



MVD WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES SPRING 2022 REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVD Public Fatalities

As of 30 June, MVD has had 10 public fatalities for FY22, this is more than all of FY21 (9) and we still have a lot of the recreation season to go, including July which is typically the deadliest month.

I know each and everyone of you does an outstanding job promoting water safety. Please know that I am here to help in any way I can. If you or your project needs any ideas, products, or help in general let me know.

There are also resources available on the NRM Gateway including the Strategic Plan for Reducing Public Recreation Fatalities, the Water Safety Resource Guide, and the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign Resource Guide. These all have lots of strategies/ideas to help promote water safety.

-Amanda Kruse, MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

Adult "I Got Caught" Campaign

MVD had many projects that took advantage of the adult "I Got Caught" Campaign sponsored by the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (Corps Foundation). They purchased Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns dry bags and vehicle windshield sunshades utilizing U.S. Coast Guard grant funds and partnered with the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety to distribute them out to USACE lake and river project offices with an "I Got Caught" campaign. If you still have beach towels please continue to incorporate them into your "I Got Caught" initiative by providing them to adults you catch wearing life jackets. Don't forget to send Pam Doty pictures of those you catch!

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 at the link below.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/21Jun6-2021-2022-WS-PhotoGuidelines.pdf>

ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

The St. Paul Districted participated in the St. Paul Patrick's Day Parade including Bobber the Water Safety Dog decked out in his Irish gear making sure parade watchers knew that you can't rely on luck to stay safe around the water!



Blackhawk

Miss. River Rangers from Blackhawk Park attended USFWS event based out of Winona, MN and rode on the Cal Fremling Boat with 44 youth from Rushford, MN Schools on May 27th. The Cal Fremling Interpretive Center & Floating Classroom is a



state-of-the-art vessel dedicated to creating a greater understanding of the broad multi-faceted nature of the Mississippi River. While aboard, Rangers discussed the importance of life jackets being worn and other water safety related items.

Cross Lake



On June 16, Park Ranger Nicole Baker and Bobber the Water Safety Dog visited Staples School to share water safety messaging to 60 4th - 8th graders and their teachers. Ranger Baker and Bobber introduced the Wear-It steps, emphasizing the importance of the final step to wear their life jackets. Students were split into two groups, each receiving a half hour of water safety fun ending with a life jacket relay race and a high-five from Bobber.

Eau Galle

Eau Galle hosted and participated in the Summer Reading Kick Off Event on June 4. The event is in partnership with the Spring Valley, WI Library and helps kick off the Summer Reading Program. The party included a sand castle building contest, free boat rides, ice cream, and a special appearance by Bobber the Water Safety Dog! Rangers also had the water safety boat out teaching kids how to properly wear a life jacket and boating safety. In all, Rangers spoke to over 40 contacts and helped make the kick off a fun and successful event!



Stay Safe In, On, and Near Open Water This

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND



With These Simple Tips:

- ✓ Wear a Properly-Fitted Life Jacket
- ✓ Encourage Others to Wear Life Jackets
- ✓ Boat with Consideration for Others
- ✓ Swim and Boat with a Buddy



The National Water Safety Team has created graphics for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. These graphics are posted the Friday before the holiday weekend on the Please Wear It social media pages.

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Coralville Lake



Park Rangers provided 4 water safety presentations at different schools with approximately 300 direct contacts. Students learned how to select a properly fitting life jacket with live demonstrations and also learned how life rings/throw bags work.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog made his rounds through the campgrounds promoting water safety and always remembering to wear your life jacket. He saw about 150 campers.



Coralville loaned out 35 life jackets to the Iowa City Park and Recreation for use during their water program days. They heard about the loaner stations and asked if we could help their students out. They will be borrowing them for four different classes throughout the summer.

Coralville hosted a fishing derby during free fishing weekend that saw about 25 families coming out to enjoy the day. Park Rangers provided poles, bait and tackle. The ponding location was stocked with fish from our rearing ponds before the event to ensure a good fishing morning.



Illinois Waterway Project

Rangers participated in numerous water safety events including: Farm Safety Day (250 contacts), Lock 14 Fishing Derby (250 contacts) , National Trails Day (50 contacts).



Park Ranger Todd Ernenputsch participated in a multi-agency maritime training exercise with other agencies, including the The Fon du Lac Park District Police Marine Law Enforcement Unit, the Illinois State Police, and the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office. Crews were testing response capabilities to scenarios like pulling a sunken boat out of the water, sonar operations and rescue and recovery missions.

Safe boating classes were presented in May (18 participants) and June (27 participants). A promotional flyer and press release were developed and disseminated via email and website.

2022 Boater Safety Classes Offered At Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

- May 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Jun. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Don't miss one of the free IDNR-approved boater safety classes.
Only one 8-hour class is required to complete your certification. Anyone over the age of 12 can be certified. Students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Did You Know... Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1996, who intends to operate a vessel in Illinois powered by a motor of 10 horsepower or more, needs to complete a boater safety class.

This class is recommended for:

- New boaters.
- Families that enjoy boating adventures, or
- Seasoned boaters who would like to brush up on their knowledge.

Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Class materials will be provided.

Contact the Park Rangers at 815-667-4664 to register.

Illinois Waterway Visitor Center
101 Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

950 N. 27th Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-667-4664



In May, nearly 100 fourth graders from North West Elementary School in LaSalle, IL participated in water safety activities to receive their Junior Ranger patch and certificate.

Mississippi River Project

Mississippi River Project Park Rangers and volunteers presented programs and water safety messages during education cruises for area students on the Celebration Belle. The Celebration Belle is a paddle wheel excursion boat based out of Moline, IL. Students get to see the sights and sounds of



the river on their way down to Locks and Dam 15. On their way back up they learn about changes to the river the Corps has made and the different crew members it takes to operate a steamboat historically or a towboat of today. The Corps helped with three different cruises in which 378 students attended.



Armed Forces Day took place on May 21 at Memorial Park on the Rock Island Arsenal. The Corps had a water safety booth and handed out giveaways. Many other family friendly activities were happening throughout the day including several running races. Bobber joined in the Mascot race and got third place! Despite the rainy weather, around three hundred people attended the event.



Many project staff were able to participate in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day, including some the districts smallest family members (10 weeks old) who visited to show off their life jackets! Photos were sent in to be posted on the Rock Island District's Facebook page.



The Mississippi River Project hosted three public boating safety classes at the project office in Pleasant Valley, IA. The Corps partners with Illinois Department of Natural Resources so that all participants who successfully pass the class are presented with an Illinois Safe Boating card. The class goes over a wide range of boating topics including: parts of your boat, trailering, safe operation, required safety equipment and how to boat through a lock. Forty-three people attended and passed these classes.

Saylorville Lake



Polk County Sheriff's Office hosted "Safety Village" in Bondurant on 4 May. Over ten different agencies, including USACE Saylorville Lake, provided safety tips "because it takes a village to keep us all safe." Ranger Aalbers and Bobber provided water safety and life jacket tips and swag to approximately 1000 visitors. The event was in conjunction with the farmer's market, which resulted in significantly higher attendance than last year.

Park Rangers attended the Iowa Children's Water Festival on 12 May to educate 1500 5th graders on water safety at the Des Moines Area Community College. Rangers focused their programs on cold water safety and the importance of wearing life jackets. Reaching children at an early age is critical for the success of the water safety program.



During National EMS Week, Saylorville Lake Rangers and Bobber the Water Safety Dog attended 2 open house events at a local fire department to share water safety information and build partner relationships. Ankeny Fire department's first evening open house was for those with special needs. Ranger Emma Aalbers, developed a post-card type information sheet with accessible life jacket information that better suit those with special needs. This first evening brought about 300 attendees. The second evening open house was open to anyone with approximately 1200 attendees.

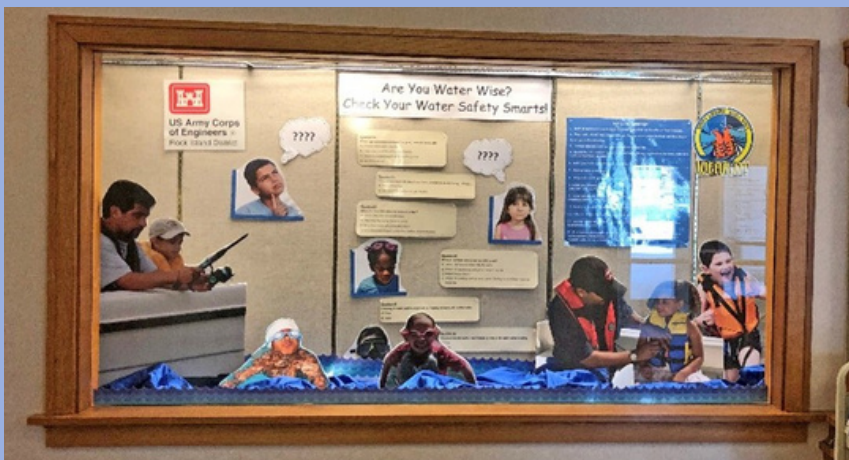


Saylorville Lake continued



On June 11th, Bobber the Water Safety Dog, volunteers, and a park ranger attended the 2nd Annual Fishing with the Fuzz to help get kids hooked on fishing. Over 100 kids and their families joined the Des Moines Police Department, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Polk County Conservation, USACE Saylorville Lake, the Des Moines Fire Department and other area law enforcement at Easter Lake Park. We provided fishing 101, water safety tips and loaner life jackets for families while they attended the event. Several participants walked away with great raffle prizes including skateboards, pools, tents, life jackets, and nights of camping. This was a great event to allow a positive interaction between the public and law enforcement agencies.

Lake Red Rock



Rangers installed a water safety display at the Pella Public Library's entryway kiosk. The display was in place during the month of April.

New throw ring stations were installed at the four Corps-managed boat ramps



Lake Red Rock continued



Rangers presented 11 water safety programs to approximately 340 5th-6th graders during the three days of the “Outdoor Days” event and provided six water safety programs for approximately 120 kindergarteners during Marion County Days event in Knoxville.

Two billboards were on display along two sections of roadways (State Highway 163 and State Highway 92) providing water safety messages for visitors passing by the lake area.



Lake Red Rock partnered with US Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer Vessel Safety Checks at the Whitebreast Boat Ramp During National Safe Boating Week.



Looking for graphics? Many designs are available under the Water Safety Graphics Library on the NRM Gateway.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

This spring, the Carlyle Lake Project conducted educational water safety presentations to local high schools within the region. Park Rangers presented Water Safety Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) to three schools reaching a total of 635 students. Water Safety CSI is a program designed to introduce at-risk youth to the dangers of water-related recreation through interactive stations. In support of the presentations, Excel Bottling Company donated Ski t-shirts and stickers to be given to students who participated during presentations.



The Carlyle Lake Project recorded water safety-themed public service announcements at six local radio stations within the region. Two Carlyle stations, WCXO and WDLJ, also welcomed park rangers for live broadcasts throughout the summer to discuss water safety, upcoming events, and updates. WDLJ even participated with park rangers to celebrate Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day.



New marquee reader boards were installed in Dam West, Coles Creek, Boulder, and McNair campgrounds. Each board displays current events and safety messages for anyone entering the campground. A water safety message is permanently displayed on the back of each board so those exiting the campground are reminded to wear a life jacket.

Each summer, Carlyle Lake awards individuals "caught" wearing a life jacket. In partnership with the Carlyle Dairy Queen, rangers give visitors wearing life jackets free ice cream coupons every weekend throughout the recreation season. Since Memorial Day weekend, 300 coupons have been issued to visitors.

Carlyle Lake continued

Since 2012, the Carlyle Lake Project has presented the “I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket at Carlyle Lake” Campaign to the public as a way to incentivize those wearing life jackets while recreating. This year, 31 local businesses committed to supporting the 2022 campaign. Over 50 t-shirts have been awarded since Memorial Day weekend with many more weekends to go!



Carlyle Lake Rangers participated in the annual Carlyle Street Fair in Carlyle, Illinois. This event is a family-friendly affair in which members of the community come out to enjoy food, crafts, and educational booths as a kickoff to summer. Park rangers facilitated an information and water safety activity booth for the two-day event reaching 200 contacts.

Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum

In partnership with the St. Louis District office and lake projects, Rivers Project Rangers assisted with the USACE informational booth and water safety tabling effort on 1-2 April 2022 at the Gateway Outdoors EXPO in downtown St. Louis. Rangers assisted in the promotion of St. Louis district recreational areas, activities, USACE messaging, and water safety reaching approximately 1,500 individuals throughout the course of the weekend.



Rivers Project Office / National Great Rivers Museum continued

Despite severe weather, the NGRM held the first annual outdoor recreation and safety festival, REC Fest, on 21 May 2022 reaching over 400 individuals. REC Fest was planned in order to prepare visitors for the upcoming summer recreation season and coincided with National Kids to Parks Day and the start of National Safe Boating Week. Activities included booths promoting outdoor safety, regional recreation providers, wildlife education, life jacket fittings, and more.



In celebration of the holiday weekend, the NGRM held a water safety scavenger hunt engaging over 60 children and their family members. Visitors could explore the museum on a hunt to find a variety of water and sun safety related items hidden throughout the exhibits. Scavenger hunts were then exchanged for water safety goody-bags.

On 4 June 2022 the Rivers Project hosted Paddle Festival 22 at the RMBS in partnership with the Mississippi River Water Trail Association and the Audubon Center at Riverlands. This festival was the most successful to date, with all 175 timed entry tickets being reserved before the event. Park Rangers provided onshore assistance with life jacket fittings and supervision while visitors were able to kayak, paddleboard, and canoe the backwaters of Ellis Bay. Onshore, partners promoted safety activities, games, outfitting vendors, and more.



The Rivers Project and Illinois Department of Natural Resources celebrated the return of the 33rd Annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park on 11 June 2022. Rivers operated two educational booths – Environmental Stewardship and Water Safety. This annual event provides families an introduction to all things fishing and outdoor recreation. Approximately 4,000 attended the festival, the Rivers Project booths engaged directly with over 800 children.





Lake Shelbyville

Everything Lake Shelbyville was discussed including water safety during WEIU-TV's half hour show "Take a Hike." The show took viewers outside to Lake Shelbyville in Central Illinois. Where they learned all about Lake Shelbyville's history, recreation, and water safety. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy7T6XILgul&list=PL9CXT6I6PY03INcJixjYpT5Pira64CS1b&index=4>

On May 4th Shelbyville Main Street School brought 425, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students to Lake Shelbyville. 1st graders focused on water safety, 2nd grade students learned about geocaching, map making, hiking, art in the park and building primitive shelters, and 3rd grade students learned about camping, campfire cooking, fishing and finished building a fish cube. This event was part of the schools "the Great Outdoors" unit taught in P.E.



The Lake Shelbyville Kids Fishing Tournament was held on June 4th - 95 kids ages 0-12 participated in the event. Prizes were awarded for Big Fish, Smallest Fish and Most Fish. All participants were given a water safety talk and were required to wear a life jacket.

Lake Shelbyville teamed up with nine partners to promote wearing life jackets by rewarding children and adults "caught" wearing their life jackets during the swimming and boating season. Shelbyville also received beach towels and dry bags to pass out to ADULTS caught wearing their life jackets.



Park Rangers shared water safety information to approximately 800 4th and 5th graders at the Shelby County Safety Day and Shelby County Conservation Day. Students learned how to properly fit a life jacket fit, what drowning looks like, beach rules, and what to do if someone is drowning. Lake Shelbyville has been sharing water safety during this event for a number of years and it was great to see the kids after the last year two were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Rend Lake

Rend Lake partnered with the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council and Scholastic 3-D Archery to provide water safety messaging and water safety items for 350 bags to be given to the first 350 scholastic archers registered for the National Tournament held for the first time at Rend Lake on June 16-19, 2022.



As part of Rend Lake's 50th Anniversary, Park Rangers Breanna Whitely and Sarah Darnell participated in the Christopher, IL Annual Homecoming Event. Near the children's area and along the parade route, they set up a table to provide water safety information, a photo opportunity, and water safety relay.

Rend Lake has partnered with the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council to do two radio interviews on the ESPN Chicago Radio's "Chauncey's Great Outdoors". The first interview included fishing information, lake information, and the importance of wearing a life jacket while in, on, or near the water.



After a two year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Annual Rend Lake Beach Blast returned to the lake on June 10. During the event, families were treated to music, games, and tours of local EMS equipment. Visitors participated in water safety games every half hour and learned about hypothermia; the importance of a properly fitted life jacket; how to safely save someone drowning; how to use lifesaving equipment; and all while having fun. The event also included a special visit from Bobber the Water Safety Dog who taught the kids some new dance moves. Abbott EMS Ambulance, Sesser Fire, and Air-Evac partnered with Rend Lake to provide an ambulance, a fire truck, and air-ambulance helicopter for the visitors to view and explore. Several teams also showed their water safety knowledge by designing a water safety sand sculpture. The event was well received by 500 participants.



Wappapello Lake



Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson was interviewed by local television station, KFVS, about water safety and provided tips on how to stay safe at the lake during the busy Memorial Day Weekend.

The Wappapello Lake team has taken full advantage of the Corps Foundation's adult "I Got Caught" campaign and have caught numerous visitors wearing their life jacket while visiting Wappapello Lake.

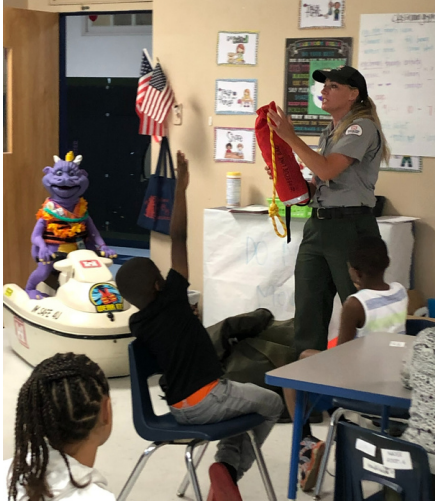


VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

Enid Lake

June 2, Natural Resources Specialists Mikki Hoff and Kyle Tedford, along with






Seamoor the Water Safety Serpent presented a water safety talk to four class at Batesville Intermediate School. Natural Resources Specialists Kyle Tedford and Will Coleman also manned a water safety/ information table at Bass Pro Shops Memphis during “The Great Outdoors” week.



Boat Patrol has been giving out frisbees, facemasks, and dry bags (donated by the Corps Foundation) to boaters caught wearing their P.F.D.s and being safe on the water.

Rangers have also been giving out fishing rulers, displaying a safety message, to fishermen caught wearing their P.F.D.s and being safe on the water. Additionally, Rangers have been performing courtesy boat inspections and giving out vehicle sunshades to those meet all safety requirements.

Lake Greeson

-  **I Got Caught Campaign began Memorial Weekend and will run through Labor Day**
-  **PFD Boat Inspections: Memorial Weekend – 24 boats, approximately 144 people**
-  **Beach Demonstrations: Memorial Weekend – 6 demonstrations, approximately 98 people**
-  **Family Water Safety Program 28 May 2022 – 50 people**
-  **Rotary Club – 8 June, 9 people**

Lake Ouachita



Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialist, Amy Shultz, presented a Corps environmental and water safety program to a group of 20 adults for Leadership Hot Springs at Garvin Garden's.

Natural Resource Specialist Amy Shultz and Pathways student, Matthew Gunner Gilbert (AKA Bobber the Water Safety Dog) presented a water safety program for 80 Pre-K students at Langston Primary School, Hot Springs.



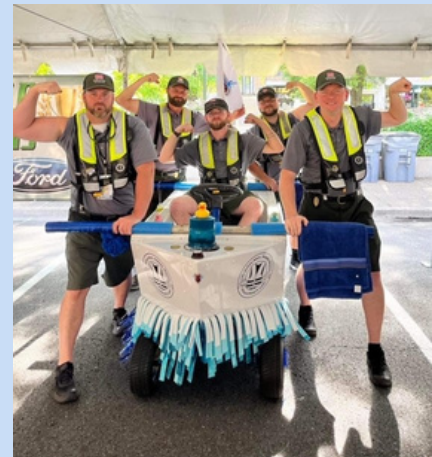
On May 24, Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialists Pam Herrin and Amy Shultz presented Backyard Critter and Water Safety program to a group of 50 students at Mount Ida Kindergarten and first grade.



Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake partnered to work a water safety table at a Bass Pro Shop during National Safe Boating Week. Over 1,200 direct water safety contacts were made during this event.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lake Ouachita Natural Resource Specialists, Josh Tyler, Derick Walker, Joe Bailey, Shawn McBay, and Matthew Gilbert participated in The World Championship Stuart Pennington Running of the Tubs on Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs, AR to promote water and boating safety on our Nation's Waterways this summer. Special recognition goes to Ranger Josh Tyler, who coordinated the event entry and designed and built the Ranger "tub" to resemble a Patrol Boat complete with water safety logos. Over 100 water safety frisbees were passed out to visitors. Lake Ouachita won the award for "Most Spirited Team" at the event!



LOUISIANA FIELD OFFICE

Ouachita - Black Rivers Project



Natural Resources Specialist, Robert Allen gave a PFD presentation to the Barnes Family during Memorial Day Weekend. The Barnes were utilizing Jonesville Landing, one of Ouachita-Blacks 19 recreation areas for a family picnic.



Natural Resources Specialist, Robert Allen gave a PFD presentation to the Catahoula Council on Aging at Harrisonburg Landing Recreation Area.



Natural Resources Specialists, David May and Steven Tuggle spoke to 1st and 2nd graders at Fort Necessity Elementary School. May and Tuggle educated the children on job duties as Natural Resource Specialists and gave a PFD presentation.



Natural Resources Specialists, Jesse Wisterman and Jacob Osborne participated in the Festival Bream Festival during Memorial Day Weekend. This annual event takes place near the USACE Felsenthal Lock and Dam. Wisterman and Osborne educated the public on water safety and the Corps Mission while handing out give-a-ways from the Corps Foundation.



Natural Resources Specialists, Ben Nyegaard and Jacob Osborne spoke to the Union Parish Summer School Class. Nyegaard and Osborne educated the youth on job duties as Natural Resource Specialists, the Corps Mission, and gave a PFD presentation.

Red River

Natural Resources Specialists, Sarah Nix and Heidi Goldsmith participated in the Alexandria Zoo Earth Day event. This is an annual event that has been reinstated since COVID. Nix and Goldsmith reached 1700 contacts including many new parents who had questions concerning PFDs and their children. Nix and Goldsmith educated the public on water safety and PFD types while handing out give-a-ways from the Corps Foundation.



Red River continued



The Red River Project hosted the 17th Annual Red River Water Resource Festival May 6-7 (510 contacts). This was the first year the festival was held at the J. Bennet Johnston Waterway Regional Visitor Center. Several local organizations participated in this event, including the Shreveport Aquarium, LSUS Biology Department, National Weather Service, Caddo River Parks and Rec Department, Geaux Swim, Caddo Sheriff's Marine Unit, Bossier Sheriff's Department, and the City of Shreveport. The USACE Natural Resources Specialists that participated were Sarah Nix, Willard Hopson, Heidi Goldsmith, Ken Crawford, and Steven Tuggle. The event was designed to educate the public on wildlife, environmental protection, outdoor recreation safety, PFD types, as well as the Corps Mission and resources along the Red River.



Natural Resources Specialists, Sarah Nix and Willard Hopson gave PFD presentations to Girl Scout members (50 contacts) at Camp Wawbansee. This is a contact the Red River Project made while working the Alexandria Zoo Earth Day Event. Camp Wawbansee is scheduled for several PFD presentations throughout the summer including presentations where USACE Rangers will assist swim instructors to teach the scouts how to float on their back and swim with a PFD.



JUNE 2022

MVD CELEBRATES WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AT WORK DAY!

National Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day!

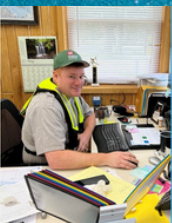
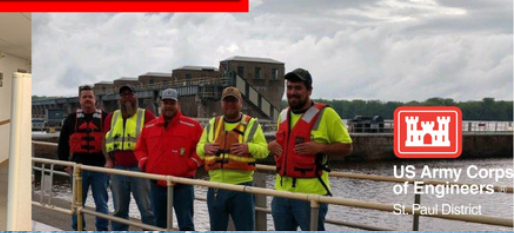
USACE Lake Shelbyville
Park Rangers & Administration



Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day - May 20



May 20, 2022



Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day - May 20



JUNE 2022

MVD CELEBRATES WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AT WORK DAY!



JUNE 2022

MVD CELEBRATES WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AT WORK DAY!

National Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day!

Lake Shelbyville Volunteers



Sharon & Everett Dave & Faye May 20, 2022



Manager Matthew Harrison
Benton Municipal Airport

