

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 09
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UTILIZE THIS JOURNAL TO...

- 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.



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

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)

Fisheries Assessment & Monitoring Section, Chicago Lock staff, and Upper Wabash Project Office Staff staffed a booth at the Chicago Boat Show from January 8 - 12, 2025. While at the event Upper Wabash Park Rangers and Lake Managers discussed water safety, handed out water safety promotional products, and answered general questions about the different USACE missions. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made appearances to help promote water safety. The Chicago Harbor Lock staff spoke with attendees about safe locking practices for visitors navigating the lock, the busiest for recreation boaters in the US. The Fisheries team discussed various ongoing projects, the status of invasive species in the District, and current projects to mitigate the spread of invasive aquatic species.



Huntington District (LRH)

Delaware Lake



Water Safety Social Media Posts:

When it comes to wearing a life jacket there are some things to keep in mind, can you tell us what is wrong with Frosty's life jacket? Life Jackets should be: U.S. Coast Guard approved, in good condition with no rips/tears/broken, the correct size, zipped/buckled all the way, and the correct type of jacket for the body of water you are on.

Show your love this Valentines Day by promising to always wear your life jacket when you are near or by the water! Give your sweetie a Bobber the Water Safety Dog Valentines Day card by downloading them at www.Bobber.info.



Louisville District (LRL)



Green River Lake

Park Ranger Davis made up sixty "New Boater" goodie bags full of boat safety and proper boat operation info and a few goodies for new boaters. Fifteen bags each will go to the three marinas on the lake and fifteen bags will be handed out at the lake's visitor center.

Nashville District (LRN)

Barkley Lake

Park Rangers staffed a booth at the West Kentucky Boat & Outdoor Show in Murray, KY, where they talked to attendees about water safety and other initiatives happening at the lake. Additionally, they visited the Lyon County Elementary School and presented a water safety program as well as issued 4th grade passes to all students.

Cheatham, J. Percy Priest, and Old Hickory Lakes

Park rangers were on hand at the NWTf Sport Show in Nashville with water safety tips and promotional items. Also, Old Hickory Lake staff presented boating safety at the Wilson County Boating & Fishing Expo.

Dale Hollow Lake

In January 2025, during the Eagle Watch at Dale Hollow Lake, Park Ranger Desmaray Brown discussed the importance of water safety and wearing a life jacket to participants on the tour. Park rangers displayed, "Wear it, Dale Hollow Lake" magnets on a barge. Also, park rangers presented water safety information during the local YMCA Learn to Swim program in January, February, and March 2025.

Pittsburgh District (LRP)



Staffed a booth at the 3rd Annual USA International Sportsmen's Show and Outdoor Recreation RV & Boat Show on February 14-16th, 2025. Approximately 1,827 water safety and mission related contacts were made during the event.

Natural Resource Specialists Ben Caparelli and Emma Kemp represented USACE at the Carnegie Science Center's (CSC) Sci-Tech Days on January 17, 2025. The focused on the dangers of cold water and hypothermia. Attendees could spin the cold water trivia wheel to answer questions to win a water safety prize.

Park Rangers Christian Clendenning and Emma Kemp attended the 37th annual Pittsburgh Citiparks Mascot Skate at the Schenley Ice Rink on January 25, 2025 to educate attendees on the importance of learning how to swim and wearing a life jacket when in, on, or near open water (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.). Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the event.



Tionesta Lake



Northern Area Park Ranger Alex Stevenson, Tionesta Lake Park Rangers Joel VanOrd and Andrew Schwab, and Kinzua Dam Park Ranger Autumn Rodden presented Every Kid Outdoor / Junior Ranger Programs. The park rangers had students try on life jackets and explained the benefit of wearing a proper fitting life jacket. Also, had the students participate in a boating scenario to see if they could get life jackets on in 30 seconds, and practiced the techniques of Reach, Row, Throw, Don't Go as well as a life jacket relay race.

Woodcock Creek Lake



Had an oversized Adirondack chair built and staff hand painted it including the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo. It is installed at the lake at the Overlook Recreation Area day use. In the picture to the right the park ranger in the picture is just under 6', so it shows how big the chair is! Its been a great photo op for visitors, helping promote water safety in a new and creative way, and offers a great backdrop of the lake and dam.



Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Initiatives

Vicksburg District (MVK)

Louisiana Field Office

Natural Resources Specialists Jesse Wisterman and Chip Wells attended PE classes at Riser Middle School in West Monroe, LA. Wisterman and Wells educated 195 students on water safety using life jackets, throwables, and paddles as visual aids.



Natural Resources Specialists Jesse Wisterman and Chip Wells made a special appearance at Sterlington Elementary School in Sterlington, LA. Wisterman and Wells educated 120 students on water safety using video, life jackets, throwables, and paddles as visual aids.



Natural Resources Specialists Jesse Wisterman, Chip Wells, David May, and Courtney Wiley made a special appearance at Barkdull Faulk Elementary School in Monroe, LA. The Natural Resource Specialist educated 100 students on water safety using video, life jackets, throwables and paddles as visual aids.



Natural Resources Specialist Destiny Garcia attended Shreveport Aquarium's Paddlefish Festival in Shreveport, LA. This annual event educates the public about natural resources, conservation, and recreational safety. Garcia spoke with 350 persons about water safety using give-a-ways, life jackets, and a Bobber the Water Safety Dog spin wheel game she designed herself.



Park Rangers Nicole Cahill and Amanda Mauel attended the Reading on the Red event on Main Street in Natchitoches, LA. This annual event promotes the love of literacy to children. Cahill and Mauel handed out water safety bags that included the new Bobber the Water Safety Dog children's book. An estimated 1000 people were in attendance of the event.

Lake Ouachita

Natural Resources Specialist, Amy Shultz, presented a boating and water safety program to a group of fifty-five 7th and 8th grade students at Lakeside Junior High on February 25, 2025.



Lake Ouachita in partnership with DeGray Lake and the Little Rock District hosted a water safety information table at the Hot Springs Boat, Tackle, and RV show February 28 – March 2, 2025. Bobber the Water Safety Dog was a hit on Saturday during the show. Approximately 2200 direct water safety contacts were made during the three-day event.



On March 10, 2025, Park Ranger John Bates, along with Natural Resources Specialist Amy Shultz, presented water safety programs to eight classes at St. John's Catholic School in Hot Springs, Arkansas. One hundred and thirty students' grades K-8 attended the program.

Lake Greeson

Updated all thirty bulletin boards and kiosk at Lake Greeson with rules and regulations and water safety posters and information.



Enid Lake

Personnel participated in three local Christmas parades. Park rangers decorated the patrol boat and invited Santa to ride along.

Grenada Lake

Student Aide Andrew Whittemore attended the Vicksburg Mardis Gras Parade handing out water safety items to parade goers.

Arklabutla Lake

Partnered with five local schools to throw out footballs at local high school football games with a water safety message on them. Have 38 bulletin boards and 4 billboards at the lake that are used to promote water safety.



St. Paul District (MVP)

Cross Lake Recreation Area

As part of the Winterfest event, park rangers hosted a water safety coloring contest in which the winners of four different age groups got to pick out a new life jacket, donated by the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. Volunteers and park rangers also hosted a t-shirt coloring activity in which kids had the opportunity to color and create their own water safety t-shirt.

Sandy Lake Recreation Area

Staff presented water safety interpretive programs at a winter Kids Fishing Day on Hanging Kettle Lake put on by the Aitkin County Sheriff Department. Local law enforcement created several stations on the lake where 5th graders from local schools could learn about different ice-related activities – ice fishing, ice auger use, and ice/water safety. Park rangers gave a brief discussion about ice safety and rescue procedures and then students were given the opportunity to use ice picks to simulate a self-rescue by lying flat, picking, Army crawling, and kicking along the ice surface to disperse body weight and simulate a self-rescue. Students were allowed to “ice pick race” against one another for fun.



Gull Lake Recreation Area

On February 13, 2025, Park Rangers Brian Turner and Ellie Tabako brought Bobber the Water Safety Dog to Confidence Learning Center to spread water safety messaging at their annual Special Olympics Winter Carnival. Student athletes of all ages were reminded of the importance of wearing their life jacket and how to be safe on the frozen lakes. Water safety promotional products were provided to 200 athletes.

St. Louis District (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

Groundwork for the yearly “I Got Caught” initiative commenced in March 2025, rallying support from nearby businesses. This season, over 30 partners joined in on the efforts. As part of the collaboration, each partner will have their business name prominently featured on donated t-shirts that will be distributed to lake visitors caught wearing their life jackets.



Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns logo stickers provided by the National Water Safety Program were applied to utility vehicle to promote water safety awareness while patrolling day-use areas and campgrounds around Carlyle Lake.



Water safety messages were displayed on the digital reader board along Illinois Highway 27 and were also prominently featured on all bulletin boards designated for day-use activities.

Rend Lake

Staff hosted the annual Holiday Celebration Small World Program for children ages 5 and younger. During the event, Santa's helper and Bobber the Water Safety Dog shared Bobber activity books, while Santa handed out Bobber's Water Safety books to all the participants. Park Rangers also reminded everyone about the importance of never playing on icy lakes and ponds. 71 children and their family members attended.



Park rangers participated in a career day at Benton, IL High School and shared the story of the "Many Hats of the Corps". The team emphasized the role of USACE Park Rangers in educating the public about water safety and facilitated water safety trivia.



Park rangers hosted a "Build Like a Beaver" Small World Program, where rangers explained how beavers live near water and the importance of staying safe around it. While participants built beaver dams, park rangers discussed how beavers build dams to protect themselves from strong currents, similar to how we use safety measures like life jackets to stay safe around water. There were 40 participants.

Rivers Project

In partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations the Rivers Project presented the fourth annual Ice Jam at the Dam at the National Great Rivers Museum. On February 15, 2025, nearly 800 visitors attended the family-focused event.

Attractions included open tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, live music, winter-themed educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog and mascots Louie and Blazer of the St. Louis Blues and Lewis & Clark Community College. Tours of Melvin Price brought visitors to the top of the structure to learn about the navigational channel and how it can change when the Mississippi River freezes over in the winter. Additionally, a special water safety-themed Polar Passport was granted to children who visited the ten educational booths



Park rangers participated in Little Creek Nature Area's (LCNA) 'First Saturday' public event on February 1, 2025, which focused on survival skills. LCNA is a unique 97-acre outdoor educational facility owned and operated by the city Ferguson serving the regional school districts with outdoor educational opportunities. Park rangers partnered with the educators from the Audubon Center at Riverlands to teach students and their families, approximately 120 contacts, the importance of life jackets and 'Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go' through a water safety obstacle course. Other survival skill activities included fire-making, knot tying, and navigating.

Wappapello Lake

Cupid Shuffle on February 14, 2025 was held at the O Neal Elementary School for grades 1-3 in Poplar Bluff, MO. Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson staffed a booth and provided water safety items including bags, activity sheets, and water safety temporary tattoos to 285 students and teachers.



Five thousand water safety stickers were distributed to local pizza franchises in Poplar bluff, Wappapello, and Dexter, MO by Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson. This is an annual safety push that occurs during the weekend of the Superbowl.

Five radio and three television interviews were done by Wappapello Lake staff and Missouri Department of Conservation representatives. Topics included Eagle Days, Water Safety, Facility Closures, Special Event Calendar, etc.

Rock Island District (MVR)

Coralville Lake

Bobber the Water Safety Dog and park rangers attended two hockey game in the Coralville Lake surrounding area. The first was the Heartlander's in Coralville, IA, and the second was the Rough Riders in Cedar Rapids IA. Park rangers spoke with visitors and Bobber was on the ice for mascot games and to help get the crowd involved in the game. Over 2,800 contacts were made.



Park rangers attended the Cedar Rapids Outdoor Show to promote Coralville Lake, deliver water safety messages, and hand out water safety promotional items. There were 356 contacts made over the weekend.

Staff attended a community event, Freeze Fest to promote water safety and hand out various water safety items. There were 181 people contacted at the event.

Illinois Waterway

Water Safety giveaways continue to be regularly supplied to the Heritage Corridor Welcome Center, a local visitor center in downtown Utica, IL. Bobber the Water Safety Dog bags are provided to their gift shop, so that people making purchases there receive their purchase in a water safety bag.

The Illinois Waterway Visitor Center will be teaching six boater safety courses in the summer of 2025. They take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month from April through September. Advertisements for the course were taken out in three area publications, Starved Rock Country Magazine, LaSalle County Visitors Guide, and Travel Starved Rock magazines. The advertisements will run in the spring and summer issues of the publications.

Mississippi River Project

On December 14, 2025, Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended a Quad City Storm hockey game. Bobber met with fellow mascots to celebrate the team mascot Radar's birthday. Bobber went around with a park ranger to promote the importance of water safety. There were approximately 5,000 people in the crowd and they were quite excited when all the mascots got on the ice for a short game of broomball.



On February 14, 2025, a park ranger gave a Life on a Towboat program to a homeschool group in Osco, IL. The program focuses on navigation on the Mississippi River, how locks and dams work and concludes with dressing students up as members of a towboat crew. A key part of this program is the safety of the crew. The students demonstrate how to properly fit and wear a life jacket and go over some basic safety measures. Forty students and parents attended the program.



Natural Resources Specialists staffed a water safety booth during back-to-back weekends at this year's Outdoor and RV Camping shows at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL on February 13-16 and 21-23, 2025. The events attract outdoor enthusiasts with an interest in boating, fishing, hunting and camping. Staff at the USACE booth were available to answer questions about the project, promote upcoming events and hand out water safety giveaways. Upper Mississippi River Navigational Charts, Annual Day Use and America the Beautiful Passes were also available for interested customers. During both events a total of 2,352 direct customer contacts were made.

Lake Red Rock

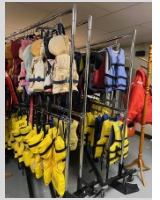
Purchased ad space for a water safety message in the Iowa Sportsman magazine's April issue. The magazine is posted online in electronic format, mailed to their subscribers, and copies will also be distributed at the Iowa Deer Classic in Des Moines (March 2025) and at Pheasant Fest in Kansas City (March 2025).



Saylorville Lake



The new publication of the Saylorville Lake Area Recreation Guide is now out and available for the public. Inside the recreation guide is information about the lake and recreation areas in the vicinity. However, one of the most important things in the recreation guide is the water safety ad and information about life jacket loaner stations! Each year a water safety ad is included in the guide to promote water safety, not only at Saylorville Lake but around the area as well. The article about life jacket loaner stations provides information about the loaner stations, where to find them, and how they benefit the public.



Winter weather allows for park rangers to catch up on life jacket inventory and maintenance for life jacket loaner stations. Each life jacket is inspected for rips, tears, functioning zippers and clips, and to make sure the foam inside the life jackets is still firm and usable.

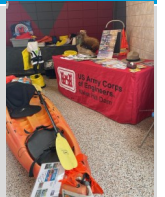
N A D

North Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

New England District (NAE)

West Hill Dam

Park Ranger Viola was one of 50 different exhibitors at the 27th annual Milford Family Fun & Disabilities Awareness Fair at the Milfold High School! The event was attended by approximately 100 families and at least 2000 individuals. Ranger Viola talked to attendees about water safety.



Ball Mountain Lake



Bobber the Water Safety Dog made a stop at Winhall Brook Camping Area to hear Park Ranger Alex Cote read “A Holiday Visit from Bobber”. Check out the video <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16kCLdwuia/>. “A Holiday Visit from Bobber” story was created by the National Water Safety Program and is available on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under Water Safety Graphics Library. <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/water.cfm>

Jennings Randolph Lake

Staff, along with members of the Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake, participated in the local Christmas parade in Keyser, WV. The staff decorated the project’s pontoon boat to promote water safety. Approximately 1,000 people lined Main street in Keyser. Bobber the Water Safety Dog rode along on the float.



Northwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Kansas City District (NWK)

Members of the district public safety team took Bobber the Water Safety Dog to promote water safety at a Kansas City Maverick's Hockey Game. This venue has proven to be an excellent opportunity to engage adult males, and encouraging them to wear a life jacket.



The Kansas City District, in partnership with Tulsa District, acquired space in Kansas Sportsmen Magazine to promote wear life jackets. All hunting/fishing permit holders for the State of Kansas will receive this magazine and these valuable messages to include water safety in their outdoor pursuits.

Tuttle Creek Lake

On March 24, 2025, park rangers along with Bobber the Water Safety Dog visited a local elementary school and shared water safety information with 75 third grade students.



Portland District (NWP)

John Day Lock and Dam

On April 2, 2025, Park Ranger Jackson Beckman participated in a community event with Sea Scouts and the U.S. Coast Guard buoy tender Bluebell. Students, grades 5th—8th, from The Dalles participated in water safety activities including life ring throws, tying cleat hitches, and learning to read navigation charts before touring the Bluebell. Park Ranger Beckman manned the cold-water immersion station where students attempted to pick up coins after submerging their hands in cold water for a minute. Attendees learned about the dangers of hypothermia on the Columbia River, even during the “warmer” summer months. 75 water safety contacts were made.



Willamette Valley Project



Nine park rangers attended the three-day Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show in Eugene January 31- February 2, 2025. The focus was on winter recreation with water safety and hypothermia as the main talking points. The park rangers utilizes the water safety game “Cold Hand Luke”, which simulates the feeling of cold water immersion, reminding visitors of the hazards of cold weather recreation. Visitors who participated in the challenge were given a water safety towel for drying off. Visitors could also answer a question pertaining to the display to win a water safety giveaway prize. People of all ages were attracted to the display with rangers making over 1,327 contacts during the weekend event.

Park Rangers Christie Johnson and Lisa Maguire presented a water safety discussion at the end of the Lookout Point Dam tour on February 7, 2025. This included 32 Twin Rivers Charter School contacts. Teachers were presented water safety bags filled with goodies to hand out to their students.



During spring break, the American Heritage Girls provided volunteer services by assisting with park clean up at Schwarz Campground on March 24, 2025. This volunteer work is instrumental in assuring the park will be ready for opening day. The troop requested a water safety presentation afterwards which was a requirement for one of their badges. Park Ranger Lisa Maguire began the presentation with a “Cry for Help” in which 25 girls participated in the program. Their favorite hands-on activity was learning how to use a throw bag. The scouts were presented water safety goodie bags after the presentation.



The Dalles Lock and Dam



The Nautical Safety Foundation donated 160 life jackets for recreational sites in the Lower Columbia River, McNary, and Mud Mountain Projects. Donations such as these support water safety and will be used to stock life jacket loaner stations.

Maintenance personnel constructed a new bulletin board at the North Shore boat ramp. The purpose of this bulletin board is to make information about water safety and the boat restricted zone more visible and accessible.



Bonneville Lock and Dam



Park rangers staffed a water safety booth at the 50th Annual Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show, held at the Portland Expo Center. Park Rangers attended 3 of the 5 days of the event that began February 12, 2025. They engaged with 1,131 people, asking families water safety questions to learn about their experiences and spark discussion. Rangers taught folks about the USACE missions, general safety, when to wear a life jacket, how to properly fit a life jacket, avoiding cold exposure, top causes of drowning, and safety items to keep on a boat.

They handed out educational activity books, toys, and pamphlets that spread the water safety message and provide information about the Bonneville Lock and Dam and USACE.

Walla Walla District (NWW)

Macey Young, Chaz Fredrickson, and Matt Smith, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog led a flood awareness and safety presentation for a group of 85 kindergarten through 3rd-grade students at the Kuna Boys and Girls Club. Following the presentation, the children were divided into groups to participate in a poster-making contest focused on flood awareness and to rotate through various interactive stations. We were joined by representatives from the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the Red Cross (along with Pedro the Penguin), the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Idaho Power, each of whom hosted a station. The team operated in poster-making area, where they taught kids how to properly wear a life jacket, perform a rope rescue for water emergencies, and demonstrated the effects of cold-water immersion. Among all the stations, ours consistently drew the largest crowds, with Bobber the Water Safety Dog emerging as the favorite mascot. The event garnered media attention from Idaho Press and Idaho News 6, who were on hand to cover the celebration of Governor Little's proclamation of Flood Awareness Week in Idaho, held from March 16th-22nd, 2025.



Mill Creek Project



Park Ranger Benítez led a dynamic Water Safety education station during Garrison Middle School's Outdoor Science Day on March 20, 2025. Nearly 200 students and faculty participated in this hands-on event, emphasizing the critical importance of water safety, particularly for those who frequently interact with water environments, such as fisheries professionals and students studying aquatic ecosystems. The park rangers ran two interactive stations, fish migration and water safety. At the water safety station, students learned how to select and properly fit life jackets tailored to specific tasks. They students practiced throwing ring buoys and throw bags, honing their techniques to account for water currents and ensuring rescue devices floated downstream to their intended target. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance during the event.

Pacific Ocean Division Water Safety Initiatives

Alaska District (POA)

Chena River Lakes

Park rangers handed out water safety bags and promotional items at six STEAM events, three of the events featured park ranger presentations that incorporated a water safety message – making contact with around 300 students.

Park Rangers attended the monthly “Pioneer Start” on Eielson Airforce Base. They handed out water safety promotional items and gave presentations to incoming Airmen about outdoor recreation and water safety – making contact with nearly 100 airmen new to the area.

Park Rangers staffed booths and handed out water safety promotional items at community events such as Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation’s “Spring Fling” and “Mush for Kids”. Attendance at the “Spring Fling” was estimated at over 500 members of the community.

South Atlantic Division Water Safety Initiatives

Jacksonville District (SAJ)

W.P. Franklin Visitor Center

On January 8, 2025, a group of 20 students from Riverdale High School visited the W.P. Franklin South Recreation Area and Lock as part of a STEM-focused career exploration program. This field trip provided students with an opportunity to learn about careers in environmental science and engineering through real-world examples and hands-on experiences. Students listened to presentations by Lee Martin, a USACE biologist, and Megan Parsons, a USACE park ranger. After, Lock operator, Jason Pritt, led the students on a tour of the W.P. Franklin Lock, offering a behind-the-scenes look at its operations. Students learned about the lock’s role in navigation, its manatee protection systems, and the importance of water safety.

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, Park Rangers Megan Parsons, Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, and Robert Hill, along with USACE volunteers, participated in the 2025 Clewiston Sugar Festival. Using their interpretive trailer, park rangers and volunteers educated attendees about the Okeechobee Waterway and the USACE missions. They also promoted water safety by distributing promotional products and interacting with the public, including photo opportunities with Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Approximately 1,100 direct interpretive contacts were made during the event.



Mobile District (SAM)

Carters Lake

On March 18, 2025, Dalton's Chick-fil-A hosted a special event called the Stuffed Animal Campout Story Time. During this event, Ranger Spence and McKittrick led a discussion where they shared tips on how to stay safe while camping and how to be mindful when around water. The story time provided an opportunity for kids to learn important safety tips for being at a campsite, such as fire safety. Additionally, Ranger Spence and McKittrick emphasized the importance of water safety, teaching everyone how to stay safe near lakes, rivers, or pools, and the most important thing to wear around water: life jackets!



West Point Lake

On March 7, 2025, Park Ranger Rusty Newton participated in Read Across America Week by reading to Eastside Elementary 2nd grade classes making 40 water safety contacts and to Huguley Elementary School's kindergarten classes making 45 water safety contacts by discussing safe habits around water and reading "Water Watcher" The importance on Wearing a Life Jacket.

On March 18, 2025, Park Ranger Rusty Newton and Park Ranger Chris Brewer participated in Fairfax Elementary School's Career Day. The park rangers spoke with each class from Pre-K to 5grade, over 700 students, about the many hats park rangers wear, the importance of environmental stewardship, natural resources management, USACE missions, and water safety.

Walter F. George Lake

During the months of January-March, a total of 246 water safety contacts were made through the efforts of park attendant contractors and volunteers. They are trained in proper rescue techniques such as "reach, throw, row, don't go," offer loaner life jackets to visitors, and engage in general and water safety with visitors.

Savannah District (SAS)

J. Strom Thurmond Lake

On Friday March 21, 2025, Park Rangers Makayla Barlow and Hannah Sue Hulpke presented interpretive programs at the Greenbrier High School to three environmental science classes. The park rangers covered the history, missions, and local importance of the dam and its major benefits. At the end of the program, they spoke about the importance of water safety. The park rangers highlighted some of the risks that may take place around the water and spoke about real life experiences. Eighty-three direct water safety interpretive contacts were made.

On March 14, 2025, Park Ranger Makayla Barlow caught four adults wearing their life jackets at Amity Boat Ramp. This resulted in ten direct water safety interpretive contacts between those caught and curious bystanders. Park Ranger Makayla highlighted the importance of wearing life jackets and how much it is appreciated that adults choose to be safe by wearing their life jackets.



Wilmington District (SAW)

John H. Kerr Lake

In February 2025, in partnership with staff from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Natural Resources Specialist Alec Mitchell and Park Ranger Brandy Holt attended the Central Carolina Boat Show & Fishing Expo. They talked to nearly 2,000 attendees about water safety, natural resources management, and USACE missions.



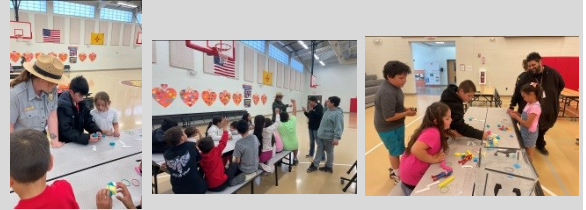
On March 29, 2025, Park Rangers Elaine Wittry and Emily Jones, Carmen Boyette, and Stewart Gilmore spoke with over 200 participants at the 37 NC Science and Engineering Fair hosted at NC State University. The students, teachers, and parents learned about how hydropower is created and how to engineer a life jacket.

South Pacific Division Water Safety Initiatives

Albuquerque District (SPA)

Abiquiu Lake

February - March 2025, Park Rangers Pam Bowie and Kara Rapp presented over 40 water safety presentations to 23 schools reaching over 3,339 school students. In addition to their regular Reach, Throw, Row presentations Pam and Kara have been presenting more in depth activities to students in after school programs.



Park Rangers Pam Bowie and Kara Rapp assisted with a boater safety course taught by New Mexico State Parks at Abiquiu Lake. Park Rangers Rapp and Bowie included water safety into the course by demonstrating water safety materials and showcasing the features on the Abiquiu Lake patrol boat.

Los Angeles District (SPL)

On January 11, 2025, park rangers participated in the 178th anniversary of the January 8, 1847 Battle of Rio San Gabriel at the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe in Montebello, CA. Uniformed American and Californio soldiers re-enacted the battle, which played a decisive role in the California campaign during the US-Mexican War (1846-1848). Park rangers had 53 contacts related to water safety topics at one station. Another station (which had 122 contacts) included a "Park Rangers Wear Many Hats Activity" and information about the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin, the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Dams, the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Project, federally endangered species in the Basin, and poster boards of all SPL's dams.



On January 23, 2025, park rangers had 75 contacts - 15 of which were water safety related - at the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council meeting in Van Nuys/Encino, CA, with a special session for their Recreation and Parks Committee. The focus of the meeting was to share information about potential volunteer opportunities in the Sepulveda Basin, with partners such as the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks – Valley Region, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR), and the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Audubon Society. Other potential new SPL partners were the Encino Velodrome and the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. ...it turned out that both park rangers were Girl Scouts while growing up!

On February 2, 2025, park rangers made 82 contacts - 28 of which were specifically related to water safety - during a Lunar New Year event held at the San Gabriel River Park managed by partners, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, in La Puente, CA. Park rangers staffed an information booth with water safety and flood risk management materials, demonstrated how to properly put on a life jacket, and taught the "Reach-Throw-Row-Don't Go" phrase during a timed "Learn the Four: Water Rescue Race" to save a potential drowning victim.



Southwestern Division Water Safety Initiatives

Fort Worth District (SWF)

Sam Rayburn Lake

On February 12, 2025, volunteers were trained on water safety and given a refresher on volunteer duties and expectations.



An awning previously used for an honor vault was repurposed into a life jacket loaner station at the Twin Dikes public boat ramp.



In 2024, Park Rangers Emily Laperriere and Tyler Slovacek were able to fulfill a young girl's wish of meeting a park ranger. In 2025, the family returned to donate 15 loaner life jackets of varying sizes. While at the office, they asked to see the park rangers again to share their story of health success and their aspiration to be a park ranger one day.

Trinity Region

On March 21-23, 2025, park rangers from Bardwell, Grapevine, Lavon, Joe Pool, and Lewisville Lakes teamed up with the Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department in the Annual Bass Master's Classic event located downtown Fort Worth at the Convention Center. The event attracts fisherman from all over the country and was a prime event to share water safety information. Park rangers made over 2,700 water safety direct contacts during the event.

Lewisville Lake



Project "Adopt-A-Lake" is a partnership with The LV Project, USACE, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The mission is to make boating and swimming safer at Lewisville Lake.

Grapevine Lake

Park Rangers Avy Langston and Ami Watkins presented to Spring Garden Elementary's fourth grade classes. The presentation consisted of park ranger duties, USACE missions, and water safety. The park rangers got the students involved in a water safety demonstration on how to choose a properly sized life jacket.



Stillhouse Hollow Lake



Park Ranger Ryley Rosenbusch participated in a career day at House Creek Elementary School. Ranger Rosenbusch presented to the students on multiple topics including park ranger duties and water safety. At the end of the presentation, Ranger Rosenbusch demonstrated how to pick out the correct size and how to properly wear a life jacket.

Lake O' the Pines

Lake O' the Pines, Piney Woods Regional, and FRM Staff held their annual water safety training in response to upcoming Recreation Season. Thirteen total staff participated and were refreshed on such topics Reach Throw Row Don't Go, proper fitting of PFD, drowning risk



Navarro Mills Lake

On March 13, 2025, staff were able to remove and replace fourteen buoys around the lake. Lake Manager Steven Ridlehuber, Park Ranger Megan Dunagan, Whitney Lake Park Ranger Daniel Tiedemann (on developmental assignment), and Three Rivers Park Ranger Matthew Jones worked as a team to safely deploy the buoys around swim beaches, boat ramps, and falling rock areas.



Georgetown Lake



For Frost Elementary's Texas themed day, Park Rangers Joshua Houghtaling and Madeline Karickhoff presented USACE missions to students in Kindergarten - 6th Grade. Students were eager with questions about water safety, park ranger duties, and recreational activities available at Lake Georgetown. The park rangers enjoyed demonstrating "Orange Theory," having the students vote and observe the outcome of if an orange will float without a peel or not (emulating a life jacket worn scenario).

Staff and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended the 2025 Chase the Chief event held at a local high school. The Chase the Chief event consists of various stakeholder booths, a 1-mile run, 3K run, and a 10K run. Over 2,600 water safety direct contacts were made during the event.



Bardwell Lake



Park Ranger Anthony Sanders visited 3rd - 5th graders for career day at Sam Rosen Elementary in Fort Worth, TX. Ranger Sanders shared the many duties of a park ranger such as boat patrol and assisting visitors at our recreation areas.

Joe Pool Lake

On January 31, 2025, Park Jennifer Lawson teamed up with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Dallas Arboretum to attend a career day/water safety event at the SPSA Catholic Academy. The kids were informed on park ranger duties and how to become a Park Ranger, along with explaining the primary mission of flood risk management for USACE. The kids were also educated on water safety and the importance of wearing a life jacket. Over 250 students attended the event.

Little Rock District (SWL)

January 31 - February 2, Little Rock staff attended the 2025 Lake Life Expo at the Springfield Expo Center. Park rangers conducted outreach efforts to promote water safety messaging and life jacket use to expo attendees. Over the 3-day event Park Rangers Emma Crumbaugh, Ty Fowler, and Angela Stone spoke with 583 event attendees. Park Ranger Stone was also able to network with the Missouri Highway Patrol Troop D, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and several local Marinas willing to post USACE water safety messaging.



February 7-9, 2025, at the Branson Home Show Table Rock Park Rangers Ryan Braaten, Emma Crumbaugh, and Angela Stone promoted water safety to over 200 attendees while answering shoreline and dock permit inquiries to increase understanding of USACE regulations.

Tulsa District (SWT)



Tulsa District employees worked a water safety booth at the Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show from January 27- February 2, 2025 in the Sagenet Center at Expo Square in Tulsa. During this event, employees interacted with the public by handing out water safety promotional items. Oklahoma Highway Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Tulsa Fire and Rescue along with USACE, partnered to be in the location to have an entire area dedicated to safety.

District employees and their family members braved the cold to promote water safety in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parade in Tulsa, OK on January 20, 2025.



Fort Gibson and Tenkiller Lakes

On January 22 & 23, 2025, park rangers from Fort Gibson and Tenkiller Lakes participated at STEM Fest 2025 at the Chota Conference Center in Tahlequah, OK. They were able to talk to 5th -12th graders about careers opportunities in STEM and the importance of water safety. On January 22, 2025, 1,200 middle schoolers attended and on January 23, 2025, 387 high schoolers attended the event.

Waurika Lake

On March 12, 2025, Park Ranger Alan Harper took part in the annual 5th grade Spring Into Safety event at the Stephens County Fairgrounds Arena. Park Ranger Harper was able to share water and boating safety information with more than 300 local 5th graders and their teachers who participated in hands-on demonstrations and conversations about staying safe on land and water.



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 FY98-24 show that 86% 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.



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.

2024 Life Jacket Wear Rate Observation Study featuring National life jacket wear rate data from 1999 to 2024 is available at this link, <https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-life-jacket-wear-rate-study.php>. This report was prepared for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.

In 2024, the wear rate for adults was 9.4%. This is a relative increase of 4.5% since 1999 (9.0%) and a relative decrease of 11.3% since 2014 (10.6%). The 2024 rate continues the decline in wear rates since 2017. Wear rates for adults aged 18–64 decreased slightly from 2023 (9.7% to 9.3%), but increased for adults aged 65+ (11.8% to 12.5%).

National Water Safety Committee Meeting Conducted Virtually

On April 1 - 3, 2025, the National Water Safety Committee Meeting was conducted virtually. During the meeting the committee discussed status of the National Water Safety Program and initiatives associated with it, USACE Publications Depot, promotional product orders, USACE public recreation fatalities and trends, and judged the 2023-2024 National Water Safety Photo Contest. Even though the meeting was conducted virtually, it was a very productive meeting and all those involved had fun while getting things done.



2023-2024 National Water Safety Photo Contest Winners

The National Water Safety Program conducts a photo contest every two years. The contest categories include: Employees in Action, Partners in Action, Commercial Boating, Water Recreation, and Non-Water Recreation.

2023-2024 First Place Winners



Employees in Action:
Josh Friend (NWP)



Non-water Recreation:
Marlene Schmitt (SPL)



Water Recreation:
Colton Johnson (MVR)



Partners in Action:
Jared Presley (LRH)



Commercial Boating:
Michelle Briggs (LRE)

Second place winners were:

Michelle Briggs (LRE) Paige King (NWS) Paul Bruton (SPK)

Honorable mention winners were:

Carmen Paris (LRE) Donald Copenhaver (LRE) Michelle Briggs (LRE) Paige King (NWS)

The winning photos are posted on the NRM Gateway at this link, <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/photos.cfm>, and on the Gateway MS Teams water safety page under Files. To join the Gateway MS Teams open MS-TEAMS, click the plus sign (+) next to "Teams" at the top of the page, click the Join a Team link, enter code fmc90v1.

2025 National and Division Water Safety Award Winners

These awards recognize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and teams that have contributed to boating and water safety in an effective manner that has made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways. These awards are done in cooperation with the National Boating Federation. These are annual awards so everyone that meets the criteria is encouraged to apply. Nominations for next year's awards will be accepted towards the end of this year, so start planning throughout the year to submit your nominations for these awards. Winning nomination packages are on the NRM Gateway.

National USACE Water Safety Employee of the Year
Chelsea Jones, Natural Resources Specialist,
Pittsburgh District



National USACE Water Safety Team of the Year
Rathbun Lake Staff, Kansas City District



Division Water Safety Employee Award Winners:

- MVD – Breanna Whitley, Natural Resources Specialist, Rend Lake, St. Louis District
- NWD – Allen Flint, Natural Resources Specialist, Truman Lake, Kansas City District
- SAD – Annette Dotson, Natural Resources Specialist, Hartwell Lake, Savannah District
- SPD – Kevin Rodriguez, Park Ranger, Success Lake, Sacramento District
- SWD – Abby Jones, Natural Resources Management Specialist, Tulsa District

Division Water Safety Team Award Winners:

- MVD – Lake Ouachita Staff, Vicksburg District
- SAD – Jacksonville District Water Safety Team
- SWD – Eufaula Lake Park Ranger Staff, Tulsa District

Smart Start for Safe Paddling Resources from American Canoe Association

Resources includes a free online course, comprehensive textbook, student activity workbook, presentation slides, infographics, videos, and field-ready lesson materials — all tailored to be flexible and adaptable to fit your needs to help educate beginner paddlers build safe habits.

Webpage <https://americancanoe.org/smart-start/>

Free Online Paddling Safety Course—Available in English and Spanish <https://americancanoe.org/education/resource-library/paddlesports-online-course/>



List of things that can be done to encourage concessionaires and outgrantees to promote water safety -Developed by USACE National Water Safety Program, 2025

Share water safety promotional products to give to the public and other resources like pavement stencils, banners, etc.

Send memo to concessionaires/outgrantees that is signed by the District Chief of Operations, Chief of Real Estate, and Commander that encourage partnering with USACE to promote water safety.

During real estate inspections, have a USACE staff member such as a park ranger present to discuss water safety outreach needs. Ask if equipment on rental vessels is checked on a regular basis to ensure it is in good condition. If necessary, inspect the equipment.

Encourage life jacket wear when renting any type of vessel.

Before someone rents a vessel or takes a vessel out on the water, have them watch a short water safety video and/or go over a safety checklist with them. Videos and checklists for different types of vessels are available at www.rentalboatsafety.com.

Encourage lifesaving equipment be provided on docks and in other areas that is available for use by employees and public. i.e. <https://us.glasdon.com/downloads/brochures/glasdon-us-guardian-life-ring-cabinet-buyers-guide-gw412.pdf> This company offers personalization options for decals too.

Share USACE public recreation fatality trends and data. This information is available on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section under water safety program statistics. <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/stats.cfm>

Encourage concessionaires/outgrantees to provide general water safety training to their employees. A resource created by the USACE National Water Safety Program that can be used for the training can be found on the NRM Gateway at this link. <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/pdfs/2025-Basic%20Water%20Safety%20Training%20for%20Employees%20and%20Volunteers.pdf>

Host annual pre-recreation season meeting to brief on water safety products, programs, initiatives, etc. and provide USACE public recreation fatality trends and data. Also, general water safety training for employees and volunteers can be conducted in conjunction with this meeting.

Include concessionaires and outgrantees in water safety task force group meetings or anything similar to that.

Ask concessionaires and outgrantees if they have not already done so to consider making their swim beaches and boat ramps compliant with EM 1110-1-400 Recreation Facility and Customer Service Standards, especially with the items pertaining to water safety.

Place water safety information and messages in high traffic areas open to the public.

Provide short water safety messages that can be placed on electronic message boards, business signs, etc.

Share information about social media pages and websites pertaining to water safety and encourage sharing the posts and linking to the websites.

List of things that can be done to encourage concessionaires and outgrantees to promote water safety (continued)

Share life jacket loaner station information. USACE life jacket loaner program guidelines are available on the NRM Gateway at this link <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/pdfs/LifeJacketLoanerProgramMemo-Guidelines.pdf>. Life jackets for loaner stations are available from different sources. One source is the Sea Tow Foundation, <https://www.boatingsafety.com/page/life-jacket-loaner-program>. Always remember to inspect the loaner life jackets regularly to ensure they are in good condition. Another idea is to conduct a life jacket drive similar to a coat drive to collect life jackets that are in good condition. Incorporate a “fill the boat with life jackets” during special events or as its own event.

Ask them to participate in Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day and promote National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water. Resources for Wear a Life Jacket at Work Day and National Safe Boating Week can be found at <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/resources/national-safe-boating-week-toolkit/> and resources for Operation Dry Water can be found at www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/home.

Ensure that marina concessionaires and others are in compliance with the National Electric Code Article 555 pertaining to Marinas, Boatyards, Floating Buildings, and Noncommercial Docking Facilities. For more information regarding this here is a link to a blog from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2024/04/29/making-your-marina-safe-for-summer>. Share information about electrical shock drowning with marina concessionaires and others. Information about electric shock drowning can be found at www.electricshockdrowning.org.

Partner together to promote water safety at events and conduct water safety events on-site such as hands-on boating experiences for the public. For example, paddle safety education programs and life jacket fitting demonstrations.

Ask if USACE employees and volunteers can conduct roving interpretation to promote water safety at facilities managed by concessionaires and outgrantees. An example would be to take Bobber the Water Safety Dog and provide water safety information and photo op opportunities with Bobber to the public. Coordinate when and where the roving interpretation will be conducted with the concessionaire/outgrantee.

Provide contact information for partners that might be willing to help promote water safety such as Safe Kids USA, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadrons (America’s Boating Club), local family foundations with Waves of Hope, www.safeboatingcouncil.org/wavesofhope, and Families United to Prevent Drowning, www.familiesunitedtopreventdrowning.org, etc.

Schedule radio and television interviews that include USACE and concessionaires/outgrantees and a portion or entire interview is about water safety.

If it is a facility that sells anything ask if they will put a water safety message on the receipt given to the customers. If they sell life jackets, ask them to display how to fit a life jacket properly in the area they display the life jackets for sale. Artwork for the Wear It Right poster can be found on the NRM Gateway at <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/graphics/wear-right%20poster%20panel.pdf>. Provide copies of the Wear It Right brochures that is provided by the USACE National Water Safety Program to be displayed and handed out to visitors and customers.

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/

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

Check out the Campaign Materials page on the USACE National Water Safety Program's Webpage because several new water safety video PSAs have been added to it recently.

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.

Check out the Water Safety Graphics Library in the water safety section on the NRM Gateway because several new graphics and artwork has been added to it recently.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog website www.Bobber.info

National Water Safety Program's YouTube Channel and DVIDS Unit

www.YouTube.com/user/USACEwatersafety

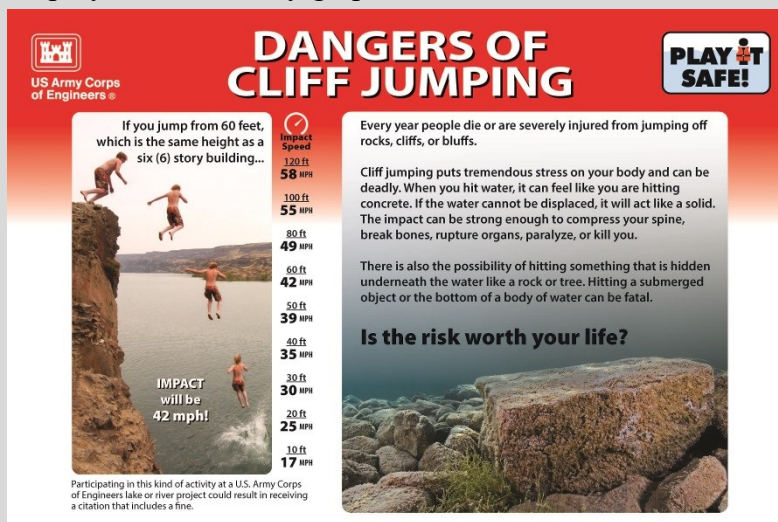
www.dvidshub.net/unit/USACE-WS

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>

The cliff jumping interpretive wayside panel artwork shown below was developed and created by the USACE National Water Safety Program to help educate the visiting public about the dangers of cliff jumping. This artwork can be used to get panels printed and then placed in locations where cliff jumping may occur. The panel artwork can be found in the Water Safety Graphics Library under water safety designs. <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/watersafety/graphics.cfm>



The Bobber's Birthday Story that is on the next couple of pages was developed and created by the USACE National Water Safety Program. Enjoy!!!

BOBBER'S Birthday Story



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Howdy Folks! I'm Ranger Buck and
this here is my best pal, Bobber
the Water Safety Dog!



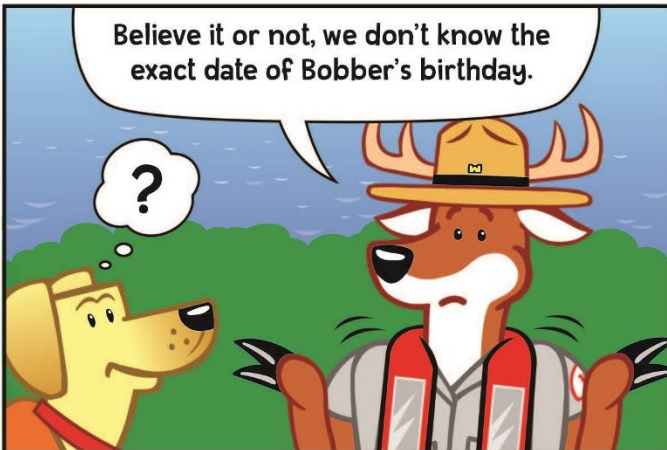
I'm a park ranger and a big part of my job is
teaching folks how to be safe around water.
Bobber is a big help with doing that.



Kids love Bobber! They often want to know
when Bobber's birthday is.



Believe it or not, we don't know the
exact date of Bobber's birthday.



You see, years ago I adopted Bobber
from the local animal shelter.

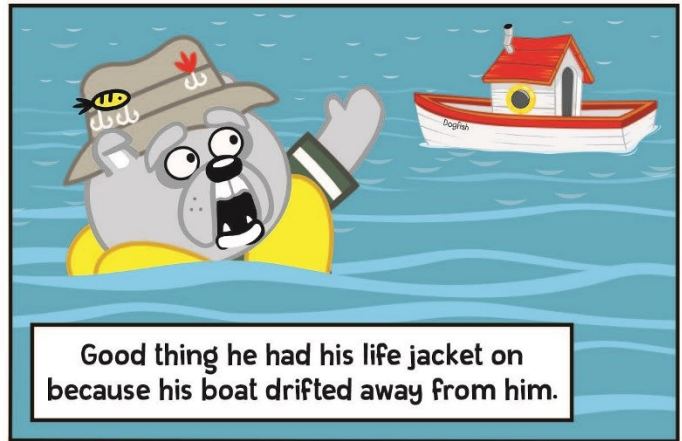


Even though Bobber wasn't a young pup,
I could see something special about that dog.

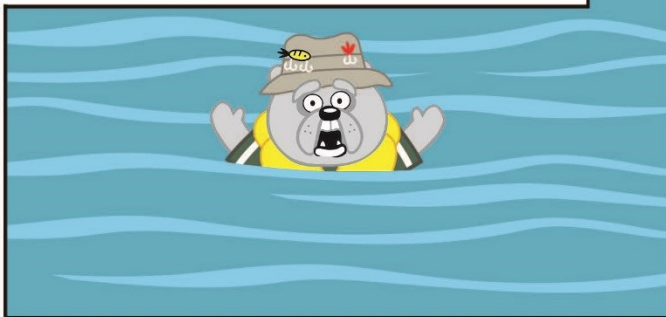


When you adopt a pet they're often called
a "rescue" pet. Bobber turned out to be a
rescue dog in more ways than one.

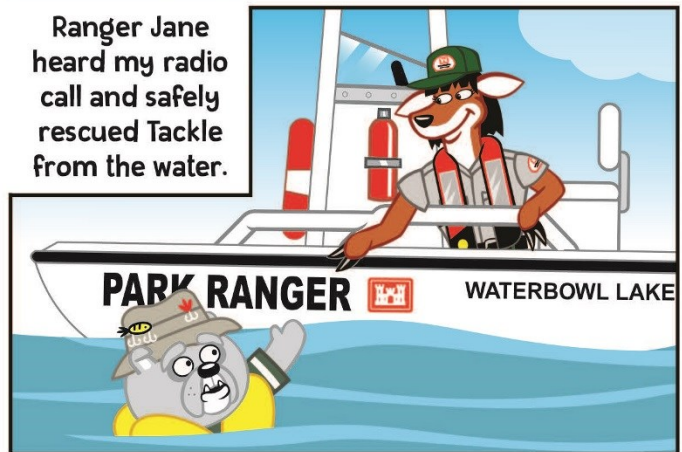
One day, Tackle was fishing on Waterbowl Lake and wouldn't you know it, he fell overboard!



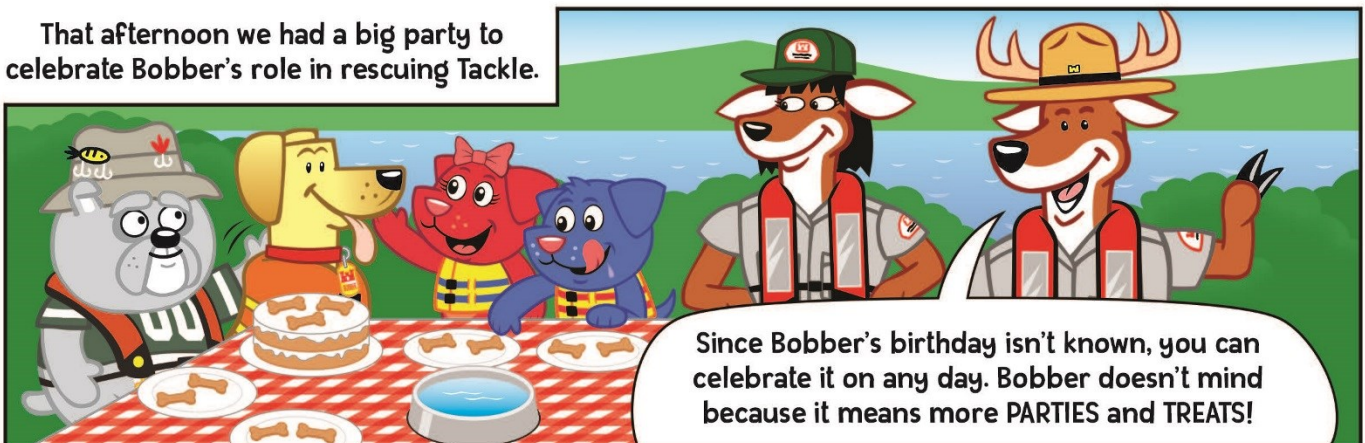
Now, he was in the water floating where other boaters might not be able to see him. That's not a safe place to be.



I looked in the direction Bobber was barking and, OH MY GOSH, someone was in trouble!



That afternoon we had a big party to celebrate Bobber's role in rescuing Tackle.



Farewell and Bon Voyage

by Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager

I have served as your National Water Safety Program Manager since 2012, and it has been an extreme pleasure of mine to do so. On May 31st of this year, I will be retiring. I started as a summer hire park ranger at Lake Shelbyville in the St. Louis District when I was in college. A year after graduating I was hired on as a GS-5 park ranger at Lake Shelbyville and worked my way up to become a GS-11 Lead Ranger.



Most people don't get to become what they wanted to be when they were a kid, but I did. When I was eight years old my mom asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up and I said a park ranger. I loved being a park ranger, all aspects of it. Whether it was doing timber inventory, prescribed burns, patrolling, trail maintenance, interpretive programs, special events, sign inventory, beach maintenance, or managing summer hires, volunteers, visitor center, and service contracts, you name it I loved it.



Then I became your National Water Safety Program Manager, and I loved it just as much as being a park ranger. The main reason I loved it is because I still got to work with park rangers, natural resources specialists, managers, etc. at the project level. Before becoming the National Water Safety Program Manager I served on the National Water Safety Committee in a few different roles – MVD Representative, Seamoor Safety Coordinator, and Special Events Coordinator. It was fun being part of a national committee and it was even better when I got to manage it. I cannot say enough about the current members of the National Water Safety Committee and everyone that has served on the committee since I've been managing it. All of them, and you know who you are, are amazing and have done and did an outstanding job serving on the committee. We got a lot of things done and had fun while doing it. Not everyone within USACE can say that, but we can.



Now that I've come to the end of my journey working for the USACE I look back and it's been a very good ride. Sure, there were days that weren't as good as others and I had to do things sometimes I didn't like doing, but the good far outweighed the bad. I did my best and I hope I served you well. I will miss working with all of you, but I know that the next chapter in my life will be just as exciting and fun.

Continue the good fight, never give up, and stay persistent in doing everything you can do to promote water safety because what you are doing is making a difference and saving lives. Take Care, Stay Safe, and Have Fun!!!



www.Bobber.info