

# *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 08  
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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

### Chicago District (LRC)



Conducted a Tails and Trails event that included promoting water safety and appearances by Bobber the Water Safety Dog.

### Detroit District (LRE)

#### Soo Locks

Park rangers presented water safety field trips to preschool and early elementary groups. During the field trips students learned about “Reach, Throw, Don’t Go” and practiced some of the rescue techniques. At other stations students learned about the dangers of cold water and took a water safety pledge that included promising to never swim alone, to wear a life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.), and to ask adults to do the same.



### Huntington District (LRH)

#### Muskingum Area



Ranger Leah visited with a Loudonville Pre-K and Kindergarten classes and talked about the importance of life jackets and being safe in, on, and around open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.). The water safety interpretive program also included the students making the Bobber the Water Safety Dog “Jacket O’Lantern” craft, which is a product created and provided by the USACE National Water Safety Program.

#### Delaware Lake

Participated in the Delaware Community Veterans Parade. The staff and volunteers enjoyed celebrating the many veterans in the Delaware community, while also reminding everyone about the importance of wearing a life jacket when they are in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.).

#### R. D. Bailey Lake

Park Ranger Jones presented at water safety interpretive program to the Gilbert Pre-K class. The kids got to try on life jackets, went over water safety rules, and learned that they need to always have an adult present when they are in, on, or near the water. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the program.





## John W. Flannagan Lake



Participated in the Town of Haysi, Town of Clintwood, and Town of Clinchco's Christmas parades, Town of Haysi Trunk or Treat showcasing that ghosts wear life jackets too, and Fall Family Fun Day event to promote water safety.

## Burnsville Lake

Park Ranger Garnett and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the annual Town of Burnsville Christmas Parade



## Yatesville Lake

Park Ranger Ryan Hicks and Maintenance Mechanic Joe Hammond participated in the Lawrence County Annual Christmas Parade

## Dewey Lake



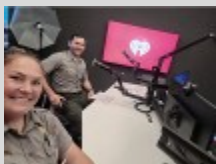
Park Rangers Holbrook and Spangler participated in the Prestonsburg City Christmas Parade.

LRH Waterways Section and Big Sandy Area Lake Staff participated in Huntington's Christmas Parade.



# Louisville District (LRL)

## Green River Lake



Park Rangers Andrea Davis and Nathan Clemons created and recorded six water safety public service announcements that played on major iheart radio broadcast and streaming stations in the Louisville, KY, Cincinnati, OH and Indianapolis, IN areas.

## Brookville Lake

In early November 2024, the Town of Brookville invited the lake office to take part in decorating a tree in the Brookville Town Park that attracts several hundreds of visitors annually during the Christmas season. Several other trees were decorated by local businesses and individuals. The immediate idea was to decorate the lake's tree to promote water safety. The lake staff put a life jacket and made water waves as the base of the tree, made water safety ornaments, and strung red, white, and blue lights on it. They also installed a portable brochure rack that contained Bobber the Water safety Dog activity books and lake brochures. Natural Resources Specialist Stephanie Ison and Administrative Support Assistant Jacque Collins helped in every way possible to make sure that this community effort was very successful.





# Nashville District (LRN)

## Dale Hollow Lake

In October, park rangers made water safety direct and indirect interpretive contacts at the visitor center, events, during boat patrols, on social media, and other literature. They presented water safety interpretive programs at events including the YMCA Learn to Swim program, Burkesville Ag Safety Day, and STEAM day at Center Hill Powerhouse.



In November, Park Ranger Sondra Carmen presented water safety interpretive programs to over 100 local 2nd grade students at the YMCA as part of their Learn to Swim program.

In December, Park Rangers Sondra and Desmaray presented water safety programs to over 120 local 2nd grade students at the YMCA as part of their Learn to Swim program. Park Ranger Carmen notified future campers of important water safety dates such as National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water by uploading those things into the important dates section on Recreation.gov. She also coordinated to have a water safety section in a local publication, the Dale Hollow Explorer.

# Pittsburgh District (LRP)



Southern Area Ranger Paige Lupyan, Park Ranger Galen Scheufler, and Seasonal River Ranger Emma Kemp represented USACE at the annual Head of the Ohio (HOTO) Rowing Regatta at Washington's Landing located along the Allegheny River. Over 1,500 athletes and their families from the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern Canada attended the event. The park rangers engaged with rowers

participating in youth, collegiate, and master races to provide them with water safety information with a focus on educating paddlers on the process of locking through.

On October 31, 2024, River Rangers Chelsea Jones and Emma Kemp supported a Trunk or Treat event at Hartwood Learning Center in partnership with Safe Kids Allegheny County. Several public safety agencies came together to participate and promote safety to children up to preschool age. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances during the event. Sixty direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event. Water safety promotional products were provided to the trick or treaters and staff and the trunk was decorated with water safety products created and provided by the USACE National Water Safety Program on Bobber's website, [www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info).



## Tionesta Lake

Park Rangers Joel VanOrd, Andrew Schwab, and Kinzua Dam Park Ranger Autumn Rodden present Every Kid Outdoor (EKO)/Junior Ranger Program to fifty 4th grade students at Eisenhower Elementary School. Park Rangers Joel VanOrd and Andrew Schwab also presented Every Kid Outdoor/Junior Ranger Program to fifty 4th grade students at Youngsville Elementary School. The programs including water safety. Students tried on life jackets and were shown how to wear them properly, participated in a timed exercise of that included a scenario of a boat sinking and having 30 seconds to put a life jacket on properly, and practiced the proper rescue techniques of Reach, Row, Throw, Don't Go. Every student received an EKO pass and took the USACE Junior Ranger pledge, which is on the Junior Ranger Certificate, which is part of the USACE Junior Ranger Book created by the USACE National Water Safety Program.



### Conemaugh Lake



Park Ranger April Richards promoted cold water education and the “Reach, Throw, Don’t Go” water rescue techniques to 280 students in grades 6-8 from Ligonier Valley School District as part of a field trip to Keystone State Park. Each student was able to experience how dexterity changes in water at 50 degrees Fahrenheit and practiced the proper technique for a life ring and a throw bag. This event was a multi-station field trip collaborative effort with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

M V D

## Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

### Vicksburg District (MVK)

#### Lake Greeson

On October 10, 2024, Natural Resources Specialists Diane Golden and Brandon Carmack staffed a water safety booth at the “Golden Gathering” event at Nashville, Arkansas City Park. The annual event is for citizens aged 55 and older. 700 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.

On October 23, 2024, Natural Resources Specialist Reid Hellums partnered with Millwood Lake Natural Resources Specialist Will Posey to present water safety programs to students at Murfreesboro, Arkansas Public School. Two water safety programs were presented. The first program was presented to K-6th graders and Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance. The 2nd program was presented to 7th – 9th graders where Hellums and Posey discussed why it is important to wear a life jacket even though Arkansas state law only requires children 12 years old and younger to wear a life jacket while boating. 426 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

#### Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake

On October 26, 2024, Lake Ouachita Pathways Student Johnathan Bates along with DeGray Lake Natural Resource Specialist Jeffrey Arthur staffed a water safety and recreation information table at the Hot Springs Water Resources Festival. This was done in partnership with the National Park Service. The festival was held on Arlington Lawn in Downtown Hot Springs. Over 300 direct interpretive contacts were made during the event.



#### Sardis Lake

Park ranger presented a water safety program to “Excel By 5” students in New Albany, MS. “Excel By 5” is a community-based program to develop children to be prepared to start school at age 5. 600 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

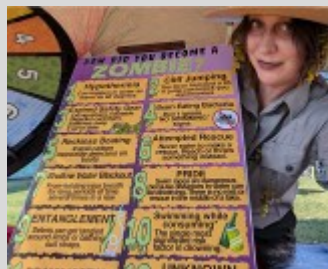
A water safety program was presented to 30 students at Hillcrest Preschool located in Pontotoc, MS.

#### Grenada Lake

Staff asked elementary school children to make water safety ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree inside the Visitor Center. 150 students participated in making ornaments.

## Louisiana Field Office

On October 12, 2024, Bossier Arts Council hosted its annual Zombie Walk. Just like any festival, there were families contests, food trucks, activities, booths, live music, but at this event there is a twist, everyone has to dress up like a zombie! The zombie Ranger Danger was there with her popular “Wheel of Doom”, which told zombies how they met their demise and educated them on how they could potentially avoid that fate in the future. The crowd favorite was Doom #12 “Unknown- You were swimming alone, no one will ever know what happened.”



## St. Paul District (MVP)



St. Paul District Water Safety Team created a design for press lock bags. The bags will be used to promote water safety to adults. Park rangers will use the bags to engage with adults about water safety at fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, and other locations. The bags can be used to put fish fillets in, dry storage, etc.

### Cross Lake Recreation Area

Cross Lake Days took place throughout the city of Cross Lake that included family activities, music, and chili cookoff. Project staff and volunteers along with Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway volunteers helped serve chili and gave a water safety message and promotional products to the visitors.

Project staff visited a local elementary school to hand out 68 EKO passes to 4th grade students. Water safety was discussed with the students and they watched the movie “Safe Passage”, which is a movie produced and made available by the USACE National Water Safety Program.

## St. Louis District (MVS)

Park rangers from across the district teamed up for the 2024 Gateway Outdoor Expo held at the St. Charles Convention Center on November 23 and 24, 2024. Park rangers utilized the event to showcase the vast recreational and environmental opportunities across the district. Attendees, young and old, were all presented with water safety messaging and some of them spun a trivia wheel and answered questions related to water safety, parks and recreation, environmental stewardship and USACE.



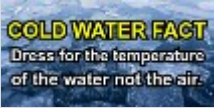
### Carlyle Lake



Park rangers decorated a water safety Christmas tree titled “Splashin’ into the Holidays” to put on display at the Festival of Trees in Carlyle, IL. Spectators viewed the water safety tree and were challenged to find the hidden park ranger on it to receive a water safety prize.



The Carlyle Lake Haunted Trail was held October 18 & 19, 2024. Staff made sure to add in a water safety display along the trail to haunt the over 1,500 participants throughout the weekend.



Posted water safety messaging on Illinois Highway 27 digital reader board and on all day-use bulletin boards.



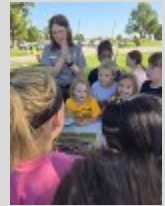
All five billboards, located in high visitation areas at Carlyle Lake, were transitioned from summer to winter messaging to remind the public of various general and water safety tips. Messages include, but are not limited to, “Lake Ice Is Never Safe” And “Avoid Hypothermia Dress in Layers”.



On September 26, 2024, park rangers attended Clinton County Safety Day in Carlyle, IL. Nearly 400 students engaged in an interactive water safety program.

### Rend Lake

Park Ranger Breanna presented a “Beavers: Nature’s Engineers” program at the annual Southern Illinois Conservation Fair that focused on water safety at lakes and other reservoirs as well as STEM education. 273 students of all ages learned the principles of water safety and tested their engineering skills while building model beaver dams.



Park rangers attended several community events in October to promote the USACE missions including water safety. They set up a water safety booth at these events, Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances, and 947 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

The Rend Lake staff partnered with local businesses and organizations to host the annual Trick or Treat their visitor center on October 29, 2024. This event was open to the public but specifically designed to meet the needs of pre-k, home school, and special needs participants. The event featured a water safety scavenger hunt, environmental education, and other activities that interpreted agency missions. 440 participants attended the event and 209 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



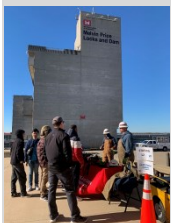
Park Ranger Breanna visited Giant City School on November 15, 2024 to present a Life Jacket Engineering program to 4th grade students. Nineteen students worked in teams to design, construct, and test various life jacket designs. In December, the students took a field trip to the Rend Lake Visitor Center to learn more about several agencies missions including water safety.

The Rend Lake Project hosted a holiday celebration as part of their monthly Small World Program series on December 17, 2024. The Small World Program interprets agency missions to younger USACE visitors. Programs are designed for children ages five years old and younger introducing them to USACE at an early age. During the December Small World Program, children created holiday ornaments, enjoyed “A Holiday Visit from Bobber” storybook, and had a special visit from Santa Claus and Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Every child went home with a “Bobber Goes to the Beach” storybook. The Bobber storybooks were created and provided by the USACE National Water Safety Program. Seventy-one people attended the event.



## Rivers Project

The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center conducted “Water Festival on Wheels” in cooperation with the Lewis and Clark Community College. The event connected elementary school students to water, their local environment, and organizations that help conserve the environment. Several regional schools participated in the event. 465 students were introduced to water safety during the event by participating in H2O-lympics - water safety relay course and Defying Density – sink or float, build-a-life jacket activities.



Students from eight local high schools gathered at the National Great Rivers Museum on October 16, 2024 to learn more about career opportunities in the maritime industry for a “We Work the Waterways” career fair. The career fair offered a hands-on “Industry Interaction Day” for 200 students from the St. Louis Metro Area. The students met with representatives from the maritime industry and related fields to become more informed about careers on America's rivers. Water safety practices such as wearing a life jacket, emergency

procedures, etc. are an integral part of working at most of these companies and were topics of discussion throughout the event.

On the evening of October 31, 2024, park rangers participated in the 107th annual Alton Halloween Parade to promote water safety. The parade reflected on current events of the year, so the the USACE parade float promoted water safety based on the Olympics. The park rangers in partnership with the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, decorated the project patrol boat with skeletons participating in various sports, life jackets, world flags, and LED Olympic rings.

Re-launched the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Field Day at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary as well as expanded the program to Clarksville, MO at Lock and Dam 24. 396 fourth grade students attended field days in October 2024. Field day activities included canoeing, wildlife presentations, fishing and casting, archery, bird watching, tours of Lock and Dam 24, and water safety relays.



Re-launched their “Corps Kids” program. Park rangers visited preschool classes quarterly throughout the school year to provide an activity related to forestry, water safety, or wildlife. At the end of the school year students attended a special ceremony to receive a “Corps Kid” badge and certificate. On November 26, 2024, park rangers conducted the water safety activity with approximately 120 pre-school students. The lesson included reading a Sesame Street story book about density, a sink or float demonstration, and a Bobber the Water Safety Dog activity sheet craft.

The inaugural “Haunted Night at the National Great Rivers Museum” was conducted on October 4, 2024 that attracted 724 visitors. The night boasted special attractions such as “Haunted Dam Tours” and behind-the-scenes “Haunted Tunnel Tours”, trick-or-treat education stations, wildlife presentations, a costume contest/parade led by Bobber the Water Safety Dog, and more. Partnering agencies participated in the event providing activities.



## Wappapello Lake



On October 5, 2024, Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson staffed a booth at the Annual Home Depot Safety Day in Poplar Bluff, MO. 157 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.

On December 3, 2024, Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson, Assistant Operations Manager Carlos Lopez, and volunteers staffed a booth at the Annual Santa Land community event in Poplar Bluff, MO to promote water safety.





# Rock Island District (MVR)

## Coralville Lake

Park rangers conducted multiple project tours where students learned about water safety, the Devonian Fossil Gorge, and Coralville Lake History. Over 265 students attended the tours.



Improvements were made to the seven life jacket loaner stations at Coralville Lake. Upgrades included new hooks for life jackets, allowing for easier access for users, and room for life jacket donations. In addition, new signs were designed and utilized. Each loaner station includes an area for the posting water safety messages and the messages are changed on a monthly basis.

Park rangers conducted interpretive programs on water safety and the duties of a park ranger to 152 students in their classrooms.



Staff hosted the 1st annual Halloween Campground Trick or Treat event in West Overlook Campground on October 19, 2024. Park rangers, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, local first responders, and campers handed out Halloween items and water safety promotional products to over 1,000 visitors.

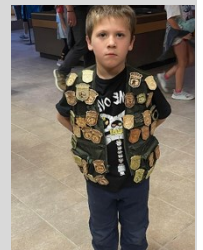
## Illinois Waterway

The 2024 Lock and Lunch tour series conclude in the fall of 2024 with the Ste Genevieve Antique Paddle-wheeler Riverboat. Due to popularity, tours this fall were increased from monthly to weekly, with Illinois Waterway River Park Rangers providing interpretation and water safety information to approximately 1,000 passengers. Passengers depart from Ottawa, IL and lock through Starved Rock Lock and Dam on their way to disembark at Starved Rock State Park. A second group of passengers boards the boat at the State Park and takes the boat back through the lock and up to Ottawa, IL. The boat held approximately 120 people, for a total of 240 guests per day.



Monitored lock traffic in order to give “I Got Caught” products to adult wearing their life jackets. The giveaways were donated by The Corps Foundation through a partnership with the USACE National Water Safety Program.

Park rangers at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center continued to promote the USACE Junior Ranger Book that was created and made available electronically by the USACE National Water Safety Program. Visitors could access the book online or receive a printed copy at the visitor center. Multiple families complete the activities in the book to receive a Junior Ranger certificate and a patch or plastic badge. One family that completed the activities at the visitor center had completed over 100 other Junior Ranger programs across the country.



## Mississippi River Project

In October 2024, Trick-or-Treat events were conducted in Shady Creek and Thomson Causeway Recreation Areas. During the events, park rangers and volunteers were busy handing out water safety promotional products and other Halloween items. Over 1,000 people attended the events.

On October 23, 2024, operators from Locks and Dam 15 staffed a water safety table at the Rock Island Arsenal’s Boo on the Rock Trunk or Treat Event. Approximately 681 people attended the event.

Park rangers presented thirteen Lock and Dam tours in the fall of 2024. Tour groups learn about how the locks and dams work and were provided with a boating and water safety message. 308 people attended the tours.



## Lake Red Rock

To incorporate a water safety message during the holiday season, park rangers set up a tree in the visitor center decorated with water safety key chains, various boats and other nautical ornaments, mini life jackets made from craft foam, stickers, decoupaged ornaments that included water safety messages, pens, and other related items.



Purchased ads in the Pella Travel Guide and Marion County Travel Guide for the 2025 season to share a water safety message with potential lake visitors. Both ads promoted the various life jacket loaner stations available at the lake. The Pella Travel Guide ad featured members Pella's Central College football team wearing life jackets.

To ensure off-season boaters still had access to life jackets, the life jackets at USACE managed boat ramp loaner stations remained available until the courtesy docks were removed for the season.



Continued its "Water Safety Wednesday" Facebook posts after the recreation season. Most of the content was provided via the Please Wear It Facebook page, which offers many messages pertinent to all seasons of the year and is managed by The Corps Foundation and USACE National Water Safety Program.

## Saylorville Lake

On November 3, 2024, Park Rangers Phipps and Drendel staffed a water safety booth at an Iowa Wild hockey game at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, IA. Approximately 350 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.



On November 14, 2024, Park Rangers Phipps and Schabilion participated in the Prevention of Childhood Injury Conference, hosted by Safe Kids of Greater Des Moines and Blank Children's Hospital. The conference aimed to equip statewide injury prevention specialists with innovative strategies for community education. Ranger Phipps delivered a presentation highlighting USACE efforts in water safety and the programs available to the community. Approximately 80 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the presentation.

On November 17, 2024 Park Ranger Phipps hosted a group of Girl Scouts at the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center, where the scouts learned about water safety, local wildlife, and the lake's ecosystem. They learned how to properly fit a life jacket, as well as the proper rescue techniques of Reach, Throw, Row, Go for Help. Ten direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

N A D

# North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

## New England District (NAE)

### Cape Cod Canal

Staff utilized their patrol boat to respond to a sailboat's mayday call on September 19, 2024. Strong winds and rough seas made the multi-agency response challenging, but they were able to rescue the injured man and safely transport him back to the Sandwich Marina for ambulance transport. Watch the rescue at this link, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbcB0YJm-As](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbcB0YJm-As).

# Baltimore District (NAB)

## Raystown Lake

On October 21, 2024, staff along with volunteers from the Friends of Raystown Lake and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, participated in the Huntingdon Halloween Parade to mark the conclusion of Raystown Lake's 50th Anniversary celebration. Maintenance staff dedicated several weeks to working on the parade float by creating a detailed model of the Raystown spillway that was complete with a functioning water feature. Park rangers contributed by painting the model and adding creative elements to the float, including a recreation safety scene featuring a spooky kayaking skeleton to warn onlookers of the dangers of paddling without a life jacket.



## Jennings Randolph Lake



On October 19, 2024, the 3rd annual Haunted Hayride/Trunk-or-Treat was conducted. Approximately 360 people attended the event. Staff and Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake members put a lot of effort into making the event an enjoyable family outing. Volunteers helped to hand out Halloween items and water safety promotional products, and decorated the haunted trail and trunks of vehicles.

N W D

## Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

# Kansas City District (NWK)

## Tuttle Creek Lake

On November 20, 2024, Park Ranger Griffin Stuewe presented a water safety interpretive program to the 3rd grade class at McCormick Elementary. Students received water safety tips and were taught how to properly wear a life jacket.



# Portland District (NWP)

## Rogue River Valley



On 21 July, 2022, a 16-year old male, Tyler Torres, lost his life after jumping from the spillway bridge at Applegate Dam. Although signs were posted, Tyler's mother worked with USACE staff to develop an interpretive panel that was put in place at the site to deter others from making a similar mistake.

## The Dalles Lock and Dam

On October 23, 2024, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission held their annual Trunk-or-Treat event at Seufert Park. Park rangers decorated the front of the visitor center and handed out water safety materials.



### John Day Lock and Dam



On November 23, 2024, park rangers attended the Oregon Archaeology Roadshow in The Dalles, OR. The park rangers made a paper salmon craft with the kids and made 58 direct water safety interpretive contacts.

### Willamette Valley Project

On October 23, 2024, Park Ranger James Blakely, Archeologist Brittany Spoto, and Portland District Talent Manager Amber Tilton attended the Oregon State University Earth, Environment, and Life Sciences Career Fair. The team spoke with 250+ students and handed out water safety items. Oregon State University's Mascot Benny Beaver stopped by to visit with the team.



On October 29, 2024, park rangers and Bobber the Water Safety Dog staffed an educational booth at the Willamette Valley Project All Hands Employee Wellness Fair in Springfield. During the fair, park rangers handed out water safety prizes to attendees if they played the "Leave No Trace" game.

### Bonneville Lock and Dam

On December 6, 2024, Natural Resources Management Staff conducted outreach in support of the surrounding community by participating in the annual Starlight Parade in Stevenson, WA. The park ranger boat was decorated with holiday lights and Buddy Beaver joined the park rangers to distribute water safety flying rings to spectators.



## Seattle District (NWS)

### Libby Dam



On October 31, 2024, employees staffed a "Trunk-or-Treat" water safety booth in Libby, MT. Park Ranger Susan James explained the loaner life jacket program and handed out water safety books, while volunteer Keith Meyers handed out Halloween items. This is the second year Libby Dam has participated, reaching well over 600 children and community members during the 4-hour event!



POD

## Pacific Ocean Division Water Safety Initiatives

## Alaska District (POA)

### Chena River Lakes

Park Rangers presented water safety interpretive programs at elementary school STEAM Clubs and at the Eielson AFB Pioneer Start – an expo for incoming airmen and their families.



Staffed a booth at the Natural Disaster Expo during the Eielson AFB "Flood Week" to promote water safety and share the Chena River Lakes "Corps Story".



Park rangers and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Golden Days Parade, the biggest parade in Alaska, to promote water safety.



# South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

## Mobile District (SAM)

### Alabama River Lakes

On October 26, 2024, staff conducted their annual Halloween event at Gunter Hill Campground and Prairie Creek Campground. There were a variety of contests including best decorated site, best costume, and best carved pumpkin. Buddy The Beaver was in attendance encouraging trick-or-treaters to learn to swim and wear their life jackets while in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.).



### Allatoona Lake

On November 13, 2024 at the Cartersville Middle School Career Day Park Ranger Chee Hill spoke to 4th, 5th, and 6th graders about water safety and what park rangers and engineers do for USACE.

### Walter F. George Lake



During the months of October and November 2024, a total of three days of water safety programs were presented to 2nd graders at the Eufaula Community Center, AL. Each day about 2-4 classes of students attended the swimming program hosted by the community center, and during this program, one day is spent going over water safety with Park Ranger Shannon. These programs are conducted every year in the spring or fall. In 2024, a total of 185 students participated in the water safety program.

On October 25, 2024, a ribbon cutting for the four new four life jacket loaner stations at Walter F. George Reservoir was held. Friends of Lake Eufaula President Brad Moore, Chief Ranger Joshua Davis, and Park Ranger Jim Turley were in attendance.



November 1 - 9, 2024, park rangers and volunteers staffed a booth at the National Peanut Festival in Dothan, AL, which including promoting water safety. The park rangers and volunteers interacted with attendees by answering questions and had the play games to win prizes. A total of 2,846 interpretive contacts were made during the event.

### Woodruff-Seminole Lake

Park rangers and volunteers participated in the annual Christmas Parade in Bainbridge, GA to promote water safety.



Home school group of 43 individuals visited the with ages ranging from three to fifteen years. Staff had the individuals participate in several different activities that included environmental education, water safety, and a tour of the dam.

Park rangers staffed a water safety and environmental science table at the 14th Tallahassee, FL Science Festival. 502 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.



# Savannah District (SAS)

## Hartwell Lake

On November 15, 2024, Park Ranger Dotson presented an interpretive program at the Midway Elementary Community Helper Day. Park Ranger Dotson shared the duties of a USACE Park Ranger and how they assist families while recreating in our parks and water safety tips on how they can stay safe in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.).



## Richard B. Russell Lake

Previously subleased Blue Hole Park to the town of Calhoun Falls, SC, which was visited by lake staff and local town mayor, Terrico Holland, to review the facility's current condition and areas for improvement. Specific water safety measures that were discussed included repairs to the courtesy dock and posted signage at the fishing pier for no diving. The Mayor and local town is following through with the suggested water safety improvements in addition to other matters discussed.

## J Strom Thurmond Lake

In December 2024, Park Ranger Kevin Madsen and lake volunteers fabricated thirteen new frames to place water safety banners on. The banners are mobile so they can be used at all of the 35 swim beaches at the lake throughout the recreation season.



Presented the Georgia Carolina of Scouting USA with 36 new life jackets that were donated by the Sea Tow Foundation to be used at their summer camps.



# Wilmington District (SAW)

## B. Everett Jordan Lake



On October 19, 2024, park rangers participated in the Chatham County Trunk-or-Treat festival. The park rangers transformed their vehicle into a lake monster and talked to parents and children about water safety. On October 26, 2024, park rangers and volunteers participated in the town of Pittsboro's Trails and Treats event.

On December 8, 2024 park rangers from Jordan and Falls Lakes and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the annual Pittsboro Christmas Parade to promote water safety.



## John H. Kerr Lake



On October 17, 2024, Park Rangers Will Daniel and Emily Jones participated in Kenbridge and Victoria Elementary School's (Lunenburg County, VA) annual Night in the Park Event. This year the theme was "hooked on learning" and Park Rangers Daniel and Jones went prepared with water safety promotional items and a fun reach, throw, row activity. The students raced to correctly pick out a life jacket, size it right, and wear it while they attempted to toss throw rings over traffic cones. 161 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made during the event.

On October 31, 2024 at Rudds Creek Day Use Area staff co-hosted with local organizations a Dance It Out a trunk-or-treat event for the public to attend. Over 130 people attended the event. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances during the event and lake staff had a trunk where water safety promotional items were handed out.



On November 13, 2024, Park Rangers Richard Brown and Brandy Holt participated in the Warren County Middle School Career Fair where they spoke with 88 students about USACE careers, Leave No Trace, and water safety.

## South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

### Albuquerque District (SPA)

#### Abiquiu Lake

On November 1, 2024, conducted a Trunk-or-Treat event for the public.



On December 14, 2024, Abiquiu and Cochiti Lake park rangers and volunteers participated in the Espanola, NM Light Parade to promote water safety.



On October 17, 2024, Park Ranger Pam Bowie collaborated with New Mexico State Parks to teach a water safety clinic at the annual New Mexico State Parks training session that was held in Santa Fe, NM.



### Sacramento District (SPK)

#### Hensley Lake

Purchased two 14' kayaks to assist with shallow water duties and tasks. The two new vessels have made shallow water access much easier to conduct vessel, dock, and shoreline inspections. They have also useful during the Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, which consisted of paddling a total of 7.3 miles in and out of all of the lake's cove areas.



### Los Angeles District (SPL)



On October 13, 2024, staff participated in the 8th Annual Girl Scouts of Orange County Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) event at the Orange County Planetarium in Costa Mesa, CA. Park rangers created hands-on flood prevention models that allowed the scouts to experiment with flood control measures while protecting their "own house." Approximately 220 scouts interacted with the flood models, with 80 parents and troop leaders watching.

On December 12, 2024, participated in the 2024 Los Angeles River Flood Risk Awareness Workshop. The two-hour virtual webinar included the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Disposition Project, recent and upcoming Los Angeles River Operations and Maintenance projects, an update from the district's biology team, and a keynote guest speaker from "Heal the Bay."

### San Francisco District (SPN)

#### Bay Model Visitor Center

During the Halloween season the Bay Model Visitor Center attracted witches, wizards, warlocks, and other spooky creatures. After visiting the visitor center they hopped into kayaks after putting on a life jacket and enjoyed a day of fun in the sun on Richardson Bay.



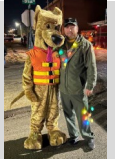


# Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

## Fort Worth District (SWF)

### Wright Patman Lake

On December 2, 2024, Piney Woods Region Archaeologist Blair Armstrong, Park Rangers Fiona Rabakukk-Langthorn, Dustin Flowers, Dalton Howell, and Lynlee Russell, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the 40th Anniversary Christmas Parade in downtown Texarkana.



On December 7, 2024, Park Rangers Lynlee Russell and Fiona Rabakukk-Langthorn, volunteers Kolby Perrin, and Jeff and Mary Wiswall, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Annual Atlanta Christmas Parade held in downtown Atlanta, TX.

### Sam Rayburn Lake

Park rangers, maintenance, and powerhouse staff members from Sam Rayburn and Town Bluff Lakes, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Annual Jasper Christmas Parade hosted by VFW Post 6380. Staff utilized the Sam Rayburn Work Barge vessel, decorated by the local Jasper Boy Scout Troop 932, to participate in the parade to promote water safety.



Park rangers, maintenance staff members, lake manager, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Annual Lufkin Christmas Parade hosted by the City of Lufkin, TX.

Sam Rayburn Lake Park Rangers Rayburn Gina Jaworski and Emily Laperriere and Town Bluff Lake Park Ranger Caleb Fortenberry attended the 4th Annual Public Safety Career Day hosted by the Deep East Texas College and Career Academy in Jasper, TX. Over 1,300 students were in attendance and park rangers were able to show the safety equipment needed on a vessel. Park Rangers Emily and Caleb were able to talk to the middle school to high school aged students about a career with USACE, higher education experiences, and educate them about water safety with a tour of the vessel. Park Ranger Gina took the opportunity once students were on board to teach them Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go- Go for Help! proper rescue techniques.



Park Rangers Gina Jaworski and Emily Laperriere attended the Annual Super Safety Saturday Event hosted by the Woodland Heights Medical Center in Lufkin, TX to promote water safety. The park rangers taught attendees the Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go- Go for Help proper rescue techniques.

### Proctor Lake

On December 5, 2024, Park Rangers Jared Harris, Elyssa Mendez, and Ben Murphy, as well as CET Carl Beamer participated in the Cross Plains Christmas Parade.

On December 14, 2024, CET Carl Beamer, Park Ranger Jared Harris and his family, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Annual Comanche, TX Christmas Parade to promote water safety.

On November 20, 2024, Hords Creek and Proctor Lakes staff teamed up to present water safety interpretive programs to 3rd and 4th graders at Santa Anna Elementary. Hords Creek Lake Park Rangers Ronald Morris, Zane Allen and Lake CET Mack Watson worked in conjunction with Proctor Lake Park Rangers James Burger and Jared Harris to demonstrate Reach, Throw, Row, and Don't Go proper rescue techniques. A boat scenario was also presented where students had a time limit of 20 seconds to find and put on a life jacket.



### Bardwell and Joe Pool Lakes

Park Rangers Anthony Sanders and Jennifer Lawson presented for Career Day at HV Helbing Elementary school. The kids were educated on the daily events of a park ranger and participated in a water safety demonstration.



### Stillhouse Hollow Lake



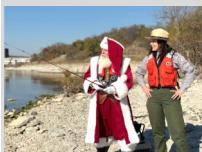
Park Rangers Madison Wetterstroem and Ryley Rosenbusch handed out over 100 America the Beautiful passes at the Main Exchange at the Fort Cavazos Army base. Military Annual, Military Lifetime, and Access passes were given to the military population and their families. These events are a great way to answer questions about the lake and promote water safety.

### Lake O' the Pines Lake

December 2, 2024, staff and volunteers participated in the 78th Annual Panola County Christmas Parade in Carthage, TX. Lake Manager Cody Berry, Park Rangers Caleb Bates and Stacey Coester, and volunteers Eva Rawls and April Moon decorated the patrol boat for the parade.



### District Office



James Fielden, Electrical Engineering Technician and resident Santa, supported the water safety effort by posing with his life jacket at Benbrook Lake. The District Public Affairs Office and Park Ranger Kennedy Brink did an excellent job assisting with the effort.

## Little Rock District (SWL)

### Clearwater Lake

On October 19, 2024, Park Ranger Donald Henson, volunteer Gail Wells, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the 47th Annual Ozark Heritage Festival Parade in Piedmont, MO. A booth was staffed after the parade, providing water safety information and materials to festival attendees. 256 direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.



On October 26, 2024, park rangers and volunteers attended the annual Trick-or-Treat in River Road Park to promote water safety.

## Tulsa District (SWT)

### Kaw Lake

On 17 October, 2024, employees and volunteers staffed an interactive area at the Ponca City, OK annual "Goblins on Grand" event to promote water safety.



### Keystone Lake



Hosted a Camp-O-Ween trunk-or-treat event that included participation from several agencies and organizations including Safe Kids Tulsa, ATV Safe Ride Oklahoma, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sand Springs Fire Department, and Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. The event doubled in size from 2023 reaching an estimated of 100 children.

### Lake Texoma

Park Rangers Conner Rychlik, Rachel Storey, and Jason Tally staffed a water safety booth at the Denison PD's 5th Annual National Night Out Event.



## National Water Safety Program Resources and Initiatives

Our target audience is adult males (18 and older) not wearing life jackets because our statistics from FY98-24 show that 89% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 82% were 18 and older, and 89% were not wearing a life jacket. Ten year statistics (FY15-24) show that 89% of our public recreation fatalities were male, 87% were 18 and older, and 90% were not wearing a life jacket, so please focus on promoting water safety to adult males and increasing life jacket wear.

FY98-24 USACE Public Recreation Fatalities Data Summary, USACE Public Recreation Fatalities Dashboard, and USACE and Division summary sheets are available on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under Water Safety Program Statistics.

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



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.

### Multi-Agency Effort Emphasizes Safety for Boaters and Anglers Near Dams

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) led a multi-agency effort to remind all boaters and anglers to prioritize safety when boating or fishing near hydroelectric dams across Tennessee's rivers and lakes. Over the past decade, there have been 17 fatalities caused by boaters getting caught in and around the spillways of hydroelectric dams in Tennessee. Officers determined that incidents were not dam specific, but were spread out across the state. Pickwick, Cheatham, and Loudon Dams all had multiple fatalities.

There are 29 hydroelectric dams in Tennessee that play a crucial role in flood control, power generation, and maintaining Tennessee's water resources, but the surrounding waters pose hidden risks. The force of the water around dam structures is powerful, unpredictable, and can quickly overcome even skilled boaters and swimmers. Areas below and above dams often have restricted zones, where waters are turbulent, and undercurrents are strong.

TWRA partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Hardin County EMA, U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pilot a remote-operated boat through Pickwick Dam as a visual example of the devastation that can occur. Here is the link to the "No Fish is Worth Your Life" video, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_5geWJLgExc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5geWJLgExc).





## 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)

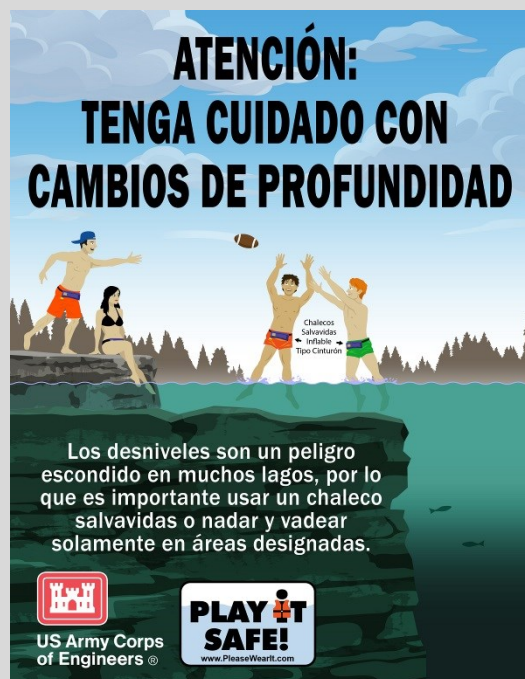
Numerous water safety video PSAs are available and can be downloaded on the DVIDS Unit page so you can use them however you can to promote water safety.

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 posters below plus much, much more can be found in the Water Safety Graphics Library.

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



**Dates to keep in mind:**

Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day: May 16, 2025

National Safe Boating Week: May 17 - 23, 2025

Resources to help promote National Safe Boating Week are available from the National Safe Boating Council at <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/resources/national-safe-boating-week-toolkit/>.

Operation Dry Water: July 4 - 6, 2025

Operation Dry Water is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). This year's heightened awareness and enforcement weekend will take place on July 4 - 6, 2025. All USACE lake and river projects are encouraged to register as an Operation Dry Water Outreach Partner at <https://www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/outreach/outreach-partners>.



There is an image hidden in this journal. Your job is to find it. This journal's image is this one of Hot Dog. 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 where you found the image. Entries need to be sent NLT April 4, 2025. 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.

