Spanish along various highways close to the project.



In May 2024, volunteers at their monthly water safety training with Park Ranger Robert Wiggins learned how to properly throw and recover a life ring and throw life bag.

Park Ranger Robert Wiggins and volunteers focused some of their efforts on making direct water safety interpretive contacts with their visitors. Visitors to the Saint Lucie Visitor Center in June 2024 were from Florida, Canada, and Australia.



## W.P. Franklin South Recreation Area

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



On June 20, 2024, Park Ranger Megan Parsons presented a water safety program for the Task Force Virgin Islands Puerto Rico PRB Teams meeting. Park Ranger Parsons provided water and boating safety tips and taught proper rescue techniques including the saying “Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go”. Approximately 60 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On Friday, June 21, 2024, Park Ranger Megan Parsons and USACE volunteers Cassie, Bobby, and Phoenix Cullen, participated in “Reading with a Ranger” at Riverdale Public Library in Fort Myers, FL. Park Ranger Parsons read the children’s book called “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim” by Kim and Stew Leonard Jr., which included a water safety rules song for everyone to sing and repeat four times throughout the story. After the reading, Park Ranger Parsons conducted a water safety activity having two volunteers place an unpeeled and peeled orange in water to represent wearing a life jacket versus not wearing a life jacket. This activity provided the children a visual of why it’s important to wear a life jacket so that they can float like the unpeeled orange (wearing a life jacket), and not sink like the peeled orange (not wearing a life jacket). To close the event, Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance to hand out water safety bags and to take photos with the families. A total of 50 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



## Mobile District (SAM)

### Alabama River Lakes



On April 24, 2024, Park Rangers George Hunter and Joseph Ponder provided a water safety program to the Autauga County 4-H Club. They spent time going over the 5 Rules of water safety, how to properly fit a life jacket, and general boating safety tips. 20 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On June 22, 2024, White Pond Baptist Church held bingo night for the campers at Gunter Hill Campground. Park Ranger Christina Collins presented a water safety program for all attendees. Water safety promotional products were handed out to all attendees. 50 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



### Allatoona Lake

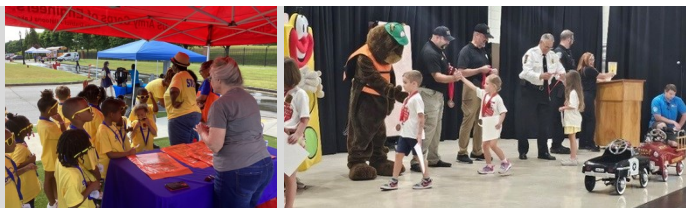


On May 18, 2024, partnered this summer with the American Canoe Association, Georgia River Network, and others to provide low-cost Kayak 101 training classes for individuals interested learning more about the recreational sport and improving their skills and safety. Three Kayak 101 classes were taught in USACE provided areas at the same time as classes being presented in 6 other states. In all, 43 classes were presented more than doubling what had been accomplished the year before. Initial totals show around 80 participants taking part in the events at Allatoona including both instructors and students. Allatoona Lake is the first USACE Lake to participate in the main event and was the first area in the State of Georgia to commit to the program. There will be a total of 11 classes taught this summer on Allatoona Lake. In addition to the ACA Georgia, Georgia River Network, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, other organizations that also partnered/participated in the program include: Georgia Power Company, Trust for Public Lands, Georgia Canoeing Association, The Outdoor Foundation, Savannah Coastal Ecotours, Middle Georgia Kayaking, Miller Kayak Trips and Training, REI Co-op and REI Co-op Experiences, Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Half Moon Outfitters, Westbrook Supply Co., and Southern Conservation Trust.

Yahoo Sports: <https://sports.yahoo.com/corps-engineers-coast-guard-help-035900484.html>

Paddling Magazine: <https://paddlingmag.com/stories/2024-national-safe-boating-week/>

In the 3rd quarter, park rangers and volunteers participated in six events with partners Cherokee County Safe Kids, Cherokee County Safety Town, Cobb County Safe Kids and the Cobb County Safety Village. On June 10 and 17, 2024, in Cherokee County, park rangers presented water safety interpretive programs to two classes of children at the Cherokee County Safety Town and on June 14 and 21, 2024, volunteers with Bobby Beaver attended the two graduation ceremonies making a total of 350 direct water safety interpretive contacts. On June 11 and 18, 2024, water safety volunteers also attended two Cobb County Family Fun Days at the Cobb County Safety Village making 953 total direct water safety interpretive contacts.



On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

### Lake Seminole

Presented interpretive programs at the pioneer settlement in Blountstown, FL. The programs were a combination of a water safety program and science program. The participants were in kindergarten through fourth grade. For the science side, park rangers had blind boxes and Fred the alligator. Afterwards, Park Ranger Bennett reviewed the importance of reach, throw, row, don't go and had the students try on life jackets.

### Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

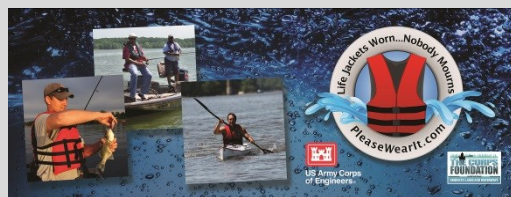
On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



## Savannah District (SAS)

### Hartwell Lake

Park rangers provided 12 water safety banners to the following partners to be placed in parks on Hartwell Lake that are leased from USACE. Partners included U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Portman Marina, Anderson County Emergency Management, City of Clemson, Hart County Govt, and Lake Hartwell Development.



Park Ranger Dotson conducted an interpretive program for 55 students enrolled in Stephens County Jr. Deputy Camp. She focused on duties of a park ranger, how they work with the



local Sheriff's department in the parks, and water safety. This weeklong summer camp is designed to expose and educate children to multi-faceted Emergency Management system of the county while allowing them to have fun with sports, games, and swimming time.

Park rangers conducted seven water safety interpretive programs for a total of 364 direct water safety interpretive contacts. Programs were presented during/to Western Carolina Sailing Club Boating Course, North Georgia Tech Wildlife Society, Stephens County Jr. Deputy Program, Girl Scout Troop #642, Anderson County Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Hart County STEM Program.



Park Ranger Annette Dotson conducted a radio interview with a local lake community radio station. This initiative is designed to connect the lake community with Hartwell Lake Rangers. It gives Rangers across all program areas an opportunity to address current issues, policies, permit processes, and gives us a captive audience to convey a message of water safety on the lake. This “Chat With a Ranger” interview targeted the upcoming 4th of July Holiday and importance of water safety on the lake.



### J. Strom Thurmond Lake



On April 20, 2024, Thurmond Lake staff partnered with the Kroc Center in Augusta, GA, to participate in the SPLASH (Swim, Play, and Learn Aquatics Safety Habits) Summit. The Kroc Center, YMCA, and Augusta Aquatics center focused primarily on water safety as it relates to pools. Park Ranger Hannah Sue Hulpke and volunteers focused on water safety around lakes, as well as properly fitting a life jacket. 150 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On April 23, 2024. Park Ranger Evan Brashier and Kevin Madsen as well as volunteers attended the 2024 Earth Day event at Phinizy Swamp in Augusta, GA. Park Ranger Brashier focused his programs on natural resources and Park Ranger Madsen with assistance from Bobber the Water Safety Dog focused his programs on water safety. A total of 575 direct water safety interpretive contracts were made.

On May 10, 2024, for the 2nd year in a row, the J. Strom Thurmond Lake Recreation Section (Henry Way, Kevin Madsen, Hannah Sue Hulpke, Makayla Barlow, and volunteer Amy Madsen) promoted Every Kid Outdoors, and water safety to every 4th grade student in Columbia County, GA. This year the physical presentation of the programs took place at Stevens Creek Elementary School, with the event streamed to other schools.

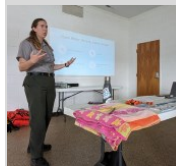


## Wilmington District (SAW)

### B. Everett Jordan Lake

On June 8, 2024, a Time of Remembrance event was held at Jordan Lake’s Ebenezer Church Recreation Area. The ceremony was organized by the families of drowning victims, and was held in memory of those who drowned at Jordan Lake in 2023. Park Rangers Shannon Maness and Elaine Wittry attended and presented a water safety program to an audience of 40 people.

Park rangers worked with Safe Kids Chatham County to spread the word about water safety to parents and caregivers. Park Ranger Elaine Wittry and members from Safe Kids facilitated 3 water safety classes on April 19, May 16, and May 22, 2024 for parents and spoke to a total of 22 families with young children.



On May 3, 2024, Park Ranger Elaine Wittry participated in Hampton Day at Kimberly Hampton Primary School on Fort Liberty. 285 preschool and kindergarten students learned about wildlife, the role of park rangers, and how to stay safe when visiting lakes and pools.

### John H. Kerr Lake

Ranger Debra Hood facilitated an “Engineer a Life Jacket Program” at the Lunenburg County (VA) Career Fair where all middle schoolers and high schoolers participated from the county. The engineer a life jacket program asks participants to build a life jacket for superhero pool dive toys with the goal of keeping the superhero’s head above water. Park Ranger Hood spoke to approximately 300 students about various careers with the USACE and water safety.



Natural Resources Specialists Shannon Crews and David Schwartz staffed an area at the NC I-85 welcome center where they spoke to 178 members of the public about USACE and water safety.

Park Ranger Emily Jones and Brandy Holt facilitated a water safety program at the Clarksville, VA Library for over 30 participants. They discussed how to recognize if someone is struggling in the water and how to use “reach, throw, row, don’t go – go for help” to assist the person struggling. Participants played the “reach, throw, row, don’t go – go for help” relay race game.



### Falls Lake



In May 2024, Wilmington District Water Safety Team and NC State Parks partnered to create water safety videos at Falls Lake. Park Rangers Lisa Bredl, Philpott Lake, David Schwartz, Falls Lake, and Elaine Wittry, Jordan Lake worked alongside NC State Park Rangers and Public Affairs staff from both agencies to film the videos to be used on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and more.

SAD FY24 Quarter 2 Water Safety Award Winner: Rusty Newton, West Point Project (SAM)  
During "Read Across America" week Park Ranger Newton visited local elementary schools, reinforcing vital water safety habits while also fostering a love for reading. His proactive efforts have generated increased interest in water safety presentations, expanding the reach of the West Point Project's water safety outreach program back into local school systems which will have positive impacts to the West Point community well into the future.

SPD

## South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

### Albuquerque District (SPA)

#### Abiquiu Lake

Park rangers took their water safety trailer to the Rio Arriba County Rural Events Center to promote water safety at RAC STOP’s (Rio Arriba County Substance Treatment Outreach Prevention Program) 6PACC Summit.



Park Rangers Paul Sanchez from Santa Rosa Lake and Pam Bowie from Abiquiu Lake were fortunate to meet Kim Perry from the Sea Tow Foundation at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit that was conducted in Albuquerque, NM in April 2024. Both lakes have received loaner life jackets from Sea Tow Foundation in the past and each received 30 loaner life jackets this year.

### Sacramento District (SPK)

#### Stanislaus River Parks



Memorial Day kicked off the rafting season. In preparation, Operations Project Manager John and Deputy Operation Project Manager Walter Pope conducted a preseason meeting with their main rafting concessionaire/licensee, Sunshine Rafting, to discuss several topics: plan of operation, equipment, staff training, contingency plans, and quality assurance inspections. An estimated 3000+ visitors

sign up for rafting excursions daily at Stanislaus River Parks. They receive mandatory water safety briefings prior to embarking on 2-4 hour guided tours down the Stanislaus River that includes information on water conditions, paddlecraft, self-rescue, and are all fitted with a proper sized life jacket. Park rangers conduct daily quality assurance inspections of the licensee to ensure water safety standards for personnel and equipment are met.

# Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

## Fort Worth District (SWF)

### Belton Lake

On May 7, 2024, Park Ranger Arty Johnson had the opportunity to speak to with Newsweek Magazine regarding high water and flooding on Belton Lake. Ranger Johnson gave advice on water safety and water conservation. <https://www.newsweek.com/lake-belton-texas-water-levels-reach-two-year-high-1898070>

On May 8, 2024, Park Ranger Cassy Hill had the opportunity to present to multiple classes of students at Peebles Elementary about USACE, park ranger job responsibilities, and water safety.



On March 22, 2024, Stillhouse Hollow and Belton Lakes partnered together to hand out America the Beautiful passes at Fort Cavazos. This event allowed the USACE staff to talk to many soldiers about local USACE parks and acceptable day use fee collection methods. During this event, over 400 passes were handed out and approximately 800 direct water safety interpretive contacts made.

### Navarro Mills Lake

On May 10, 2024, Park Ranger Casey Hackler, with the help of Park Ranger ReAnna Carpenter and Student Trainee Megan Dunagan, spent the day with students at Corsicana Middle School. Eight classes participated in an engaging and informative presentation led by Ranger Hackler. Many important topics were covered that included the mission of USACE, water safety, and invasive species. Students learned how they could become a future park ranger, how to “reach, throw, row, don’t go”, how to properly fit a life jacket, and they searched for invasive zebra mussels hidden on the project’s patrol boat.



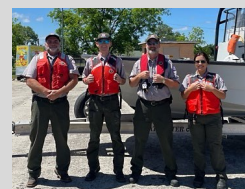
On April 8, 2024, staff and visitors witnessed the once in a lifetime solar eclipse event. Being within the path of totality, Navarro Mills Lake saw numerous out-of-state visitors and even some travelers from other countries like Belgium and Germany. Park rangers took the opportunity to spread awareness for water safety by installing water safety banners in all the parks and visiting with campers and handing out water safety items.

### Hords Creek Lake

Employees and volunteers reviewed a water safety presentation and practiced hands-on rescue training. CET Mack Watson constructed and installed a gate at the day use boat ramp to prevent boaters from risking damage to their trailer or boat due to low lake elevations. Mack Watson constructed six metal water safety kiosks that will be placed at boat ramps and swim beaches.

### Proctor Lake

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.





On May 18, 2024, Dublin Library summer kickoff event invited Park Rangers Ben Murphy, Elyssa Mendez, and Jared Harris who explained the roles of park rangers as well as the purpose of the lake from a flood risk management standpoint. The park rangers discussed the importance of water safety and wearing a properly fitting life jacket in and around open water (lakes, rivers, etc.). All kids received a bag with a water safety activity book, temporary tattoos, and stickers in it. Approximately 220 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On May 7, 2024, Park Rangers Jared Harris, Ben Murphy, and Elyssa Mendez conducted a water safety presentation to 2nd-4th graders at Gustine Elementary. The park rangers focused on proper selection and fitting life jackets as well as “Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go!” All kids were interactive by answering questions and went away with a better understanding of water safety as well as receiving a bag with water safety promotional items in it.

Park Rangers Jared Harris and Elyssa Mendez conducted a water safety presentation at Stephenville ISD. This large ISD has 300 students in the 4th grade alone, providing a great opportunity for the park rangers to share water safety. They explained the importance of wearing a properly fitted life jacket and the how to help someone drowning.



With the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024, Proctor Lake capitalized on the event as a water safety outreach. The lake office ordered 5,000 pairs of ISO 12312.2 rated solar eclipse glasses with a water safety message on them to hand out to visitors. The kids especially loved the glasses because they had Bobber the Water Safety Dog on them. Not only did the park rangers and staff give out the glasses to campers at Proctor Lake during that weekend, but also to local communities and other USACE lakes in the SWF Three Rivers Region.



### Wright Patman Lake

On May 10, 2024, a group of Pleasant Grove 1st and 2nd graders visited Wright Patman Lake for a Project Tour from Park Rangers Lynlee Russell and JJ Fincher and Volunteer Abby Hopkins. The students learned about the history and missions of the lake, invasive species, and water safety before enjoying their picnic at the Clear Springs Park pavilion.

Park Rangers Fiona Rabakukk-Langthorn and JJ Fincher were busy updating bulletin boards, signage, and banners regarding water safety around the lake.



On May 20, 2024, Park Ranger Lynlee Russell and Volunteer Abby Hopkins helped promote National Travel and Tourism Week at the Texarkana, Arkansas Travel and Information Center. On May 23, 2024, Park Rangers Lynlee Russell and Fiona Rabakukk-Langthorn and Volunteers Abby Hopkins and Pam Howell helped promote National Travel and Tourism Week at the Texarkana, Texas Travel and Information Center. On May 24, 2024, Park Rangers Lynlee Russell and Fiona Rabakukk-Langthorn helped promote National Travel and Tourism Week at the Waskom, Texas Travel and Information Center. They spoke with visitors about the importance of water safety, invasive species, and where Wright Patman Lake is located.

On March 15, 2024, Park Ranger Lynlee Russell staffed a water safety table at the Waskom Texas Travel and Information Center’s Parks Roundup event. Visitors that came through the center had a chance to learn about East Texas state and federal parks as well as USACE careers and water safety. 247 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On March 30, 2024, conducted its 3rd Annual Rocky Point Easter. As many as 280 visitors hunted nearly 4,000 eggs and participated in water safety trivia and relays.

On April 20, 2024, Park Ranger Lynlee Russell and Volunteers Abby Hopkins and Colt McLeckie staffed a table at the Texarkana VFW Spring Fling. Visitors learned about local invasive species, water safety, AtB passes, and volunteer opportunities. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the event.



On April 23, 2024, Park Ranger Lynlee Russell and Volunteer Pam Howell spoke with approximately 100 Texarkana College students about local invasive species, water safety, and USACE careers and volunteer opportunities.

### Waco Lake

On March 26, 2024, Park Rangers Matthew Dutton and Taylor Christian gave presentations at the Lake Waco Wetlands to fifty-three 5th grade students from Mountainview Elementary. Park Ranger Dutton spoke on water safety, how to properly wear a life jacket, and “Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go” to keep the kids safe during the spring and summer months. Park Ranger Christian educated the kids on invasive species identification and prevention especially for zebra mussels.



On March 29, 2024, Park Ranger Matthew Hackler conducted a pre-recreation season volunteer park host meeting that included standard operating procedures and water safety training.

On March 22, 2024, Park Rangers Matthew Dutton and Matthew Hackler participated in a World Water Day event at Independence Park in Waco, TX. Keep Waco Beautiful sponsored this event in partnership with the City of Waco. The purpose of the event was to educate the public on all aspects of water and our watersheds. The park rangers educated the public on water safety and invasive species prevention. Approximately fifty direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On March 27, 2024, Park Ranger Matthew Hackler assisted Waco ISD with a film project highlighting Waco landmarks. The short film is titled “Goodnight Waco” and was inspired by the children’s book Goodnight Moon. Park Ranger Hackler talked about Waco Lake including the history of the lake, geography, and water safety. The filmmakers premiered the film at an City of Waco event before using it to orient Waco ISD students to what makes their city great.

On April 4, 2024, Park Ranger Arianna Jacinto participated in an interview with local Waco news station KWTX. Park Ranger Jacinto spoke about the upcoming eclipse and what the public can expect while visiting Waco Lake’s parks. Park Ranger Jacinto reminded the public to be safe while out on the lake by wearing a properly fitting life jacket and to adhering to USACE rules and regulations while visiting Waco Lake’s campgrounds and day use areas.



### Sam Rayburn Lake

March 21-31, 2024, park rangers from Sam Rayburn, Town Bluff, Lake O’ the Pines, and Wright Patman Lakes staffed a booth in Beaumont, TS at the annual regional state fair. Park rangers were able to educate thousands of members of the public on water safety especially on how to wear a life jacket properly, recreational opportunities at USACE lakes, and invasive aquatic species found throughout the state and how to prevent their spread.

On April 6, 2024, park rangers from Sam Rayburn and Town Bluff Lakes staffed a water safety booth in Beaumont, TX at an annual youth community outreach event. Park rangers were able to educate high-school aged members of the public on water safety including how to wear a life jacket properly, importance of learning to swim and float well, and how Sam Rayburn Lake works to provide flood risk management for the Neches River Basin.

### Lavon Lake

On April 13, 2024, Park Rangers Jon Boyce and David Walker staffed a water safety table at the annual City of Lucas Founder’s Day event. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances during the event. Approximately 800 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

### Lewisville Lake

On April 13, 2024, staff attended Congressman Burgess' Emergency Preparedness event. Members of the local community were able to talk to park rangers and staff to learn about USACE missions and how they can be better prepared when visiting and recreating around the lake. Park rangers conducted a presentation about how USACE utilizes partnerships to promote water safety using life jacket loaner stations, signage, and community events.

### Grapevine Lake

On April 27, 2024, Natural Resources Specialist Ami Watkins staffed a water safety booth at the Keep Flower Mound Beautiful Environmental Fair. She spoke with many about wearing life jackets and was able to assist many parents and grandparents with information to ensure they have the correct size life jacket for the important loved ones in their life this summer.



### Bardwell Lake

Another successful Mayfest was conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department "Get Outdoors" initiative that partners with USACE to provide various outdoor related activities and information to folks of all ages. This event takes place every year on the first weekend of May. Park rangers participating in this event were Anthony Sanders (Bardwell Lake), Jennifer Lawson (Lewisville Lake), and Sean Carey (Lewisville Lake). Over the course of the weekend approximately 3,748 people were reached with information about water safety and various other USACE missions such as Environmental Stewardship and Flood Risk Management.



### Lake Georgetown

Park Ranger Tanner Creel staffed a water safety station at the 2024 Williamson County Parks "Learn To Fish" event. Park Ranger Creel explained how to properly fit and wear a life jacket depending on your age and size and went over all of the water safety checklist items that are required on a boat, personal watercraft (PWC), kayak, and paddleboard. Approximately 1,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.



## Galveston District (SWG)

Several members of the SWG staff participated in a Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day video that was created by their public affairs office. The video was shared on their social media pages and placed on their DVIDS unit. <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/923889/2024-wear-your-life-jacket-work-day>

## Little Rock District (SWL)

On May 17, 2024, Little Rock District Senior Leadership and Team Members participated in Wear Your Life Jacket at Workday around the district. Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is an annual event hosted by the National Safe Boating Council that takes place in May on the Friday before National Safe Boating Week begins. The day encourages people to wear a life jacket wherever they are, such as at work, at home, or on the water to bring awareness to water safety.



On May 21, 2024, Little Rock District Commander Col. Damon Knarr recorded a water safety message to bring awareness to water safety ahead of Memorial Day weekend. The Commander provided safety tips to ensure public safety at lakes, rivers, and parks across the region.



On May 20, 2024, Little Rock District PAO, Jay Townsend, joined KARK's afternoon show Arkansas Style to talk about water safety ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. Townsend was joined by Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Townsend brought different types of life jackets to show viewers that wearing the right life jacket for the right activity will not ruin your trip.

The Little Rock District Public Affairs Office worked with the Table Rock Lake Project Office and Dewey Short Visitor Center to support a live broadcast television spot conducted by KOLR 10, a Fox Affiliate in the Springfield/Branson, MO Market. The broadcast talked about Branson, their new relationship with the Kansas City Chiefs football team and the status of recreation throughout the Branson area including the highlighted Table Rock Lake and Table Rock Dam. SWL personnel were on hand for interviews and provided water safety and recreation tips for viewers.



On May 15, 2024, Little Rock District Public Affairs Specialist Erin Jimenez conducts a water safety interview with the local CBS affiliate, THV 11, in Little Rock, AR. The interview was an opportunity to bring awareness to water safety ahead of Memorial Day weekend. The PAO team provided safety tips to ensure public safety at lakes, rivers and parks across the region.

### Table Rock Lake



On May 19, 2024, Table Rock Lake Project Office partnered with the Ozark Mountain YMCA to host a Safety Around Water event at the Dewey Short Visitor Center. An estimated 505 visitors attended the event. The goal of this event was to encourage the public to practice good water safety techniques through hands-on activities including photo opportunities with Bobber

the Water Safety Dog, augmented reality life jackets, Cold Hand Luke programs (effects of cold water on dexterity), rescue rope bag cornhole game, life jacket engineering programs, inflatable life jacket demonstrations, and a life jacket wearing pledge.

On June 26, 2024, Park Rangers Braaten and Dunker visited Cedar Ridge Elementary school to promote water safety to 406 K-6 grade students. Interpretive programs included "Sink Fast", demonstration of the signs of a drowning victim, and "Water Rescue Relay" where students learned about the four water rescue steps: Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go (go get help).



Park Rangers Inman and Stone staffed a water safety interactive area at Crane MO's Independence Fair. Over 200 people visited with the park rangers and were able to learn throw rope techniques through playing the rescue rope bag cornhole game to win water safety prizes.

### Toad Suck Ferry Project

In May 2024, Park Rangers Tom McMillen and Brandon Lemieux presented several water safety programs to community partners including school districts, civic groups, and to the general public. The programs presented at schools included the park rangers reading the book "Bobber Goes to the Beach", which is a USACE National Water Safety Program product, to the students and every student received a copy of the book. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the programs.



## Greers Ferry Lake

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.

Made a larger than normal effort to stress to the visiting public the importance of water safety. Their efforts were focused on making face-to-face contacts during the weekends by conducting roving interpretation, boat safety checks, and beach water safety talks with groups of children. Over 9,000 direct water safety interpretive contacts have been made through their efforts.



## Mountain Home Project Office

Arkansas Week at Nelson Wilks Herron Elementary and Hackler Intermediate (Mountain Home Public Schools): 600 contacts, May 13-17

On May 13 - 17, 2024 during Arkansas Week, Park Rangers Farquhar, Bodenhamer, House, Fowler, and Patterson presented water safety programs at Nelson Wilks Herron Elementary and Hackler Intermediate (Mountain Home, AR Public Schools). 600 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On June 25, 2024, Park Rangers Farquhar and Bodenhamer presented a water safety program at the Mountain Home Youth Center. 100 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On June 29, 2024, Park Rangers Farquhar, Edwards, and Fowler promoted water safety during the Red, Whit, and Blue Parade.



# Tulsa District (SWT)

Park rangers across the district helped spread the water safety message for Memorial Day weekend. Interviews with local news stations were conducted at Keystone and Texoma Lakes. Tulsa District also posted various social media posts on Facebook to help reach visitors that would be going to the lake over the busy weekend.

National Boating Safety Week urges precautions for Memorial Day Weekend [https://www.muskogee phoenix.com/news/national-boating-safety-week-urges-precautions-for-memorial-day-weekend/article\\_d140a83a-b015-5d52-af80-19c76de6f950.html](https://www.muskogee phoenix.com/news/national-boating-safety-week-urges-precautions-for-memorial-day-weekend/article_d140a83a-b015-5d52-af80-19c76de6f950.html)

Park Rangers Prepare for Memorial Day on Keystone Lake <https://www.newson6.com/story/66512006a245a3d088c12e54/park-rangers-prepare-for-memorial-day-on-keystone-lake>

Army Corps of Engineers urging people to be cautious during Memorial Day weekend [https://www.fox23.com/news/army-corps-of-engineers-urging-people-to-be-cautious-during-memorial-day-weekend/article\\_b77be346-19fc-11ef-9478-878c0cc330dd.html](https://www.fox23.com/news/army-corps-of-engineers-urging-people-to-be-cautious-during-memorial-day-weekend/article_b77be346-19fc-11ef-9478-878c0cc330dd.html)

BOATER SAFETY: Oklahoma lakes expect large crowds for Memorial Day weekend <https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/boater-safety-oklahoma-lakes-expect-large-crowds-for-memorial-day-weekend>



On May 24, 2024, Colonel Timothy Hudson and Park Ranger Lauren Enloe talked about the importance of water safety over the Memorial Day weekend. The event was hosted by Safe Kids Tulsa Coalition at Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow, OK. Two local news stations were in attendance along with speakers from Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Safe Kids Tulsa Area, Broken Arrow Police Department, Mike Klumpp – ATV Safety and Saint Francis Trauma Center.

On May 17, 2024, employees participated in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day.



### Eufaula Lake

On March 14, 2024, park rangers presented a water safety program to the Checotah Intermediate School 4th Graders. On March 26, 2024, Park Rangers Josh Springer, Eric Pearson, and Armando Guyton presented a water safety program to Stigler and Whitefield Elementary 4th graders. On March 28, 2024, park rangers presented a water safety program to Quinton & Crowder Elementary School 4th Graders. On April 5, 2024, park rangers presented a water safety program to the McAlester Elementary 3rd & 4th Graders. These presentations informed the kids on the different types of life jackets and how to help someone who is drowning. The kids were given water safety promotional products and EKO passes.



On May 5, 2024, Natural Resource Specialists staffed a water safety table at Nichols Point in Eufaula, OK. The event was in partnership with Major League Fishing and aimed to help promote life jackets and safe practices around the lake and other water bodies.

### Wister Lake



Wister Public School 7th grade teacher Tara Goldsborough reached out to PAO and the Wister Project Office to have the project staff come to her class to present a program on the different careers USACE offers and what the duties of park rangers are. Park Rangers Adam Cocke and Justin Briley, Assistant Lake Manager Levi Wagoner, and Talent Acquisition Specialist Ashley Knutson presented the program on water safety, staff duties, and different careers USACE offers.

### Kaw Lake

Park Rangers Tori Haggard and Aaron Brown presented a water safety program at Camp McFadden Focus on Fishing event.



### Keystone Lake



Park rangers attended multiple water safety events including Safe Kids Day at OKC Zoo, Mayfest, and Sand Springs Truck Touch.

### Copan and Hulah Lakes

On April 9, 2024, Park Ranger Justin Barnes presented a water safety and USACE Mission program at Owasso School.

On May 13, 2024, Park Rangers Justin Barnes and Jared Parker presented a water safety and USACE mission program at Pawhuska School.



## Waurika Lake



On May 2, 2024, Park Ranger Destany Rochell worked alongside TDO-PAO staff member Stacey Reese to engage with visitors online about what a day in the life of a park ranger looks like. Park Ranger Rochell was filmed performing a few of the duties required at Waurika Lake: checking the wire weight, patrolling the project boat ramps, and inspecting life jacket loaner stations.

## Pat Mayse Lake



On May 4, 2024, Park Rangers Joshua Seavey, Kyle Toms, and Thomas Irish, PAO Rep Stacey Reese, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended the Kids Safe Saturday event in Paris, TX. The park rangers handed out water safety material and told the kids to be like Bobber and to always wear your life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.).

## Fort Gibson Lake

On April 5, 2024, Park Ranger Josh Glazebrook presented a water safety program to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders at Chouteau Elementary School. Topics included wearing a properly fitted life jacket and using a “Reach, Throw, Row, Don’t Go” method of assistance.



## Heyburn Lake



On April 6, 2024, Assistant Lake Manager Ashley Ayers and Park Ranger Lauren Enloe staffed a water safety table at the Severe Weather Safety Expo at Woodland Hills Mall with Emergency Operations Specialist Derrick Guy.

USACE

## National Water Safety Program Resources and Initiatives

Our target audience is adult males (18 and older) not wearing life jackets because our statistics from FY98-23 show that 88% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 82% were 18 and older, and 89% were not wearing a life jacket. Ten year statistics (FY14-23) show that 88% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 86% were 18 and older, and 89% were not wearing a life jacket, so please focus on promoting water safety to adult males and increasing life jacket wear.



The Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign is our campaign used to promote water safety to adults. Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns promotional items from the National Water Safety Program should only be used to promote water safety to adults.



The Bobber the Water Safety campaign is our campaign used to promote water safety to kids. Bobber the Water Safety Dog promotional items from the National Water Safety Program should be used to promote water safety to kids.

## Visitors Get Rewarded for Wearing Life Jackets

The “I Got Caught” Wearing a Life Jacket initiative that the USACE National Water Safety Program partnered with Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation) to enhance has been going strong for four years. This year The Corps Foundation graciously donated insulated lunch bags and neck gaiters that were distributed to USACE lakes and river projects that requested them. In the past The Corps Foundation has donated beach towels, dry bags, vehicle windshield sunshades, and t-shirts. All these products have the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign logo on them, and The Corps Foundation purchased them using grant funds from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. USACE is not authorized to purchase products such as the ones donated by The Corps Foundation and give to the public because they are considered personal items, so their donations are greatly appreciated.

Every year for the past four years the USACE National Water Safety Program has asked USACE projects to submit requests for the products The Corps Foundation donated and this year 114 requests were received, and all received either the insulated lunch bags or neck gaiters. The products are handed out to adults caught wearing life jackets.

The following projects received insulated lunch bags or neck gaiters to enhance or start an “I Got Caught” initiative: LRH- Grayson, Burnsville, Summersville, John W. Flannagan, Yatesville, Delaware, RD Bailey, Dewey, Paint Creek, Fishtrap; LRL- Barren River, Nolin River, Nimrod, J. Edward Roush, Rough River, Brookville, Carr Creek; LRN- Laurel River, Barkley, Center Hill, Watts Bar Lock, Cumberland, Cheatham, Cordell Hull, J. Percy Priest, Dale Hollow; LRP- Crooked Creek, Youghioghney River, Michael J. Kirwan, Mahoning Creek, Tygart, Shenango; MVK- Grenada, Enid, Ouachita; MVP- Eau Galle, Leech, Cross, Lock & Dam 9, Lock & Dam 4; MVR- Saylorville, Mississippi River, Illinois Waterway, Coralville; MVS- Rend, Carlyle, Kaskaskia River; NAB- Raystown, Jennings Randolph; NAE – West Hill, Hopkinton Everett, Franklin Falls; NAP- Blue Marsh, ; NWK- Pomme de Terre, Clearwater, Perry, Tuttle Creek, Rathbun, Clinton, Truman, Milford, Stockton, Pomona, Melvern; NWO – Missouri River, Garrison, Gavins Point; NWS- Libby; NWW- Mill Creek, Lower Granite, Dworshak; SAJ – Okeechobee; SAM- West Point, Alabama River, Carters, Holt, Walter F. George, Seminole, Lanier, Allatoona, Tenn-Tom; SAS- Thurmond, Hartwell; SAW- Philpott, John H. Kerr, W. Kerr Scott; SPA- Santa Rosa, Abiquiu, Trinidad; SPK- Stanislaus River, Black Butte, Success; SPN – Somoma; SWG- Wallisville; SWL- Greeson, Beaver, DeQueen; SWF- Proctor, Town Bluff, Belton, Somerville, Hords Creek; and SWT- Oologah, Kaw, Pat Mayse, Skiatook, Canton, Council Grove, Eufaula.

There have been very positive responses from the park rangers coordinating the “I Got Caught” initiatives and from the adults caught wearing their life jackets. This is a great way to reach adults and show appreciation to those who wear their life jackets and encourage others to wear them so they can get a free prize. If you haven’t started an “I Got Caught” initiative at your lake or river project, you are encouraged to start one using products you receive from the National Water Safety Program and local partners.



Abiquiu Lake



Allatoona Lake



Burnsville Lake



Black Warrior –Tombigbee Waterway



Clearwater Lake



Cordell Hull Lake



Dale Hollow Lake



Delaware Lake



Dewey Lake





Fishtrap Lake



Hartwell Lake



J. Percy Priest Lake



John H. Kerr Lake



John W. Flannagan Lake



Kaw Lake



Lake Cumberland



Lake Greeson



Lake Lanier



MVP Lock 9



Rathbun Lake



Lake Ouachita



LRP Locks and Dams



Saint Lucie Lock



Mahoning Creek Lake



Michael J. Kirwan Lake



Rend Lake



Stockton Lake



Success Lake



Trinidad Lake



Tygart Lake



W. Kerr Scott Lake



W.P. Franklin Project

## The Corps Foundation Purchases Water Safety Advertising at Gas Stations Near USACE Lakes

This is the second year that The Corps Foundation has purchased advertising on gas pump toppers and nozzles to help promote our Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns campaign. The advertising was purchased at convenience stores near the USACE lakes with the most water-related public recreation fatalities in recent years.

Those lakes included Lewisville Lake, Lake Lanier, J. Percy Priest Lake, Lake Texoma, and Table Rock Lake.

From July through September 2024, gas pump topper and gas nozzle advertising was in place at 30 locations for approximately \$450 per station. The USACE National Water Safety Program created the graphic artwork needed for all the ads and for an 8" X 8" window cling that approximately half of the convenience stores put up for free on their front doors or windows. An idea for USACE offices to do is to take the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo window clings that they received from the National Water Safety Program and ask local businesses if they will place them on their windows and doors for free.

The Corps Foundation's total costs for these ads were \$20,160 and the company they worked with is AllOver Media (AOM) Advertising. Convenience store advertising is just one of a variety of types of advertising that AOM provides. The Corps Foundation worked with AOM's Kevin Spaniol and his contact information is [Kevin.Spaniol@allovermedia.com](mailto:Kevin.Spaniol@allovermedia.com) and office number 763-762-2053. You can see more about what kinds of advertising they do at [AllOverMedia.com](http://AllOverMedia.com). This is a very cost effective way to promote water safety to our target audience, which is adult males.

The Corps Foundation's funding for this initiative came from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. USACE offices can also purchase this kind of water safety advertising. USACE operation and maintenance (O&M) funds are authorized to purchase water safety educational products, which are considered necessary expenses for the O&M of USACE projects. This includes promotional items, advertising through airtime, printed material, and billboard space, but does not include items of personal value such as t-shirts, ballcaps, beach towels, etc. Items of personal value can be acquired through donations and partnerships, like the one that the National Water Safety Program has with The Corps Foundation that donates water safety products such as beach towels, t-shirts, etc. for our "I Got Caught" initiative.



## Things to do to Prevent Loss of Loaner Life Jackets

Write “Loaner”, “Borrow and Return Today” on the outside of every loaner life jacket. On inside or outside of every life jacket write “Property of USACE”, your project name and phone number, and “Return to location you borrowed it from today.” If there are other locations the life jackets can be returned to include those too. Consider purchasing locally waterproof, durable stickers to place on your loaner life jackets that includes this information instead of writing it on the life jackets.

Spanish translation for: Loaner (Prestado) and Borrow and Return Today (Pedir Prestado y Devolver Hoy)

Consider numbering every loaner life jacket. For example, use something like “024-01”, etc. Even if you don’t use the number for anything it gives the perception that the life jackets are being tracked through some kind of numbering system.

Put up signage reminding to return the loaner life jackets and drop-off bin so visitors can see it when they are leaving.

Place life jacket loaner station in a location that might give the perception that it is being watched, such as near your office or gate attendant booths. Place in a highly visible location that gets a lot of people traffic by it.

Have an overall presence of employees and/or volunteers in the area where the loaner station is located.

If a park ranger, volunteer, gate attendant, etc. see someone wearing a loaner life jacket or has one with them they should kindly remind them to return it before leaving that day.

Sign out for them at your office, gate attendant booths, or at partner locations.

Place a portable loaner station outside your office and/or visitor center so visitors can borrow and more importantly return life jackets.

Don’t promote that the loaner life jackets are free or mention anything about nothing will be done if you don’t return a loaner life jacket.

Prepare and send out news releases, post on social media pages, mention during interviews, post flyers on information boards, etc. about how your life jacket loaner program works, especially include that the life jacket(s) borrowed should be returned the same day you borrow it/them and where to return it/them. Also, mention if anyone has any life jackets that they would like to donate to your loaner program they can and how to do that. Remind visitors that if they forgot to return a life jacket they borrowed that they can return it anytime to your office, visitor center, campground fee booths, or at any loaner station located at your lake.

Loaner life jackets are for our visitors to borrow and return. If you have a partner that is going to be providing life jackets out to the public for free and they can keep them, consider posting that information at your loaner life jacket stations. You can use USACE O&M funds to purchase life jackets for your loaner program, but you CANNOT use USACE O&M funds to purchase life jackets to handout to the public.

Developed by the USACE National Water Safety Committee, 2024



**USACE WATER SAFETY**

# 2023-2024 PHOTO CONTEST

*Give us your best shots!*

*Here's a chance to showcase your photos and talent.*



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

**BEST & UNIQUE WATER SAFETY & RECREATION THEMED PHOTOGRAPHY**

All submitted photographs may be used in nationwide promotion of water safety. This photo contest is open to all USACE employees and volunteers including PAO and ACE-IT employees.

**CONTEST DEADLINE:  
JANUARY 31, 2025**

**Be the Best  
Photographer!**



**Submit your entries to your division representative on the National Water Safety Committee**

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/members.cfm>

**Get full details about the photo contest on the NRM Gateway at**

<https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/23Jul16-2023-2024-WS-PhotoGuidelines.pdf>

## Resources to Help You Promote Water Safety

### USACE National Water Safety Program's Webpage

[www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety\\_Program/](http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/)

(PleaseWearIt.com redirects to this) Includes Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Materials, Water Safety Tips in English and Spanish, News Releases, and more.

**Please Wear It Social Media Pages** on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These are the National Water Safety Program's social media pages that are managed in cooperation with The Corps Foundation.

### NRM Gateway Water Safety Section

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>

Includes USACE Strategic Campaign Plan for Reducing Public Recreation Fatalities, Public Recreation Fatalities Data Summary and Statistics, Life Jacket Loaner Program Guidelines, Promotional Materials Policy, GSA Vehicle Public Safety Marking Guidance Memo, Life Jacket Mandatory Wear Policy Selective Expansion Memo, Water Safety Graphics Library, Media Interview Fact Sheet, Water Safety Resource Guide for Interpretive Services and Educational Outreach, Bobber the Water Safety Dog Costume Guidelines, and much more.

**Bobber the Water Safety Dog website** [www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info)

### National Water Safety Program's YouTube Channel and DVIDS Unit

[www.YouTube.com/user/USACEwatersafety](http://www.YouTube.com/user/USACEwatersafety)

[www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS)

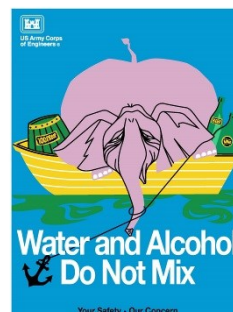
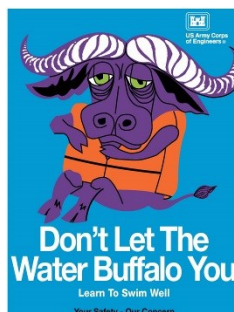
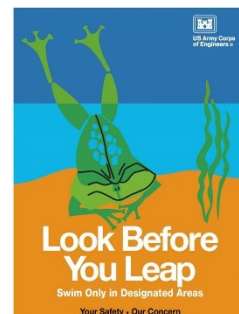
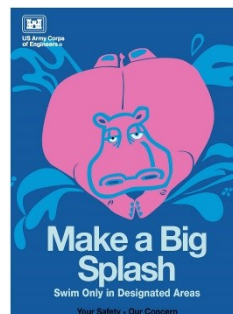
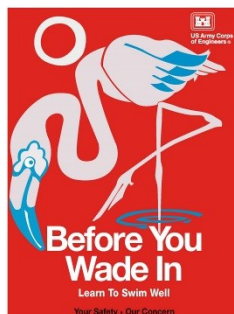
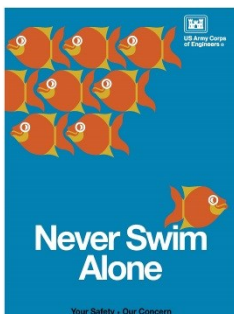
Numerous water safety video PSAs are available and can be downloaded on the DVIDS Unit page so you can use them however you can to promote water safety.

Past issues of this quarterly water safety journal "Ripples" are on the NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/nrm.dfm>

Artwork and graphics created by the National Water Safety Program is added the Water Safety Graphics Library in the Water Safety Section on the NRM Gateway throughout the year, so check it out and download whatever you need to help promote water safety to all ages. The water safety posters shown below that were created by USACE in the 1980s plus much, much more can be found in the Water Safety Graphics Library.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/graphics.cfm>





There is an image of Tackle, which is one of the Bobber the Water Safety Dog characters is hidden in this journal. Your job is to find it. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. If you find the image, email Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager, [pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil](mailto:pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil). Your email MUST include the subject as Ripples Journal Image, your name, shipping address, phone number, and the journal page number (not the PDF page number) where you found the image. Entries need to be sent NLT September 13, 2024. The first five USACE employees that submit their entry correctly will receive Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns dry bag that was donated to the USACE National Water Safety Program by The Corps Foundation.



[www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info)