



South Atlantic Division

WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1 • Published January 2023



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

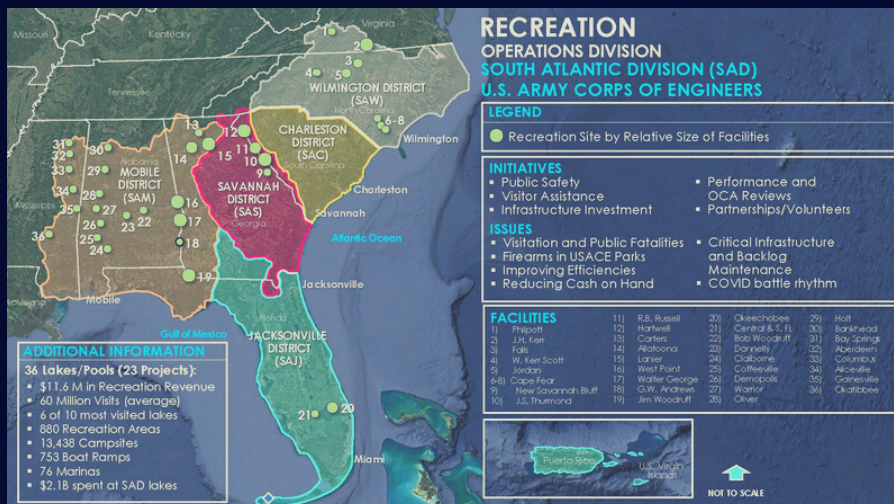
Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter Timetable

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



THIS ISSUE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

PAGE 02

CHARLESTON DISTRICT

PAGE 03

MOBILE DISTRICT

PAGE 04

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

PAGE 06

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Cold Water Fact:
Dress for water
temperature, not air
temperature



Water Safety Product Orders

Deadline: January 31, 2023

This is the only time you will be able to order water safety products to use from April 2023 through March 2024. Only one order form per office or project. Complete the required water safety product order form and email to SAD National Water Safety Committee Representative Emily Jones by the deadline. Product orders will be shipped around March 2023.

Water Safety Photo Contest

Deadline: January 31, 2023

This photo contest is open to all USACE employees and volunteers including PAO and ACE-IT employees. Photos submitted must have been taken in 2021 and/or 2022. Please read the contest guidelines at this link: <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/21Jun6-2021-2022-WS-PhotoGuidelines.pdf>

NRM Gateway Water Safety Program

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

**COLD WATER KILLS
ARE YOU NEXT?**

Cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex

Cold Water Shock - 1 Min
Cold Incapacitation - 10 mins
Hypothermia - 1 Hour

It takes less than 1/2 cup of water in your lungs to drown

Falls are involved in 19% of all water-related fatalities

US Army Corps of Engineers www.CorpsLakes.us/watersafety

Life Jackets Work... Nobody Drowns. PleaseWearIt.com

CHARLESTON DISTRICT (SAC)

Photo: @CharlestonCorps

Charleston District Office



On December 4, 2022, the Charleston District participated in the Charleston City Holiday Parade. The parade is an annual event that goes through the heart of downtown Charleston, South Carolina. SAC participated in the parade and used its Survey Vessel Heiselman as the float. Attendees included South Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Daniel Hibner, Charleston District Commander, Lt. Col. Drew Johannes, members of Lt. Col. Johannes's family, members of SAC and their families, and PAO staff. The stars of the parade were Bobber the Water Safety Dog and his friend Buddy the Beaver! During the 1.5-mile parade route, over 3,000 water safety frisbees were handed out by SAC to attendees. Other staff that did not participate in the parade but were in downtown Charleston later saw countless people with the frisbees walking through town. Those with the frisbees were not just children, but adults and pets as well. As one of the most public events the district does every year, the message of water safety was very prevalent. In addition to the frisbees, SAC staff and leadership wore lifejackets to further promote the message. The Charleston Holiday parade was attended by over 10,000 people, all getting to see the district promote water safety!



MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

West Point Lake

West Point Lake held its 43rd annual “Special Day for Special People” event on October 6, 2022. Groups of mentally and physically challenged individuals of all ages in the local community were invited to attend, along with several elderly groups. Volunteers with the Corps of Engineers, Publix Super Markets, Wild Animal Safari, Coca-Cola, the City of LaGrange, Alabama Forestry Commission, Highland Marina, and Southern Harbor Marina all offered their services and free time to make the event possible. Over 500 people attended the event.



On October 28, 2022, West Point Park Rangers participated in a “Trunk or Treat” event with Fairfax Elementary School in Valley, AL, promoting water safety and giving out candy to kids. Bobber the Water Safety dog also made an appearance. Approximately 600 kids received candy and water safety items from the West Point Staff.

West Point Park Rangers participated in the Greater Valley and LaGrange’s Christmas Parades with Bobber the Water Safety Dog and the patrol boat decorated in Christmas décor. At least 3000 people came out to the parades. Bobber even got some publicity from the Valley Times-News!



MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

Walter F. George Reservoir

Sr. fishing rodeo, held on 8 OCT 2022. This was our biannual fishing rodeo with prizes for seniors (62+). A total of 14 registered participants in the rodeo ranging in age from 64-86 attended. A total of 26 direct water safety contacts were made that day. The highlight of the event was community and fishing, with the longest fish caught being 2', 8 being the most fish caught, and 86 being the oldest person registered. Rangers Shannon Schaefer and Anthony Strickland hosted the event with 4 Volunteers.



National Peanut Festival, held from 4-12 NOV 2022. This is the annual county fair held the first 10 or so days of the month of November in Dothan, AL. Walter F. George Reservoir sets up a water safety and informational booth every year at this festival to answer questions and spread the water safety word. A total of 2,227 direct/offsite water safety/general safety/overall contacts were made at this event over a 10-day period. Hunting permits, dock permits, water safety, Volunteer work, campground information, among other topics were discussed with visitors to the booth. Almost all Rangers and Volunteers participated in manning the booth. Games were played with visitors to win water safety items and prizes.

Christmas parades (5 total) the first week of December 2022. The annual Headland, AL, Abbeville, AL, Eufaula, AL, Blakely, GA, and Fort Gaines, GA Christmas parades were attended by Walter F. George Reservoir Rangers, Volunteers, boat float, and Polaris. A total of 5 static/unique water safety messages were delivered to the parade-goers. WFG/USACE Reservoir even won the best in boat float for the Fort Gaines, GA parade.



WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Photo: @PhilpottLake

John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir

John H. Kerr Park RAngers participated in the Clarksville, VA Elemntary School Trunk-Or-treat with a recreation themed trunk where water safety materials were handed out to over 350 students and their families and friends.

Rangers participated in a career day at Warren County Middle school where water safety messages and materials were given to 200 students.

John H. Kerr Reservoir participated in the Clarksville, VA and South Hill, VA holiday parades during the first weekend of December.



Philpott Lake



October 18, 21, 25, and 26, we had the planting for our STIC program. At these planting events, park rangers here at Philpott led a water safety station that discussed fitting life jackets, how to use rescue devices, and the “reach, throw, row, but do not go” phrase and meaning. About 425 contacts were made during this.

November 14, we participated in a “touch-a-truck” event at Meadowview Elementary. All kids came through our station where we handed out water safety material and had a brief discussion about life jackets with every class. About 700 contacts were made.

December 4th we participated in the Rocky Mount Christmas parade. We handed out water safety items and wore the Bobber suit.