

# SPRING 2023 WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES REPORT

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JUNE 2023

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

Thank you to everyone for promoting water safety across the entire Mississippi Valley Division. You are all doing an amazing job and your efforts do not go unnoticed. I appreciate all your hard work and dedication. I hope everyone has a fun and safe Independence Day!

- Erica Nabers, MVD National Water Safety Representative

NEW

## MVD Water Safety Awards

Because the MVD Water Safety Team is so diligent and creative about promoting water safety, MVD now has its own Water Safety Awards! The purpose of the awards is to increase public awareness of the USACE water safety mission and recognize MVD Districts, projects, individuals, volunteers, and partners that have demonstrated excellence in water safety education and public safety.

There are four award categories:

- 1.- Individual
- 2.- Team
- 3.- Group or Individual outside of USACE
- 4.- Star of Life

Nomination criteria and procedures are outlined in the Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Awards memo dated 22 May 2023. Nominations can be submitted at any time to Amanda Kruse ([Amanda.L.Kruse@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.L.Kruse@usace.army.mil)).

MVD Water Safety Award recipients will be contacted via email and recognized in the MVD Quarterly Water Safety Initiatives Report. Winners will be eligible for awards including, but not limited to, Command recognition, certificates, or coins.

## Water Safety Social Media Resources for July

My previous email and attachments provided everyone with Social Media Posts text and pictures. For videos please visit the National Water Safety Program's YouTube Channel or the National Water Safety Program's DVIDS unit.

## 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)

## Illinois Waterway Project

### Lots of Festivals and Expos!

April 24, Peoria, IL – Rangers Sarah Fisher, Robert Petruney and Todd Ernenputsch educated about 2000 people in dam safety and staffed a booth with water safety giveaways.



April 29, Illinois Valley YMCA hosted a Healthy Kids Event in LaSalle, IL. Ranger Bob Petruney and Volunteer Tammy Petruney talk to 145 people about the importance of water safety and learning to swim well.



May 18 Veterans Expo hosted by La Salle County Veterans Assistance Commission

May 18 Gibson City Water Safety program 51 students

June 3, Ranger Sarah Fisher participated in Starved Rock State Park's National Trails Day event to promote water safety and responsible ethics. She spoke with 500 people.





# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Mississippi River Project

Five boating safety courses every Saturday in April. Corps Park Rangers partnered with IL DNR and US Coast Guard Auxiliary to put on boating safety courses at the Mississippi River Project Office. Attendees who pass the class get a NASBLA certified safe boating card. 76 members of the public attended and passed the class.



Celebration Belle Educational Cruises. The Corps partners with a local excursion boat The Celebration Belle to provide a unique field trip to area schools. During the downriver cruise of the Mississippi River, students learn a little history of the area while enjoying the view from the top deck of the boat. On the way back upriver they are presented an interpretive program, which includes water safety, from a Corps Park Ranger. The Corps helped with 3 different cruises in which 454 students attended.

Water safety booth at Armed Forces Day at Memorial Park on the Rock Island Arsenal. At this event the Corps had a booth, fan boat and “campsite” setup promoting water safety and recreation on the Mississippi River. Bobber ran in a Mascot race and cheered on runners during the kids run. Approximately 500 people attended this event.



Bobber visits the Child Development Center on the Rock Island Arsenal to promote water safety to 75 younger kids.





# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Lake Red Rock Project Vessel Safety Checks

To kick off National Safe Boating Week, members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4 from Des Moines provided free vessel safety checks for boaters at the Whitebreast Rec. Area ramp on 20 MAY. Bobber was also on hand to visit with participants during the event.



# WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET TO WORK DAY

To commemorate "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day" on 21 MAY, staff took part in "photo shoots" wearing their PFDs around the project. The photos were shared on social media to promote water safety and encourage life jacket wear.



## Bobber at Iowa Cubs Game

Staff and volunteers from Lake Red Rock and Saylorville Lake partnered again this year to promote water safety at the Iowa Cubs game on 27 APR. Park Rangers Andrew Jones and Tracy Spry along with Volunteer Jennifer McLead spread the message to over 3000 contacts. Bobber met fans as they entered the stadium to hand out water safety items and was able to throw out the first pitch at the game!





# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Saylorville Lake

### Polk County Safety Village

On May 3rd rangers and volunteers attended Polk County Safety Village in Bondurant, Iowa. A table was set up for water safety with different handouts to spread the message of water safety to over 750 people.



### Ankeny FD EMS Week Open House x2

On May 23rd & 24th rangers attended the Ankeny Fire Department open house nights for EMS week. The first evening was designed for children with special needs to enjoy a quiet evening exploring and learning about public safety. Rangers demonstrated different kinds of life jackets that people with disabilities can use while swimming or recreating. The second night was an open house for all ages. A water safety table was set up both nights with life jackets and water safety information and giveaways. Around 2,000 contacts were made combined.

### Iowa Water Childrens Festival

On May 11th rangers set up a water safety table for the Iowa Water Childrens Festival, where 1500 5th graders from around the state came to learn more about water in the state of Iowa. The water safety table was set up with lifejackets and a demonstration with oranges to show how properly wearing a life jacket affects your ability to float. Around 1500 water safety contacts were made.





# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

## Coralville Lake

Participating in the "I Got Caught" initiative. Handing out beach towels to adults that were wearing their life jackets on USACE property.



On site water safety boat scenarios. Had students perform boat accident scenarios where life jackets are key to survival.

All main bulletin boards (11) in our campgrounds and day use areas include water safety messages worked into their designs. These were updated for the 2023 recreation season.



Participated in district led outreach programs. Presented water safety information and environmental programs to middle school students.



# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## DeGray Lake

Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake partnered in a large event at Magic Springs where Natural Resource Specialists, Renea Guin, Amy Shultz, along with DeGray Lake personnel hosted a boating and water safety table at "Education in Motion" where they visited with over 1750 students from Arkansas and Texas.



## Enid Lake

Participated in Safe Boating Week at Bass Pro Shop in Memphis, TN. Bobber also made a visit to surprise some kids



Received PFDs from **SeaTow Foundation** and made them available at life jacket loaner stations.



Began giving out Water Safety Scavenger Hunt forms in the campgrounds and gave prize to kids that completed form.

PUT OUT "WEAR IT" BUOY NEAR ALL BOAT RAMPS AT ENID LAKE.



Utilized Bobber in campgrounds during Memorial Day to promote water safety.





# VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

## Lake Ouachita

May consisted of many school water safety programs presented by Natural Resource Specialists, Renea Guin, Joe Bailey, Jon Munz, Matthew Gilbert, Pam Herrin, and Amy Shultz. Totaling over 2,416 contacts ranging from preschool to eighth grade.



To promote boating and water safety during National Safe Boating Week, the Corps has partnered with Bass Pro in hosting a water and boating safety information table at Bass Pro, Little Rock. Lakes Ouachita and DeGray Lake hosted the water safety table each day.



Lake Ouachita Park Rangers Tub Race Team, Natural Resource Specialist, Josh Tyler, Jon Munz, Robbie Morphew, and Asher Kight along with special guest, Vicksburg District Commander, Colonel Klein, participated for their second time in the annual Stuart Pennington's World Championship Running of the Tubs in Hot Springs, AR along Bathhouse Row on June 3rd.



Copy & Paste this link to read entire article!



# ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

## Eau Galle Project

Ranger Staff had 60 contacts during a project dam tour and talked about water safety on "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day."

Corps Rangers from Eau Galle Project assisted staffing "Doors Open Event at Upper St. Anthony Falls," and communicated water safety to approximately 800 visitors.

Also Memorial Day Weekend brought good visitation to the Project where several water safety programs and communication efforts were provided.



## Leech Lake Dam Recreation Area



We focused the last few months on promoting the use of life jackets with children in our campground. We accomplished this through the "I got caught" campaign and also through a pinecone scavenger hunt in which visitors can find an orange pinecone and redeem it for a bag full of water safety related items.

## Lake Ashtabula

Corps Rangers had a water safety event in Grand Forks with over 600 kids going through the program, and we also participated in a water festival in South Dakota where we presented using our Dam model showing the dangers of low head dams to 1,100 kids.





# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Carlyle Lake

This past spring, Carlyle Lake park rangers visited local high schools and informed students the importance of water safety. Students were informed on various practices including, but not limited to, how to properly fit life jackets and why certain safety equipment is required while on a vessel. These programs reached nearly 865 students across 3 separate public schools and were supported by Excel Bottling Company of Breese, IL through water safety-themed t-shirts.



The "I Got Caught at Carlyle Lake" Campaign entered its 11th consecutive year in May. This year, 32 local businesses and organizations committed to partnering with the Carlyle Lake Project to incentivize those actively wearing their life jackets at Carlyle Lake throughout the summer. Since Memorial Day weekend, park rangers have awarded 65 individuals and counting with t-shirts, dry bags, and beach towels. The dry bags and beach towels were provided by the Corps Foundation and awarded to adults wearing their life jackets.



The Carlyle Lake Project has supplied type II life jackets of varying sizes at all major boat ramps and beaches for several summer seasons. A new, more informative, loaner station was placed at the popular Dam West Beach in collaboration with Excel Bottling Company of Breese, IL at the end of 2022. The station features instructional infographics on how to properly fit a life jacket in both English and Spanish languages. This May the new station made its official debut as it was stocked with new life jackets for beach goers to utilize.



Since its opening in 2021, Lakeside Liquor & Gas in Carlyle, IL has been eager to work with the Carlyle Lake Project specifically related to water safety messaging. This partnership began with the local business placing Life Jackets Worn Nobody Mourns window clings on all doorways. It has now grown into providing a water safety video on all gas pumps and a large vinyl graphic placed on the entrance of the building. Additionally, the Carlyle Lake Project will attend Lakeside Liquors & Gas' inaugural vendor fair on Saturday, June 17, with a water safety and lake information booth.





# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Lake Shelbyville

Sullivan Beach at Lake Shelbyville received a brand-new beach mat to allow those with mobility restrictions to have easy access on the beach.

The Facebook post reached many people with nearly 3,000 likes, 412 comments, and 367 shares. Overall, this post reached over 70,000 people. Additionally, two news stations visited Sullivan Beach to interview several beach goers and Park Rangers about the positive effects this accessibility mat will have for visitors.



Main Street to Corps Day on May 11, 2023 brought over 300 students from Shelbyville Elementary for a day of outdoor fun. 1st graders spent their time at the beach playing water safety games and learning about the importance of wearing a life jacket and swimming with a buddy. 3rd graders at Lithia Marina all practiced finding, and putting on, the correct size lifejacket. These two groups had nearly 200 direct water safety contacts.



April 20, 2023 A Water Safety Task Force Meeting was held at Lake Shelbyville to discuss water safety updates and how to promote water safety at Lake Shelbyville. Local sheriff's deputies, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USACE staff, the U.S. Coastguard Auxiliary, and local partners were in attendance.



Kayak, Canoe, and Paddleboard Competition held at the Dam West High Water Boat Ramp on June 4, 2023. 25 people were in attendance. The top three winners of each category received a prize, and all participants were required to wear their lifejacket for the entirety of the course.



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Rend Lake

On June 10, 2023, the Rend Lake team hosted the annual Beach Blast event at South Sandusky Beach. Park Rangers facilitated water safety games, hosted a sand sculpture contest, and gave away prizes. The Sesser Fire Protection District, Abbott EMS, and U.S. Army brought their unique equipment for participants to look at, and the Air Evac Lifeteam 35 landed a helicopter for beachgoers to see! More than 476 beachgoers enjoyed the annual water safety celebration!



The Rend Lake ISOP team partnered with WSIL TV NEWS 3 for Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day. The morning broadcast team (News Anchor Rachel Gartner and Meteorologist Nick Hausen wore life jackets on air during the 6:30am news show and promoted safety to their viewership across southern Illinois, southeast Missouri, and northwest Kentucky.



The Rend Lake ISOP team hosted a special Water Safety Easter Egg hunt on Easter Weekend (April 8 & 9). Eggs with special messages were hidden around the Visitor Center and visitors could exchange their egg for a water safety prize.

For Memorial Day weekend, the Rend Lake ISOP and Visitor Assistance (VA) teams conducted water safety boat patrols and beach programs. ISOP team members facilitated Musical Life Jackets and Roving Ranger



programs making 181 contacts. The VA team conducted vessel inspections and rewarded people wearing their life jackets and being safe on the water.

The Rend Lake ISOP team led water safety school assemblies, with some featuring Bobber the Water Safety Dog, which resulted in 995 water safety contacts.





# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

The National Great Rivers Museum (NGRM) hosted REC Fest to promote safe recreation along the river. More than 20 organizations shared information with over 1200 visitors concerning safe recreation, conservation, and other related topics. Notable attractions included open tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, rock climbing, and fishing and archery lessons. Additionally, water-safety themed goody bags were distributed to children that visited at least 10 booths. Local students previously participated in an island naming contest for the new islands that will be created as part of the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat and Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP). A ceremony presented the winners of the island naming contest.



Park rangers, staff, and volunteers participated in the annual Alton Memorial Day Parade. Over 1200 water safety-themed ring flyers were distributed among 6,500 participants.



Over the holiday weekend, the National Great Rivers Museum hosted a water safety-themed scavenger hunt. Ten water safety-themed items were hidden throughout the museum along with a letter. 232 visitors earned a water safety-themed goody bag by finding the hidden phrase.

Park rangers, staff, and a volunteer provided general and water safety support at the annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park. Approximately 5,000 guests (including 2,000 children) attended the event. We directly engaged an estimated 2,000 visitors throughout the day at our booth, which included water safety discussions and a drunk goggle obstacle course. Hundreds of water safety-themed gear were given out at the event.





# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

## Wappapello Lake

This annual special event was held on 3 June 2023 at the Lost Creek Pond. Approximately 53 kids ages 5-14yrs old had a blast catching fish. Winners of the various age categories received awards for Most Fish Caught and Largest Fish Caught. Trophies, Medals, and Ribbons were provided by Ms. Ann Miller. All bait was donated by Millie's Gas Mart. Prizes and food were donated by Wal Mart and Wappapello Lake Area Association. A cookout was held immediately after the fishing activities concluded.



Grotto Safety Day on 29 April Park Ranger Alyssa Moss staffed a booth and provided water safety information and prizes to those whom she made 131 direct contacts.

Safety Message placed in Bush Stadium on 7 May during "Federal Employees Day". Buckle Up. Wearing Life Jackets and Seat Belts Save Lives!

Water Safety Messages on Marquees. Safety messages were placed on businesses exterior electronic marquees from Friday to Monday of Memorial Day Weekend. Businesses agreed to do the same thing from Friday to Monday of each major holiday weekend (Juneteenth, 4 of July, and Labor Day).

