



SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

# Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter

QUARTER 4 • PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2023



Photo: West Point Lake

## GOALS FOR WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Why participate in this quarterly newsletter?

- Showcase what your project or office is doing
- Share water safety programs & initiative ideas between projects and offices
- Provide a brief record of SAD water safety initiatives

## WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER TIMETABLE

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Dec. 25th

Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Mar. 25th

Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by June 25th

Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Sept. 25th

## "I GOT CAUGHT" CAMPAIGN

Keep up the great work catching adults wearing life jackets!



Photo: John H. Kerr Reservoir

## This Issue:

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Page 02

### JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

Page 03

### MOBILE DISTRICT

Page 04

### WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Page 06

### SAD FY23 Q3 AWARD WINNERS

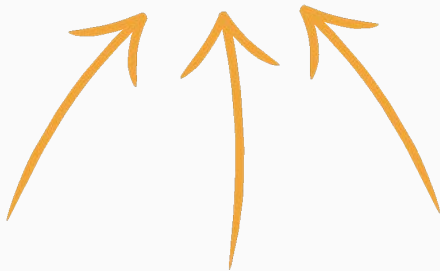
Page 07

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

## 2023 NATIONAL WATER SAFETY AWARDS NOMINATION REQUEST

Nominations must be submitted through District Operations Chiefs to their respective MSC for consideration. Division Operations Chiefs should submit one nomination for each award to Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager, NLT 08 December 2023.

**For the South Atlantic Division please submit your nomination(s) to your District Water Safety Representative NLT 27 November 2023.**



Things mentioned in the nomination packet can be new initiatives, events, policies, partnerships, etc. and ones that were implemented before 2023. If it was something implemented before 2023 mention when it was implemented and what was done in 2023 regarding it.

**Questions please contact your District Water Safety Representative.**

## SAD QUARTERLY AWARDS SCHEDULE

The SAD Water Safety PDT wants to recognize you for your outstanding efforts to educate the public on water safety, the environment, Corps mission, your project, and more!

- Awards program open to all employees within the Operations Community of Practice
- Recipients receive time off awards
- Nominations can be received from anyone (co-workers, supervisors, self-nominations)
- No effort is considered too small
- Can include - direct contacts, social media engagement numbers, EKO cards, and pictures

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Feb. 14th  
Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Apr. 28th  
Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by July 28th  
Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Nov. 30th

*Send nominations to your district representative on the SAD WS PDT!*

# JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

Photo: @JacksonvilleDistrict

## W.P. Franklin South Recreation Area

During the months of July and August, park rangers Megan Parsons and Jorge Leyro-Montalvo, and volunteer Jim Kirby, participated in the “I Got Caught” initiative. Through this initiative, we handed out beach towels purchased through The Corps Foundation, to 48 adults that were “caught” wearing their life jackets. In addition to these efforts, rangers and volunteers set up weekend water safety tables at the W.P. Franklin North and South boat ramps to speak to the public about water safety and the importance of wearing life jackets. We were very happy to speak with many great role model parents who not only had their children in life jackets but wore their own as well. During these two months, approximately 130 water safety contacts were made.



# MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

## Walter F. George Reservoir

The annual Labor Day Fair at the Old Russell County Courthouse in Russell County, AL was attended by Walter F. George Reservoir Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer and Volunteers, Kay Evans and Anna Bartel. This, along with other fairs, are the perfect opportunity to spread the water safety word and make our presence for a little Q&A with visitors. A total of 433 contacts were made at this fair through brochures, games, and giveaways.



From left to right, Park Rangers Evan Boatwright and Mason Whitlock from Walter F. George Reservoir and Chief Park Rangers Ben Williams and Susan Cromer from West Point Reservoir attend a career fair being held at Auburn University. On 21 SEP 2023, the four of them teamed up to make 70 contacts at the career fair booth that was set up to encourage and recruit future USACE employees. A wide array of careers can be gained through employment with the Corps of Engineers, from Biologists, Park Rangers, administrative, Hydropower employees, Engineers, Mechanics, Electricians, Managers/Supervisors, and so on. Career fairs are essential to gaining excellent employees across the country.



# MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

## West Point Lake



In July, Park Rangers Christine Dowell and Mike Linville gave two separate presentations at Troup County Sheriff's Academy for Youth camp in LaGrange, GA. Rangers Dowell and Linville taught kids about the duties and responsibilities of a USACE park ranger and the importance of water safety. Water safety messages included the importance of wearing a properly fitted lifejacket and the principles of "Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go". Approximately 50 water safety contacts were made.



On July 15, Park Ranger Christine Dowell and USACE volunteer Ellen Gue promoted water safety with a booth at the 6th Annual West Point Lake Dragon Boat Race at Pyne Road Park in LaGrange, GA. They gave out water safety items and brochures to both participants and spectators. About 100 water safety contacts were made.



On September 23, Ranger Christine Dowell and volunteer Tabby Robinson spray-painted water safety stencils at Holiday Campground and Whitetail Ridge Campground as part of West Point Lake's National Public Land's Day Event. A new stencil was added to the boat ramps, and old messages were also repainted. These stencils have been placed in visible spots to remind the public before they launch to wear their lifejacket while in the water.

# WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Photo: @PhilpottLake

## Falls Lake

At Falls Lake visitors do not always correctly choose the correct sized life jacket and/or return a life jacket to loaner station properly. So, Ranger David Schwartz made an effort to spend more time at the loaner stations, helping people put life jackets on correctly, provide water safety messaging, making positive contacts, etc. From July – September 2023, Ranger Schwartz made an effort to be at the life jacket loaner stations around Falls Lake at least 10 times for an hour or so, helping more than 164 people find a life jacket that fits them, advise them on how to put it on correctly, and provide positive water safety messaging to them. Everyone has appreciated the extra help, knowing they have the right size and it's put on correctly. One can only hope this extra time out at the loaner stations, engaging with the public, helping them be safe out in the water, has reduced or eliminated the dangers of swimming without a life jacket.

## John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir

Throughout the month of July Rangers Emily Jones and Cassie Cross conducted seven different environmental education programs at three different public libraries in Mecklenburg County, VA totaling over 120 contacts. Water safety messages were given in each of these programs.

Rangers Jerry Jarman and Tyler Amos participated in Chase City, VA National Night Out event on August 2nd, 2023. Rangers Jarman and Amos spoke to 219 people about water safety and the Corps mission while at the event.



Ranger Emily Jones in conjunction with VA Department of Wildlife Resources and Occoneechee State Park (VA) held a Scats and Tracks event at Occoneechee State Park. Ranger Jones brought a Critter Scene Investigation program, track and scat models, and had an animal track stamp activity for participants. A water safety message and giveaway items were also utilized.



# SAD FY23 Q3 AWARD WINNERS

## Q3 Education Award

**Rebecca Thomson, Falls Lake (SAW)**

Natural Resources Specialist Rebecca Thomson was nominated for her outstanding support of the education program at Falls Lake and around the Wilmington District. She went above and beyond during the 3rd quarter to provide environmental education opportunities to thousands of people by staffing booths at several large events, co-leading the high school wildlife station at the NC State Envirothon, and presenting a water safety program for a Boy Scout troop. In all, Rebecca made 5,157 direct environmental contacts.

## Q3 Water Safety Award

**Christine Dowell, West Point Lake (SAM)**

Park Ranger Christina Dowell is being recognized for her innovative work promoting water safety. In addition to the community outreach she performed in the 3rd quarter to educate children on water safety, she partnered with the City of LaGrange to develop water safety videos that have reached several thousand viewers via social media. Check out some of her work at the links below and feel free to share!

<https://www.facebook.com/lagrangegagov/videos/2519511621551440>

<https://www.facebook.com/lagrangegagov/videos/959879768663666>

## Q3 Water Safety Award Honorable Mention

**Will Daniel, John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir (SAW)**

Park Ranger Will Daniel is recognized for his remarkable dedication to outreach and for promoting water safety amongst all ages and groups that recreate at John H. Kerr. In Q3 of FY23, Will made over 550 direct, onsite roving water safety contacts while working in the parks. He also assisted with the “I Got Caught” campaign at Kerr and facilitated educational programs on many topics including water safety during campground programs making 90 direct contacts. Additionally, he participated in the HQ Corps Day promoting water safety, led a water safety station at a Boys and Girls Club event, outfitted youth with life jackets at a partner event, and co-led a station during a school field trip totaling 385 more water safety contacts.

# Congratulations