

# FALL 2022 WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES REPORT

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Prepared By:

Erica Nabers, MVD National Water  
Safety Team Representative

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

Thank you all for your support in taking on this new position as the Mississippi Valley Division National Water Safety Team Representative. If there is anything I can do to help you as far as water safety please do not hesitate to reach out. Just a little bit of background information about me, I am a GS-9 Natural Resource Specialist at the Lake Shelbyville Project located in Central Illinois within the St. Louis District. I have been with the USACE since May 2018. Water safety is, by far, my favorite topic to spread among our visitors.

- Erica Nabers, MVD National Water Safety Representative

## National Water Safety Product Orders

The National Water Safety Products are designed to support your water safety activities and to encourage your continued participation in water safety through interpretive programs, special events, educational materials, public service announcements, and other initiatives. This will be the only time that you will be able to order products to use from April 2023 to March 2024 so plan accordingly. Lake and River Project Offices and District and Division Safety, Public Affairs, and Operations Offices can submit an order. Only one order can be submitted per project or office. Orders will be accepted until 31 January 2023 and the products will be shipped out in February/March 2023. The orders will be processed on a first-come first-serve basis, so get your order in as soon as you can to help ensure you get the products you need and THANK YOU for all that you do to promote water safety!

## National Water Safety Photo Contest

The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest is underway! This is an opportunity to showcase YOUR photographs and talent. Winning photographers will receive items that can be used to promote water safety. 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 or 2022 at a Corps of Engineers project or off-site at an event/program involving the Corps of Engineers.

Guidelines are on the NRM Gateway.

## NRM Gateway Water Safety Program Page

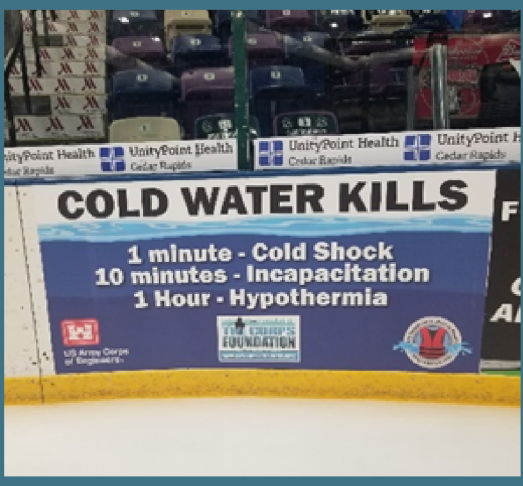
Don't forget to utilize the Water Safety Program page on the NRM Gateway for product designs, social media posts, & more.

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

# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Coralville Lake

New sponsorship with Cedar Rapids RoughRiders hockey team. We'll be sponsoring a game on Dec.16th and they've put up a WS banner for the whole year promoting cold water safety. At the game, we will host a WS booth, Bobber will help hand out free swag and ride on the Zamboni!



We ordered our life jacket replacements for the FY23 season and already have them numbered and stored.



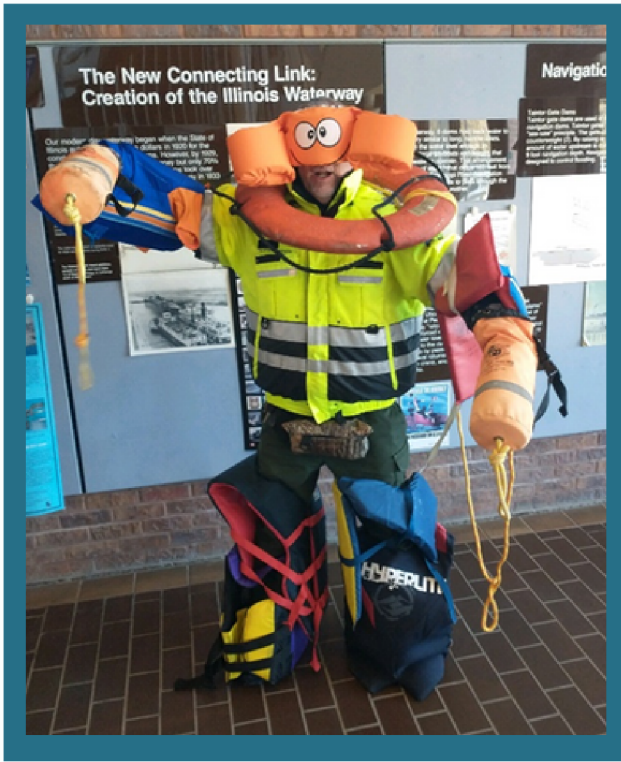
Bobber wore his spookiest attire and attended the Halloween Haunted Trail hosted by Friends of Coralville Lake in the West Overlook Day Use Area. Even with a two-year gap, event attendance was 1,230!



# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Illinois Waterway Project

- Delivery of water safety giveaways to two businesses
- Delivery of 108 Every Kid Outdoor park passes, with Bobber Water Safety booklets and other water safety giveaways to fourth-grade students in five schools in October and November.
- Nov 15, Homeschool program incorporating water safety topics.
- Submission for Water Safety employee photograph contest



## Mississippi River Office

Thomson Causeway Recreation Area hosted the return of Trick-or-Treat in the park event held on October 15th. Families were able to trick or treat at participating campsites all throughout the park. Park Rangers also staffed a booth where candy, bags, and other water safety goodies were handed out. Over 300 people attended.



Eleven Locks and Dam tours were given this fall which reached 203 people. During these tours, participants receive boating safety tips and instructions on how to properly lock through.



Mississippi River Project staff and volunteers participated in Boo on the Rock which is an indoor Trick or Treating event held on the Rock Island Arsenal. During the event candy and water safety goodies were handed out to trick-or-treaters stopping by the booth. Approximately 400 people attended.

# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Lake Red Rock Project

On 6 October, USACE staff hosted a booth at the Central College Internship Fair to recruit potential applicants for next summer's seasonal ranger positions. Water safety items were distributed to participants as well as information about the lake. Lynn Gibson, the new Workforce Initiatives Partner for the district, assisted staff with the event.



To incorporate a water safety message during the holiday season, interpretive staff set up a tree in the visitor center decorated with key chains, pens, Bobber ornaments, and other related items. Visitors are invited to take an ornament home with them.



Lake Red Rock purchased ad space in the Pella Travel Guide and the Marion County Travel Guide for the 2023 season to share a water safety message with potential lake visitors. A graphic artist working for the National Water Safety Program assisted with customizing the ads in the sizes needed.

While many fair-weather boaters finish their season around Labor Day, there are still many fishermen that use the lake during the fall months. To ensure off-season boaters still have access to life jackets, the PFDs at Corps managed boat ramp loaner stations remained available until the courtesy docks were removed for the season. A local volunteer who assisted with the loaner stations' weekly inventory and inspection during the summer continued to check them throughout the cooler months until the jackets were removed from service.

Many off-season boaters are men that fit the demographic age of the most common drowning victims (men aged 18-54, in smaller watercraft, boating alone).



+ TEAMING UP WITH SAYLORVILLE LAKE



# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Saylorville Lake

In September Saylorville Lake and Lake Red Rock teamed up to share a booth at an Iowa Cubs Game. Our partnership with the Iowa Cubs allows us to get out a water safety message with Bobber throwing the first pitch, an outfield water safety sign, as well as allowing us to distribute water safety items before the game. This is a great opportunity to spread our water safety message, and we contacted around 300 people at the booth itself. There was also a water safety message read over the stadium speakers as Bobber threw the first pitch, giving a reminder about the importance of life jackets and being safe on or near water.

## Glow Wild at Jester Park



Park Rangers attended Glow Wild at Jester Park on September 24th where about 625 contacts were made for water safety. A booth was set up with life jackets to demonstrate different kinds and sizes of life jackets and their importance, and water safety promotional items. This event is hosted by Polk County Conservation and is a family-friendly event for all ages and gets people involved with various agencies from around the Metro area.

On October 22nd Rangers led a water safety lesson for 50 girl scouts at Camp Sacajawea in Boone, IA. At this event Rangers led three lessons, where they were taught about life jacket fittings and the importance of wearing a life jacket, cold water safety, and “reach, throw, row, don’t go”. The children got to try on different sizes of life jackets, participate in “Cold Hand Luke” and work on how to help someone who may be drowning and the steps to take.

On October 17th rangers participated in the first annual City of Des Moines Trunk or Treat event. This was a great way for us to get involved with the youth in our community and spread our water safety message. We made 300 contacts as children and families made rounds to each vehicle. Rangers decorated a patrol vehicle with a water safety theme and had life jackets, throw rings, and throw bags to demonstrate water safety. Stickers and “life savers” candies were given out.



On October 8th Rangers attended the Polk County Sheriff's Office Candy Crawl. Rangers took the patrol boat to this event and spread a water safety message to trick-or-treaters. This event had other agencies attend as well that spread safety messages as well as activities and demonstrations for all ages. This event was very successful with around 1,000 contacts being made.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Mark Twain Lake

Indian Creek Halloween Walk – handed out over 6,000 items of water safety goodies to participants. The water safety baggies work tremendously for this effort as they utilize them as trick-or-treat bags.



The Admiral Coontz building in Hannibal hosted a career fair for local students. Mark Twain Lake staff provided a booth with career information and an interactive water safety initiative with a 5-gallon container of ice water and a bolt and nut they need to find at the bottom of the container. This effort shows students the effects of cold water as they try to spin the nut onto the shackle.

Girl Scout Round Up in Troy, MO. Mark Twain Lake held a booth with water safety goodies. An interactive game was also presented as participants would try to throw a ring buoy onto a cone, showing how difficult it may be if they do not already have a life jacket on.



Monroe City Truck Rally. Mark Twain Lake provided our dump truck with the large water safety decal for the event. A booth was also present with water safety goodies for students.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Carlyle Lake

Promoted water safety with a haunted display on the Carlyle Lake Haunted Trail, where over 1,500 brave souls traversed the trail on 21 and 22 October.



Promoted water safety while hunting by displaying an ad in the 2022 Breese Journal Hunting Guide.

Changed out summer water safety billboards with winter water safety messages that relate to hypothermia and unsafe lake ice.

Posted various fall and winter water safety messages on a digital reader board located on Highway 127.

**COLD WATER FACT:**



**WEARING A PFD  
SIGNIFICANTLY  
INCREASES**

**CHANCES OF SURVIVAL**



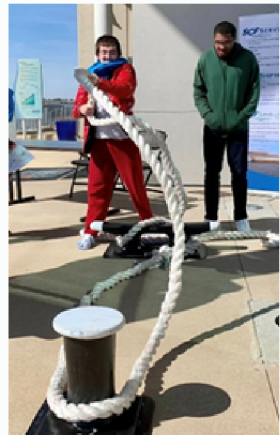
# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

105th Annual Alton Halloween Parade in downtown Alton, Illinois. The staff and volunteers promoted water safety via a skeleton-riden patrol boat highlighting important messages to consider while recreating out on the water. The event attracted nearly 25,000 and served as the largest water safety contact opportunity for the Rivers Project to date. In addition to the float, park rangers gave out glow-in-the-dark frisbees printed with 'Look your best, wear a life vest!' and earned the title of 2nd Place in the Organizations category for their efforts.



Lewis and Clark Community College welcomed the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) 20th Annual Water Festival on September 30, 2022, in Godfrey, Illinois. The event connects elementary school students to water, their local environment, and organizations that help conserve the environment. Nine regional schools were in attendance and rotated through various interactive booths including the Rivers Project water safety relay. 250 students were introduced to multiple practices needed to ensure a safe trip out on the water.



River Works Discovery the NGRM hosted Who Works the River - a free career education event. At this event, 250 students participated in a mini career fair and met with representatives from the maritime industry and related fields to become more informed about careers on America's rivers. Water safety practices are an integral part of working at most of these companies and were mentioned at various stations.

## PADDLE YOUR PARKS

Fourth-grade students from Meramec Valley School participated in the "Every Kid Outdoor, Paddle Your Park" event on October 6, 2022. A program sponsored by the National Park Service.

200+ students traveled to the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Missouri, where they learned about fishing, water safety, the water cycle, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and bird watching. While there, they even got to experience canoeing in Ellis Bay.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Lake Shelbyville

17 students from Shelbyville High School's Natural Resources Class experienced "Paddling 101" with Lake Shelbyville Park Rangers. The students had been taking an online Boating Safety Course in class to prepare for this 3-mile kayak trail on the upper Kaskaskia River.

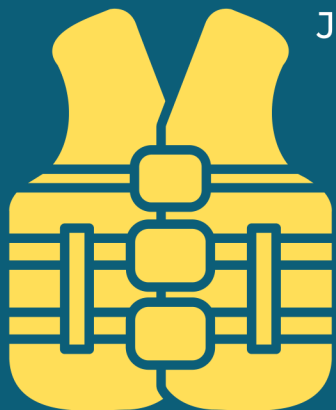


WAND news station that broadcasts throughout central Illinois from Decatur, IL visited Lake Shelbyville to highlight the water trail and to discuss water safety. Lake Shelbyville Park Rangers were interviewed to discuss visitor opportunities at the lake and the importance of wearing a life jacket. The interview was aired on WAND several weeks later.



Lake Shelbyville created multiple water safety ads to be displayed at the Roxy Movie Theater in Shelbyville, IL to play before each movie starts. Each month highlights a different water safety tip.

Lake Shelbyville received two shipments of life jackets from the Sea Tow Foundation's Life Jacket Loaner Program, totaling 48 new life jackets.



Lake Shelbyville Park Rangers were invited to Clark County Conservation Day to talk with 5th graders from several schools about the importance of water safety and how to find the best-fitting life jacket. Throughout the day, Park Rangers made just over 100 contacts.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Wappapello Lake

Greenville Jack O' Lantern Jubilee - This annual event was held at the Greenville Campground. It was done in partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wappapello Lake Area Association, MU extension 4-H Club, Volunteers, and Campers. Visitors were allowed to walk through the campground while dressed in their Halloween attire. Campers decorated their campsites and provided candy and other treats for the attendees. The Corps of Engineers staffed a booth each evening of the event and disseminated water safety giveaways and information. 3,815 contacts were reached.

Home Depot Safety Day - This event took place at the Home Depot Facility in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The Corps of Engineers was one of several agencies that participated. Wappapello Lake's booth was staffed by Natural Resources Specialist Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson and his son Adam Jefferson (volunteer). They provided information about Wappapello Lake, water safety, and animal habitat. They made direct contact with 306 people.



30th Annual Festival of Lights - This is the 30th Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour. It is held in the Redman Creek Campground East. It is open to businesses, organizations, agencies, groups, and individuals to help usher in the holiday season by decorating a designated campsite. It also serves as a great opportunity for participants to receive free advertisement for the duration of the event. Monetary donations are received by the Wappapello Lake Area Association (WLAA) and utilized for other interpretive programs, Fireworks, and this event. It is done in partnership with WLAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Radio Station KWOC. Last year 30,100 folks attended.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Rend Lake

Participated in the annual Trick or Treat the Campgrounds at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park on October 8. The USACE team set up a table with Bobber books, Bobber tattoos and stickers, and other water safety incentives making 672 contacts. We also allowed participants to get pictures in the Park Ranger truck. It was estimated that ~3,000 people attended the event.



The USACE ISOP team hosted "Trick or Treat the Visitor Center" on October 28 and welcomed 1536 visitors. Visitors played water safety and Halloween-themed games, met snakes, and took a glow-in-the-dark stroll through the Exhibit Hall to find water safety treasures.



The Rend Lake USACE Facebook page promoted water safety with 4 water-safety related posts that made 82 contacts. & Promoted water safety during a recorded interview with Al Crocker that will air on 24 different radio stations.



**The ultimate gift to show you care!**



Attended community events to promote water safety and recreation at Rend Lake. The ISOP team attended Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge's 75th anniversary on October 8 making 107 contacts. The ISOP team also partnered with the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council to set up a booth at the Southern Illinois Made Expo making 170 contacts on October 15 and 16.





# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## Louisiana Field Office Ouachita - Black Rivers

Natural Resource Specialists, Ben Nyegaard, Jesse Wisterman, and David May spoke to the public at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge for National Hunting and Fishing Day (750 contacts). Nyegaard, Wisterman, and May educated the public on water safety, wildlife, and COE missions. This is an annual event that is put on by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

## Red River

Natural Resource Specialists, Sarah Nix, Jesse Wisterman, Chip Wells, and David May spoke to local 5th-grade classes at Grand Ecore Visitor Center for Forestry Awareness Week (302 contacts). The Natural Resource Specialists educated the youth on water safety, cultural resources, and COE missions. This is an annual event that is put on by RoyOMartin Timber Company, U.S. Forest Service, and USACE.



## Bayou Bodcau

Natural Resource Specialists, Tim Champion, Steven Tuggle, Sarah Nix, Jacob Osborne, Chip Wells, and Ken Crawford spoke to the public at Bayou Bodcau Dam & Reservoir for National Hunting and Fishing Day (1500 contacts). The Natural Resource Specialists educated the public on water safety, wildlife, and COE missions. This is an annual event that is put on by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and USACE.

# NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (MVN)

## Atchafalaya Basin

Two Boy Scout camp leaders in kayaks became stranded in dense mats of water hyacinth and were rescued by Park Manager Steve Stone and NRS Ranger Joseph Ogden.

- Swamp Base Boy Scout camp is conducted annually within the Atchafalaya Basin during June. Boy scouts travel in pairs in canoes, while the leaders follow in kayaks on the Indian Bayou canoe trail.
- The scouts were able to paddle thru the hyacinth blockage, but the single kayakers became stranded. The temperature was approaching 100 degrees and the kayakers ran out of drinking water.
- Park rangers were contacted by cell phone at the end of the day and responded with a surface drive vessel and bottled water.



### Key Takeaways:



Heat stroke was imminent and the quick response saved lives.



Life jackets allowed the kayakers to jump overboard in alligator-infested waters to prevent heat stroke.



A park ranger office is desperately needed on project lands to improve public safety and response time.

