



U.S. ARMY



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Operations Storyboard

30 June 23



Lake Georgetown – Donuts with Jim Hogg Park campers & USACE staff: Almost two dozen campers came to the first ever, Donuts with Lake Georgetown Staff. With the help of the lake staff, Real Estate Specialist (AKA “Bobber”) and lots of volunteers, it turned out to be a big success. Volunteers issued ATB passes, Rangers showed off the patrol boat and vehicle and “Bobber” was onsite. A volunteer table and ranger table with lots of information and water safety give-a-ways were there for the taking. Lots of questions were answered, information handed out and good contacts were made! Donuts, ice water and coffee were enjoyed by all via the Lake Manager. We hope to do this in the fall again when it is COOLER!

Operations Storyboard

30 June 23

Belton Lake – Water Safety Festival: On June 24 Belton Lake hosted a Water Safety Festival to spread the water safety message to their community. Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lake Rangers had a water safety table, general lake information table, water safety tattoo station and water safety games. Also in attendance were the TX Game Wardens, Bell County Sheriffs Department, Morgan’s Point Dive Team, Morgan’s Point Fire and Rescue, Bell County Public Health and Bell County Farm Bureau. The public had the opportunity to fish with a TX game warden, pick up an America the Beautiful pass, receive free life jackets and enjoy some free food. Thanks to all the attendees the Water Safety message especially the importance of wearing a life jacket was emphasized at this event!





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30 June 23



Lavon Lake – Bluegrass on Ballard: On Saturday, 24 June, Rangers Ben Rothfuchs, Stephen Berry, and David Walker (Bobber) participated in the annual Bluegrass on Ballard event in downtown Wylie, Texas. Visitors from near and far flocked to the event to listen to nationally recognized bluegrass musicians. In addition to the bluegrass music, the festival hosts a car show, local vendors, and carnival foods. Rangers Rothfuchs, Berry, and Bobber walked along Ballard Street interacting with the public, providing water safety messages, handing out water safety items, answering question about the Corps/Lavon Lake, and posing for pictures. During the event Rangers made 718 water safety contacts and strengthened community relations.



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Operations Storyboard

19 June 23



Lewisville Lake – Paloma Creek Elementary Field Day: On Friday May 19th, Lewisville Lake Rangers Chandler Sanford and Grayson Gregory attended the Paloma Creek Elementary Field Day. The Corps' station focused on the importance of wearing a proper fitting life jacket and Reach, Throw, Don't Go. Students K-5th Grade each got a turn trying on a life jacket and then participated in a throwable relay race. Many students had never tried on a life jacket and were excited to go to the lake this summer. The Rangers have been asked to attend this event next year as well!



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Operations Storyboard

19 June 23



Lewisville Lake – Operation Bluegill: On Friday May 19th, Lewisville Regional Staff Nick Wilson, Lewisville Rangers Chandler Sanford and Dax Hall and Grapevine Ranger Austin Smith participated in the Operation Bluegill event organized by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at Lewisville Lake. This training exercise simulated a high casualty boating accident requiring assistance from many emergency response agencies around the County. Denton County Emergency Management, Lewisville Fire Department and Dive Team, and Towboat US were just a few of the agencies that assisted in this exercise to ensure an efficient and safe recovery of the victims. This event was a great opportunity to network with the other agencies and demonstrate the resources that each agency can bring and utilize when there is an emergency on or around the water.



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19 June 23



Lewisville Lake – TPWD Media Day: Over the Memorial Day Weekend, the Lewisville Lake Ranger Staff partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and Boating Education Representatives to spread the word about the Corps' Water Safety mission and TPWD's boater safety initiative and partnerships. Local Media crews were invited out to interview the Rangers and TPWD employees, ask questions about safe boating, and how we help and educate the public. This news coverage and presence in the park on this popular holiday weekend helped spread the Water Safety message and highlight the partnerships that we use to educate the public on safe recreation on the lake.



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19 June 23



Lewisville Lake – TPWD Outreach and Education Day: On Saturday, May 27th, the Lewisville Lake Ranger Staff partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife Boating Education Representatives, the Power Line Safety Initiative and America's Boating Club to host an Outreach and Education Day at the Westlake Park Boat Ramp. This opportunity allowed boat owners to ask questions and have their required safety equipment checked before going out on the water. Water safety goodies were handed out as well as lake specific information about the amenities offered at the parks around the lake. This event helped ensure a safe Holiday weekend for the public on and around the lake.

Operations Storyboard

19 June 23

Proctor Lake – Dublin Kindness Carnival: The Dublin Public Library invited Park Rangers Ben Murphy and Jared Harris to represent the Corps of Engineers at the Dublin Kindness Carnival. This event promotes resources available in the community and summer activities. The rangers promoted water safety through trivia questions, demonstrations, and water safety supplies, including coloring books. This is the second year the Corps has participated in this event, and it continues to be a productive way to engage the local community in water safety.



Proctor Park Rangers Jared Harris and Ben Murphy staffing their table at the Dublin Kindness Carnival.

Operations Storyboard

19 June 23

Proctor Lake – Gustine Homecoming Parade: On May 27th, Proctor Lake Park Rangers Ben Murphy and Jared Harris, along with Summer Ranger Hunter Murphy, represented the US Army Corps of Engineers at Proctor Lake in the Gustine Homecoming Parade. The Proctor Lake staff showed off their new boat and handed out water safety supplies along the parade route. Ranger Hunter Murphy braved the heat as Bobber the Water Safety Dog. This is the first time Proctor has participated in the Gustine Homecoming Parade, and hopefully the Project Staff will be able to continue representing the Corps in this event in the future.



Proctor Park Rangers Ben Murphy, Hunter Murphy, and Jared Harris before the Gustine Homecoming Parade.



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19 June 23



Waco Lake's work barge loaded with defunct buoys. Waco Lake maintenance volunteers stand at the end of the ramp waiting to help load the vessel.

Waco Lake – Buoy Removal: On June 1st, Waco Lake Park Ranger Matthew Hackler, along with Summer Ranger Ethan Janecka, worked to remove damaged buoys from the Twin Bridges Park swim beaches, Speegleville Park boat ramp, and Lacy Point Access Area boat ramp. With the assistance of Waco Lake's maintenance volunteers, Rangers Hackler and Janecka removed eleven buoys that weather or boat strikes had damaged. This effort helped clarify defined zones for safe swimming and boating, improving water safety and the visitor experience at Waco Lake over the busy summer recreation season.

Operations Storyboard

19 June 23

Whitney Lake – Whitney ISD Water Safety and Environmental Stewardship Program: On May 23rd, Whitney Lake Park Ranger Matthew Jones and Three Rivers Region Environmental Stewardship Business Line Manager Jennifer Sleezer presented a Water Safety and Environmental Stewardship program to all the Whitney ISD 4th grade students. Students learned all about life jackets and the importance of wearing them for water-based recreation. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a decomposition activity to show them how long litter and waste can stay in an ecosystem before decomposing. The students were shocked to learn that Styrofoam was one of the items that took the longest to decompose in natural elements. Students were also issued the 4th Grade Every Kid Outdoors pass to get them out in parks over their summer vacation. Overall, it was a great educational experience for the students and the Whitney staff looks forward to continuing to work with Whitney ISD for water safety and STEM content.



Three Rivers Region ENS BLM Jennifer Sleezer explaining decomposition of common trash items to Whitney ISD students



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Operations Storyboard

5 June 23



Lewisville Lake – Training Event: The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary hosted a training event at Pier 121 Marina to kick off National Safe Boating Week. This scenario was a wake boarding boat impacting a double decker party barge. Participants included Lewisville Fire and Dive Team, Little Elm Fire, USACE, PHI Air Medical, Sea Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Denton County Dispatch and Emergency Management, Tow Boat US, Dallas Police Department, numerous volunteers, and Texas Game Wardens. The event was a success, testing vessel coordination, communications, triage, and transport by, land, air, and water. After the event, a hotwash discussed how to improve for future operations and drills. Dallas PD presented a proclamation to the Coast Guard Auxiliary from Mayor Eric Johnson declaring May 20-26th Safe Boating Week for Dallas. The Auxiliary was also presented a proclamation from Governor Greg Abbott declaring May 20-26th Safe Boating Week for Texas. Park Rangers Dax Hall, Chandler Sanford and Austin Smith and Trinity ES BLM Nick Wilson represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at this event.





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Operations Storyboard

5 June 23



Navarro Mills – Outreach: With the end of the school year looming, Park Ranger Casey Soper was invited to speak with the Junior class at Dawson High School. Ranger Soper shared about the civil works mission of USACE and what paths students can take to pursue a career as a USACE park ranger. And of course, she shared a water safety message in preparation for summer break!



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5 June 23



Navarro Mills Lake - Memorial Day: Memorial Day weekend at Navarro Mills Lake was a safety success thanks to dedicated work of the lake and regional staff. Navarro Mills Park Rangers John Kirby, Casey Soper, and Megan Dosser were joined by Three Rivers Region Park Ranger, Kyle Watter. Rangers provided enhanced patrol, visitor assistance, and water safety inspections. The parks were full, and the lake was busy, but there were no safety issues throughout the weekend and the rangers on duty conducted several direct water safety contacts.





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Operations Storyboard

5 June 23

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Somerville Lake – Somerville Elementary Agriculture Awareness Day: Rangers Amber Owen and Dayziah Petruska partnered with Somerville High School FFA to speak to 1st-4th graders about water safety, flood control, and wildlife biology. Students were taught the purpose of Somerville Lake and the path water takes from the lake to be used for various crop irrigation. We also discussed wildlife that can be found around the lake and how to properly wear a life jacket.



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Operations Storyboard

5 June 23



Wright Patman Lake – Garrison/III Armored Corp Safety Awareness Day: “All Fort Cavazos Units provide support through participation in the Safety Awareness Day 2023, 19 MAY 23 at Hood Stadium, Fort Cavazos, TX in order to increase safety awareness, spotlight safety initiatives occurring across the installation, with emphasis on mishap reduction and avoidance.” Park Rangers from across the district participated in the Safety Stand Down at Fort Cavazos on May 19th to speak to soldiers and their families about water and dam safety. Pictured above are Piney Woods Region Park Rangers Taylor McDaniel (Sam Rayburn), Stacey Coester (Lake O’ the Pines), Lynlee Russell (Wright Patman), and Bryan Heffernan (Town Bluff).

Operations Storyboard

22 May 23

Trinity Region – Annual MayFest Celebration: On May 6th and 7th, USACE Rangers Ami Watkins, Marcus Holloway, David Walker, Lyndy Black, Austin Smith, and Jennifer Lawson participated in the MayFest event at Trinity Park in Fort Worth. MayFest is one of the largest festivals in Fort Worth, attracting people from all over DFW area. They talked to festival goers about USACE missions at the lakes, career options, and taught kids and parents of the importance of wearing a life jacket. Park Rangers were joined by Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and Operation Game Thief and others. This was a great opportunity to build on local partnerships and educate the public about USACE and our priority of water safety. USACE efforts in this year's event brought in over 2,800 water safety contacts for the weekend.





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Operations Storyboard

22 May 23



Grapevine Lake – Paradise Elementary 5th Grade Presentation: On May 10th, Grapevine Lake Park Rangers Austin Smith and Andy Jasper visited Paradise Elementary School to speak with the 5th grade class about what it means to be a Park Ranger and what goes into the job. The rangers spoke about the purpose of the dams and reservoirs and about what there is to do on the lake as well as our conservation efforts around the lake. Water safety was also a big highlight to teach the kids early about the importance of life jackets and good water safety practices.



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Operations Storyboard

22 May 23



Lake Georgetown – Summer Water Safety Strategy Meeting: Lake Manager Scott Blank, Ranger Josh Houghtaling, City of Georgetown Police Chief Cory Tchida, Assistant Fire Chief Clay Shell, Fire Captain Trey Lockwood and Johathan Gillian and TPWD Game Warden Turk Jones met May 3, 2023, to discuss strategy on water safety efforts on Lake Georgetown for the summer. With an updated buoy plan and restrictions in new areas as well as continued concerns over cliff jumping, a general discussion was held to get resources in the correct areas to help control problems. TPWD Game Wardens, Fire Department and Corps Rangers will be working the lake surface and areas of concern to help reduce the risks and educate the public via social media, water safety kiosk and face to face over the three major summer holidays. This was a great opportunity to explain each departments resources and understand what was need at selected locations with a unified goal of no major incidents during the summer.



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Operations Storyboard

22 May 23



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Lake Georgetown – Learn to Fish: Park Ranger Joshua Houghtaling attended the Williamson County Learn to Fish event. Attendees to the event were required to go to eight different stations to learn all about fishing. The stations included knot tying, species identification, hook and weight, ethics and regulations, casting, handling, pole set-up, and water safety. Once all stations were checked off the attendees were able to acquire a small tackle box full of fishing gear, and a free fishing pole. Approximately 600 people attended the event. Overall, the event was a huge success and outreach efforts for water safety continue.



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Operations Storyboard

22 May 23



Canyon Lake – Joint Base MWR Event: Joint Base San Antonio MWR set up a summer event: Lakin' It Easy. The event was aimed at getting the active duty, vets, and DOD civilians out to the lake to have a relaxing day. There was food trucks, Boat tours, kayaks, axe throwing, water slides and so much more. Families came out both young and old to enjoy the event and relax. Ranger Samuel Price arranged to have a water safety booth at the event. He had three games for the adults and kids to play in order to learn water safety: Bobber's Fishing Hole, Save Buddy Bob, and Life Jacket Relay with drunk goggles. The later was the most popular where each person learned the hazards a distorted perception can be when trying to save someone that is in the water drowning or struggling. Kids and adults competed to see who could beat their friends and family at the race to find a life jacket, "swim" out to their friend, and rescue them first. Younger kids loved fishing at Bobber's Fishing Hole. Ranger Javier Pérez also assisted and provided the same lessons in Spanish to many guests. By the end of the event 162 individuals had been provided a water safety lesson and water safety goodies to help remind them of the lessons they learned.



Life Jacket Relay Race with Drunk Goggles



Bobber's Fishing Hole - Catch A Fish to Win

Operations Storyboard

22 May 23

Belton Lake – Motorboat Operators License Examiners Course: From May 1 to May 12, Belton Lake hosted two sessions of the National USACE Motorboat Operators License Examiners PROSPECT Course. Students of this course come from around the nation to demonstrate proficient boat operation and learn how to instruct others in boat operation, rules of the road, ATONS, general boat and maintenance knowledge and other boating related necessities required under USACE policy. Belton Lake graciously allowed them to use their conference room and facilities while Granger, Georgetown, Navarro Mills, Stillhouse and Wright Patman donated their vessels to supplement the class. With their aid, these classes were a success and another crop of instructors around the nation have been trained to continue the high standard of teaching we expect.





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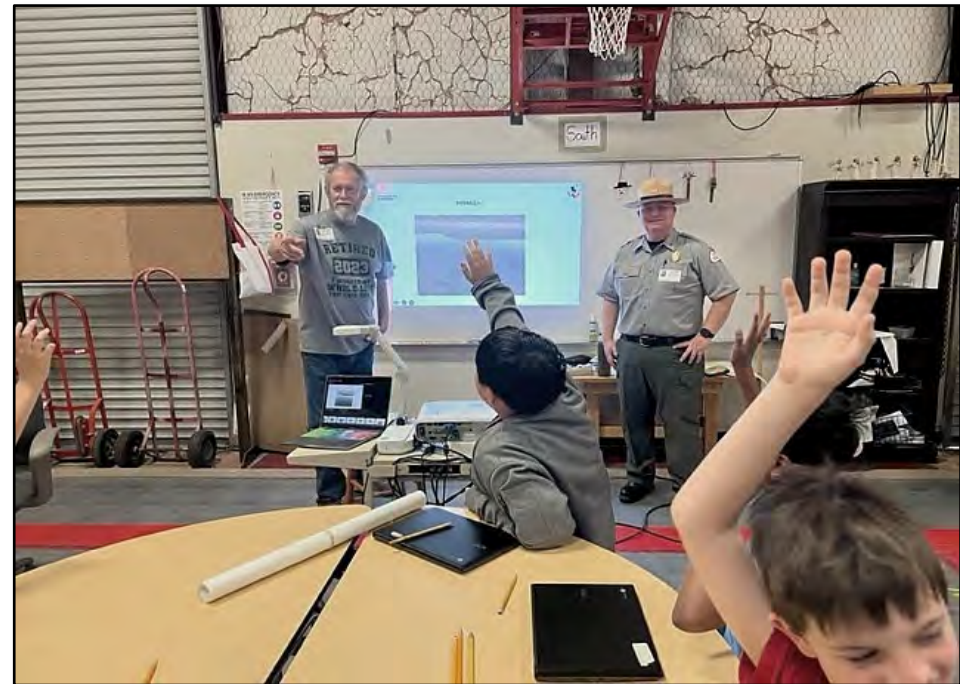
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22 May 23



Belton Lake – STEM: Park Ranger Arty Johnson assisted school volunteer, Todd Spivey (recently retired Park Ranger from Stillhouse Hollow Lake) with a presentation for Lakewood Elementary's 5th grade science class on May 5, 2023. Ranger Johnson and Mr. Spivey discussed invasive species and vegetation that can be found at Belton Lake. Ranger Johnson and Mr. Spivey also talked about water safety and the importance of wearing life jackets.





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22 May 23



Proctor Lake – Water Safety: Park Rangers Jared Harris and Ben Murphy conducted a Water Safety Presentation to 90, 4th grade students at Comanche Elementary. The Rangers talked about the importance of wearing a life jacket while in or around the water, and the importance of making sure that the life jacket is in good condition and properly fits. There were a few of the students that volunteered for the challenge of putting on a life jacket within 20 seconds (the amount of time that it can take a child to drown), to demonstrate how important it is to wear a life jacket before getting in a boat or around water. The students had fun interacting during the presentation and getting to ask questions about being a Park Ranger.



Operations Storyboard

22 May 23

Whitney/Waco Lakes – Ducks Unlimited Expo: On May 5th, Whitney Lake Rangers Kathryn Devers and Madeline Karickhoff along with Waco Lake Ranger Cara Niemietz attended the 2nd Annual Ducks Unlimited Expo at the Texas Motor Speedway. This expo covered a wide variety of interests such as hunting, fishing, boating, and conservation. Rangers discussed the importance of water safety as well as educated the public on invasive zebra mussels. Many guests were excited to see Rangers representing the Corps of Engineers and shared how much they love our lakes.





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Operations Storyboard

22 May 23



Wright Patman Lake – National Travel and Tourism Week: Rangers visit Texas Travel Centers for National Travel and Tourism Week. The rangers spoke with visitors about water safety, USACE regulations, and Wright Patman Lake. Over 1,000 direct contacts were made. On May 9th and 12th, Rangers Russell and Rabakukk-Langthorn had a water safety booth at both the Arkansas Travel Centers.

Operations Storyboard

22 May 23

Town Bluff – Spurger ISD Safety Day: On April 28, 2023, Town Bluff Park Rangers Reed Elmore and Bryan Heffernan along with Sam Rayburn Park Ranger Emily Laperriere participated in the Spurger Elementary School Safety Day. They presented water safety material to children ranging in age from Pre-K to the sixth grade. They spoke to the children about the importance of wearing properly fitting lifejackets and steps to assist someone who is in trouble in the water. The students were able to try to complete an obstacle course wearing fatal vision goggles as well as test their aim with a throw ring contest. They made 100 direct water safety contacts.





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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 8 MAY 23



Belton Lake – Peebles Elementary Career Day: On Friday April 21st, Park Ranger Cassy Hill had the opportunity to speak to 4 groups of students about the Corps mission, being a park ranger, and water safety at Peebles Elementary. The students had lots of questions ranging from “What time we let the deer out?” to “What type of wildlife management practices do park rangers use?”. Over-all it was a fun experience and all the kids got to take water safety bags home with them.





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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 8 MAY 23



Grapevine Lake – Keep Flower Mound Beautiful: On April 29th, Natural Resource Specialists Austin Smith, Andy Jasper, and Ami Watkins set up a water safety booth at the Keep Flower Mound Beautiful Environmental fair. They spoke with folks about staying safe when visiting the lake, handed out water safety material and thanked those who volunteer with Keep Flower Mound Beautiful. Keep Flower Mound Beautiful is a great community partner and often sends out volunteers to help clean up around the shoreline and park areas.



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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 8 MAY 23



Waco Lake – Earth Day: On April 22nd, Waco Lake Park Ranger Cara Niemietz attended Cameron Park Zoo’s Earth Day event. During this time, Ranger Niemietz educated the public about water safety hazards and how it relates to Waco Lake in drought conditions. City of Waco Wetlands Coordinator Nora Schell extended the invitation for this event to Waco Lake personnel, proving the ongoing partnership between USACE and the City of Waco.



Trinity Region – Annual EarthX Expo: On April 21-23, USACE Rangers Grayson Gregory, Marcus Holloway, David Walker, Billy Jasper, Anthony Sanders, and Jennifer Lawson participated in the annual Earth X event at Fair Park in Dallas. They joined Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens from Operation Game Thief and US Fish and Wildlife Services representatives promoting boater education and over all water safety. Earth X is one of the largest green gatherings held in April to celebrate progress, impact and innovation. Earth X brings together environmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, speakers and subject matter experts from all over the world to provide interactive programming. The Park Rangers took this time to promote conservation, recreation and our mission of water safety to the public. This was an excellent opportunity for the rangers to promote USACE’S water safety message in full swing before the summer recreation season hits. The USACE Rangers made over approximately 9,500 water safety contacts over the weekend. The message was well received, and the event was a huge success!





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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23



Lewisville Lake – Community Outreach: Throughout the month of March, Lewisville Rangers visited Central Elementary for Career Day and Career on Wheels. Rangers were able to show off the patrol boat and let the kids see all the bells and whistles that are used when patrolling the parks and the lake during the summer. Rangers also gave a “Ranger Hat” presentation showing the many hats (or helmets) that a Park Ranger wears to perform our variety of job duties. The students were very involved and had many questions about water safety, snakes and alligators.



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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23



Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes – Mission Outreach: On Saturday, March 25th, Lewisville Rangers attended the TPWD Spring Fling at Ray Roberts Lake, Johnson Branch State Park. This event was part of the 100-year celebration of Texas State Parks. Lewisville Park Rangers were able to spread the water safety message and Corps' missions to a wide variety of park users with water safety goodies and an interpretive skull and fur display. Rangers also used this event to network with other organizations that utilize Corps' property and its amenities. Other organizations included TPWD Parks Department, TPWD Inland Fisheries, TPWD Game Wardens, Texas Master Naturalists, and Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association.



SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23

Navarro Mills – Educational Outreach: On April 14, ranger Casey Soper, participated in the Mystery Reader Program at Sam Houston Elementary School in Corsicana, TX. Ranger Soper talked to two kindergarten classes about Navarro Mills, water safety, and the roles of a park ranger and then read a book to each class. The kids were so excited to participate and receive water safety prizes for answering questions.



SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23

Proctor Lake - Career Fair: Ranger Ronald Morris from Hords Creek Lake and Rangers Ben Murphy and Jared Harris from Proctor Lake took part in a career fair hosted by Cross Plains ISD. The event was held in the gym and had as many as 40 other career opportunities. Several surrounding schools were invited to attend. Many students stopped by and expressed interest in USACE Operations after visiting with the rangers.



SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23

Whitney Lake – Water Safety: On 08 April, Rangers Arianna Jacinto and Matthew Jones hosted a water safety booth and static display as part of a Waco community Easter Festival. At the event, Rangers Jacinto and Jones engaged with over 250 children and adults to educate them on the Corps, our mission and projects, and the importance of Water Safety. Children learned how to wear a life jacket and use throwable devices. They also learned about all the recreation opportunities at Corps projects. Hot topics with the adults were low lake levels, inflatable PFDs, and general boater safety. This event was USACE's second year partnering with this organization to spread the Water Safety message. Big thanks to Waco Lake staff for making the connection last year and allowing us to participate this year!





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APRIL 23



Wright Patman Lake – Texarkana College Spring Fling: On April 13th, Ranger Russell attended the 2023 Spring Fling at Texarkana College. She spoke with students about water safety when on or near the water and USACE careers and summer ranger jobs. Over 400 contacts were made.





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APRIL 23



Belton Lake – Live Radio Show KTEM 14 AM: Park Ranger Arty Johnson was a guest on KTEM News Radio 14 “On The Dock” live radio show. Ranger Johnson discussed water safety, park operations and current lake conditions. The radio show season begins in April and ends in September. The radio show has a listening audience of 5,000-10,000. This is a great platform to reach a lot of people in one setting. Belton & Stillhouse Rangers will rotate as guests on the show.



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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23



Lake Georgetown – Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast: Lake Georgetown recently held our monthly safety meeting on confined spaces, but before-hand we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast taco bar, to show our appreciation to our hard-working volunteers. We truly respect and appreciate our volunteers and hope to never see them go.





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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

APRIL 23



Lewisville/Ray Roberts Lakes – GreenFest:

On April 15th, Lewisville Park Rangers attended the “GreenFest” on the Greenbelt 5K” at the Greenbelt 428 access. This event was put on by the Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County and was a 5K, Fun Run and Family Festival celebrating 100 years of Texas State Parks. Park Rangers handed out water safety items and got to show off the animal skulls and bones that have been found on Corps Property in the area. The USACE Rangers also got to compete with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Staff in a relay race while cleaning up the event.

SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 24

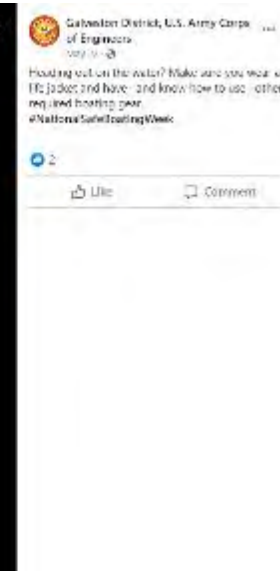
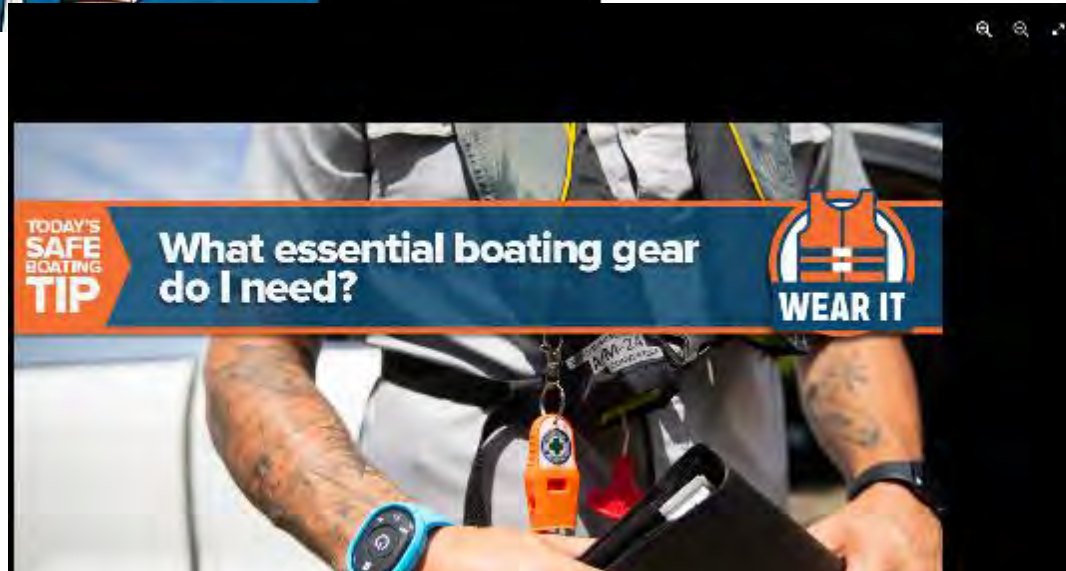
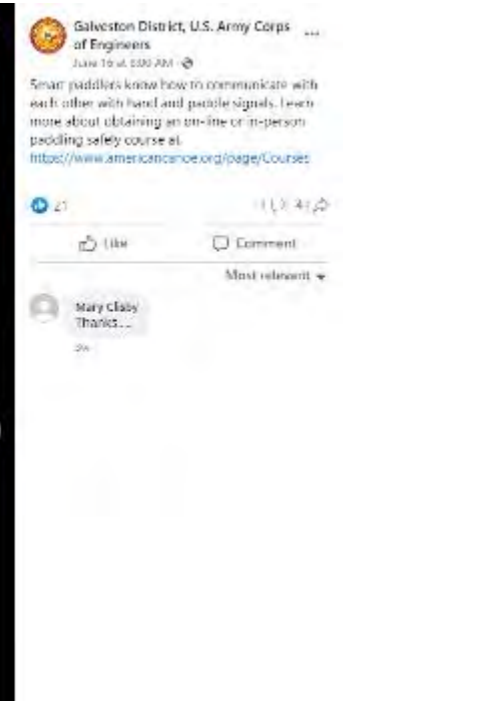
APRIL 23

Wright Patman Lake – A Rocky Point Easter: On April 8th, Wright Patman’s Rangers and Volunteers hosted A Rocky Point Easter. The day’s activities included a traditional Easter egg hunt, a water safety relay, and a glow-in-the-dark Easter egg hunt. Fun was had by all, and most importantly, the water safety message was received by all who attended.



GALVESTON DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS WATER SAFETY

Galveston District utilized the National Water Safety Program social media posts for the month of May and June.



PARTNERS OF POLLINATORS EVENT

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION



WHO: Table Rock Lake & Partners
– 594 visitors in attendance

WHAT: Public Event

WHEN: 21 JUN 2023, 1000-1500

WHERE: Table Rock Lake Project Office grounds and Dewey Short Visitor Center.

WHY: Celebration of National Pollinators Week and Great Outdoors Month. Table Rock Lake Project and local partnering organization showcased their work to help pollinators. Recruitment opportunity for partners.

WHAT'S NEXT: Continue to collaborate with local partners to conserve and protect pollinators on Corps and other lands.

Summary:

Where would we BEE without pollinators? Nearly 90% of all flowering plants rely on pollinators for fertilization. These plants give us what we need to survive including food, wood, and medicine. Pollinator species have been in decline for decades due in part to habitat loss, pesticides/herbicides, and disease. To celebrate pollinators, educate the public on their importance, and recognize local partnering organizations, Table Rock Lake held its second annual Partners of Pollinators event on 21 JUN 2023. The day's activities included hands-on demonstrations, games, crafts, and information on how to help pollinators. Bobber the Water Safety Dog, adorned with butterfly wings, flitted around the event for fun photo opportunities. KOLR 10 News (Springfield, MO) interviewed Lead Park Ranger Braaten for the evening news. Partners included the **Master Gardeners of the Ozarks**, **Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club**, **Table Rock State Park**, **Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery**, and **Liberty Utilities**. **594 visitors**.





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- 21 APR 23 – FIELD TRIP – Cedar Ridge Elementary. Bobber the Water Safety Dog and ranger-led water safety demonstrations.
- 25 APR 23 – FIELD TRIP – Cedar Ridge Elementary. Bobber the Water Safety Dog and ranger-led water safety demonstrations.
- 15 JUN 23 – INITIATIVE – Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day. Social media post
- 20-26 JUN 23 – INITIATIVE – National Safe Boating Week. Extra outdoor banners and inside signs. Dressed our deer up with a life jacket (which has continued through the summer).
- 4 JUN 23 – EVENT – Splash Day at the Ozarks Regional Y. Bobber the Water Safety Dog and ranger-led water safety demonstrations.
- 10 JUN 23 – EVENT – Kids Fishing Day at the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Ranger-led water safety demonstrations.
- 21 JUN 23 – EVENT – Partners of Pollinators, onsite. Bobber the Water Safety Dog photo ops with butterfly props and wings.
- 28 JUN 23 – OUTREACH – Branson School District Summer School at Cedar Ridge Elementary. Bobber the Water Safety Dog and ranger-led water safety demonstrations.

Ongoing: custom water safety button pins/magnets to giveaway to promote, water safety deer, I Got Caught towels, WS promotional items for field, pop up interpretive programs in the VC, and various displays in the visitor center. Jr Ranger program which has water safety activities in it and they get a Jr Ranger wood badge with “please wear it” on it.





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Park Ranger, Don Henson, from Clearwater Lake conducted his first group of official Jr. Ranger participants. I conducted a water safety program along with an introduction of the Jr. Ranger program to the 3rd-6th grade students at Clearwater R-1 Summer School, on 22 June, and then went back on 27 June to check their books and award them with their cool wooden badges. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activity books, many of them completed all the activities in the book not just the seven required to earn their badge



Checotah Intermediate Water Safety Program



Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 4th grade class of Checotah Intermediate. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The kids were also given the 4th Grade Park passes through the Every Kid Outdoors Initiative



Crowder Elementary Water Safety Program



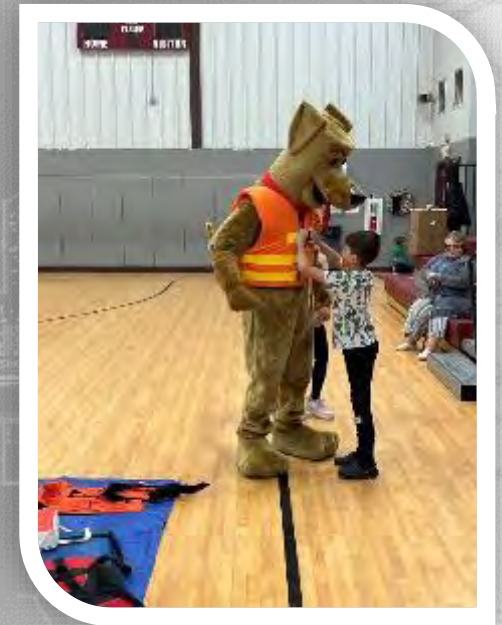
Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 4th grade class of Crowder Elementary. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The kids were also given the 4th Grade Park passes through the Every Kid Outdoors Initiative



Eufaula Elementary Water Safety Program



Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 4th grade class of Eufaula Elementary. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The kids were also given the 4th Grade Park passes through the Every Kid Outdoors Initiative



Quinton Elementary Water Safety Program



Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 4th grade class of Quinton Elementary. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The kids were also given the 4th Grade Park passes through the Every Kid Outdoors Initiative



Stigler Elementary Water Safety Program



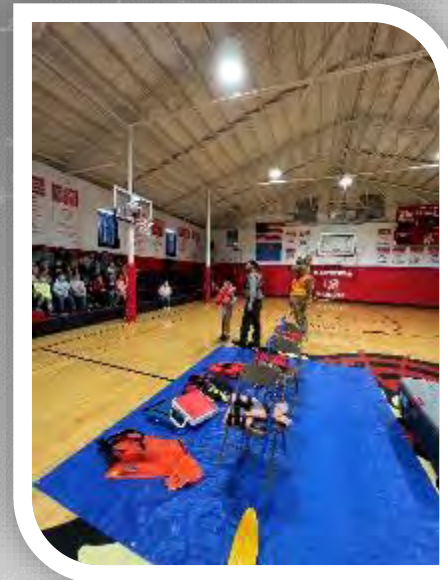
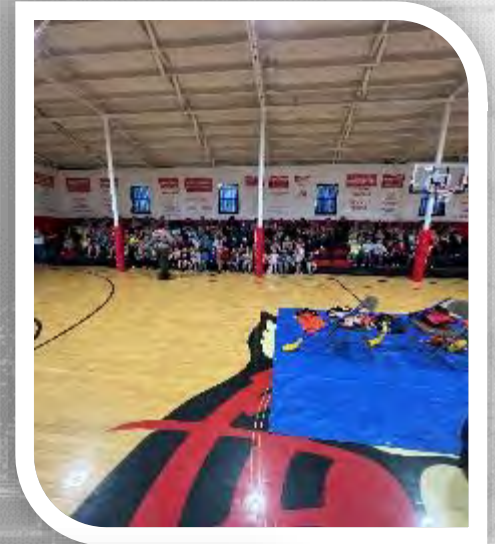
Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 4th grade class of Stigler Elementary. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger.



Whitefield School Water Safety Program



Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 3rd- 8th grade classes of Whitefield School. The program taught students the importance of wearing a PFD, the different types of PFDs, How to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The kids were also given the 4th Grade Park passes through the Every Kid Outdoors Initiative



Northern Area – Keystone Lake Owen Elementary Water Safety Program



Keystone Rangers Beth Stevenson and Ashley Novar visited Owen Elementary School in Tulsa OK to deliver a water safety presentation to 100 2nd - 5th grade students. Ranger Stevenson and Novar used oranges as a visual aid to explain how oranges float with the peel (their PFD), and how they sink when it is removed. They also covered the 7 principles of "Leave No Trace".

Northern Area - Oologah Lake Owasso 8th Grade Presentations

Park Ranger staff and the Navigation Project Office, teamed up and gave several presentations to the outdoor education and STEM classes at the Owasso 8th grade center. Approximately 150 kids attended the presentations to learn about recreation, navigation, and water safety.



East Central Region Wister Lake Office

Wister Ranger staff with the help of Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 3rd and 4th grade classes of Fanshaw public schools. The teachers were thrilled that the Corps has brought this very important message back to their schools on teaching the kids the importance of wearing PFDs, the different types of PFDs, on how to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The 4th grade class was also given the EKO pass initiative.



East Central Region Wister Lake Office

Wister Ranger staff with the help of Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 3rd and 4th grade classes of Red Oak public schools. The teachers were thrilled that the Corps has brought this very important message back to their schools on teaching the kids the importance of wearing PFDs, the different types of PFDs, on how to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The 4th grade class was also given the EKO pass initiative.



East Central Area Wister Lake Office

Wister Ranger staff with the help of Eufaula Ranger staff presented a water safety program to the 3rd and 4th grade classes of Wister public schools. The teachers were thrilled that the Corps has brought this very important message back to their schools on teaching the kids the importance of wearing PFDs, the different types of PFDs, on how to properly wear a PFD, as well as how to save someone who is drowning without putting themselves in danger. The 4th grade class was also given the EKO pass initiative.



Safe Kids Tulsa Coalition Monthly Meeting– Tulsa Hosted and Presented



Tulsa District hosted Safe Kids Tulsa Coalition on April 12th at CityPlex Towers. Guest speakers were Brandi Russell, Infant Aquatics, and Abby Jones, USACE, talking about water safety. Mrs. Jones talked about statistics from across the Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District and what USACE does to help spread the water safety message. Also, asking on how we can partner together to spread the water safety message.

Safe Kids Tulsa Coalition meets monthly with organizations from around the Tulsa area to include; Police Department, Fire Department, AAA, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Saint Francis Injury Prevention and many more agencies that work on ways to keep kids safe in Tulsa and surrounding areas. Abby Jones represents Water Safety on the coalition.

Northern Area - COPAN Lake WATER SAFETY PUBLIC OUTREACH



Park Ranger Justin Barnes held a water safety public outreach event on 29 April 2023. Ranger Barnes spoke to 18 local area youth, ranging in age from 6-14, about water and boating safety. The event was interactive with games and scenarios to help prepare the local youth for safe recreation in, on, and around the water this upcoming recreation season.

Eufaula lake, Gentry Creek fishing Fling 2023



On April 27 & 28th, 2023 Eufaula Rangers hosted our Annual Gentry Creek Fishing Fling with the help of ODWC, Fetch n Fish, OHP and local volunteers. In attendance were One hundred and eighty-two 3rd and 4th grade students from Warner & Eufaula Elementary Schools, their teachers and parent chaperones. They participated in several educational activities including a Water Safety station where they learned about the importance of life jackets, safe rescue techniques and even had a relay competition wearing the life jackets. There was a Casting Clinic directed by ODWC fisheries biologists, a Fish ID station directed by Jason Reynolds of Fetch n Fish, a skins and skulls ID station with ODWC game wardens, and ranger Loper presented a hands-on demonstration about archaeology. After a morning full of fun the students fished for an hour at the Gentry Creek Youth pond, competing for the smallest fish, biggest fish, most fish and sportsmanship. The day wrapped with another tail wagging good show by Fetch n Fish and awards were given to the male and female students that won each category.

EAST CENTRAL AREA- FORT GIBSON Lake Adair public school – 4th grade water safety



On April 27, 2023, Fort Gibson Park Rangers Josh Glazebrook, Grant Geisbauer (Bobber), and Tiffany Natividad, with participation from Tulsa District Recreation Planner Tabitha Nixon and Recreation Section Chief Amanda Palmer greet Adair Public School students and present a water safety program to Adair Public Schools 4th grade students. Approximately 79 students were in attendance.

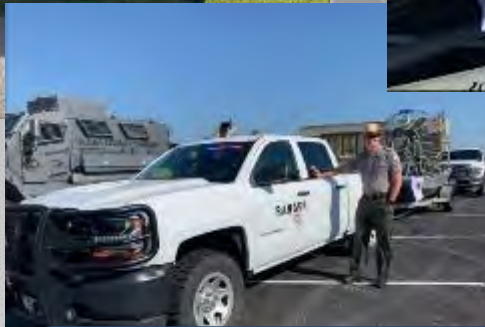
Photographs courtesy of Tulsa District PAO, Stacey Reese

Northern Area – KAW LAKE Water safety



Kaw staff presented water safety materials to Washington Pre-k center for distribution to nearly 250 pre-kindergarten students to share the water safety message as we approach summer months.

Northern Area - Keystone Lake Water Safety outreach



Keystone Lake Rangers attended 4 different Water Safety Events across Oklahoma. Every Ranger on staff attended at least one event over the last two weeks. Ranger staff includes: Ashley Novar, Lauren Enloe, Beth Stevenson, Tanner Huckaby, & Alex Bilinski. The Sand Springs Truck Touch was a huge success, with 250 kids visiting the USACE Airboat to learn about Water Safety. On the same day, Rangers attended the Safe Kids Day at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Bobber also attended and the Rangers interacted with 200 kids. The Muscogee Nation Conservation District Natural Resources Careers & Outdoor Classroom was held in Okmulgee where Rangers spoke to 60 kids about water safety and careers with the Corps. Rangers also attended the Sapulpa Parks Outdoor Recreation Expo and spoke to 100 kids and adults. The Keystone Rangers reached over 600 kids and adults at these events over the last two weeks!

East central area – Tenkiller Park Rangers Sequoyah NWR fishing clinic at Brushy Lake

On May 4th, Tenkiller Lake Rangers Sheryl Townsend and Jeremiah Holland attended and presented water safety to approximately 90 students at the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Clinic at Brushy Lake.



Red river area – pat mayse Lake Fishing tournament water safety event



Park Rangers Audrey White, John McQuaig, and Joshua Seavey set up a water safety booth at Uncle Jessie's Fishing Tournament. The rangers talked with the anglers about water safety and UXO safety as hunters/fishermen are typically who find UXO on project lands. There were roughly 250 anglers and 120 boats that participated with the event as well as people coming over from around the area which made it a good event to increase public awareness.

**Red river area – pat mayse lake
kids safe Saturday water safety event**



Ranger Joshua Seavey, John McQuaig, Connor Rychlik, and Bobber, the water safety dog, attended Kids Safe Saturday in Paris, TX to promote the Corps water safety mission. The rangers passed out water safety material and told the kids to be like Bobber and to always wear your lifejacket when on a boat. Overall, the rangers provided an educational experience to the children for water safety.

Red River Area - Waurika Lake Water Safety Presentation



Waurika Lake Park Ranger, Destany Rochell, dressed as Bobber the Water Safety Dog, attended SafeKids Day at the Oklahoma City Zoo on 06 May 2023. She, along with other USACE Park Rangers, made several hundred water safety contacts from 0900-1200 hrs.

Northern Area – COPAN LAKE PRAIRIE POND KID FISH



Copan Lake Park Ranger Jared Parker and Lake Manager Brandon Moehrle hosted a kid's fishing derby at Prairie Pond on 03 June 2023 for local area youth. Lake staff helped kids identify caught fish and discussed the importance of water safety to all present at the event.

NORTHERN AREA – SKIATOOK LAKE WATER SAFETY NEWS INTERVIEW



Skiatook Lake Staff worked with Fox 23 News and SWT PAO to promote water safety over the Holiday weekend. Mrs. Cassi Free lost her son back in 2020 due to carbon monoxide poisoning on Lake Eufaula and accompanied lake staff on the water to educate boaters on the dangers of CO.

RED RIVER Area – BROKEN BOW Lake WATER SAFETY PROGRAM



Broken Bow Lake staff put on water safety events for local summer school groups ranging from kindergarten-6th grade. These summer school students were put through a variety of obstacle courses while wearing disorientation goggles for the purpose of educating these children on the value of having your lifejacket on while on or near the water. Students stated it was extremely difficult to maneuver and put their life jacket on while on land and they can't imagine having to complete this task in the water during a stressful situation.

RED RIVER AREA - LAKE TEXOMA WATER SAFETY EVENT



Rangers Conner Rychlik, Josh English, Kyle Toms, and Rachel Storey worked a water safety event in Kingston, Oklahoma. These type of events serve as an excellent platform to stress the importance of water safety and wearing your life jackets when you are on or near the water.

RED RIVER AREA - LAKE TEXOMA WATER SAFETY



Rangers Cody Thompson, Conner Rychlik, and Josh Ringle recently visited the Calera summer school program where they educated students on the different types of life jackets, how to know if your life jacket fits properly, and how to help a person who has fallen into the water without putting themselves into danger.

EAST CENTRAL AREA- FORT GIBSON Lake camp bandage Water Safety program



Park Rangers Josh Glazebrook, Tiffany Natividad, and summer ranger Colton Thomas participated in the Camp Bandage in partnership with the Grand River Dam Authority. The event emphasized accident prevention on land and on or near the water.



Kansas Area – Kansas Health Department

WHO: Coffey County, Kansas Health Department, Multiple Agencies and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Team

WHAT: Park Rangers Joseph Holcomb and Aaron Springer assisted Coffey County Health Department to hand out free life jackets to kids and spread the USACE water safety messages. 145 appropriately sized life jackets were handed out to kids, in the surrounding communities, that attended the event and over 200 water safety contacts were made!

WHEN: 6 June 2014

WHERE: B...



Memorial Day Press Conference Bass Pro Shop – Broken Arrow, OK



On May 26th at Bass Pro in Broken Arrow, Safe Kids Tulsa hosted the annual Memorial Day Press Conference. Agencies talked to the media about the importance of water safety over the Memorial Day weekend. Other agencies/partners in attendance were Safe Kids Tulsa, Broken Arrow Police Department, Grand River Dam Authority and Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The Tulsa District Commander discussed importance of wearing a life jacket, being aware of your surroundings, do not mix alcohol with water related activities and for the public to safely enjoy the weekend at the lakes. All four media outlets were in attendance from Tulsa and clips from the conference were played on the local news throughout the holiday weekend.



Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day Tulsa District – May 19th



Water Safety Podcast's



Audrey White, Park Ranger at Texoma Lake, conducted a water safety podcast in the month of April and Abby Jones, Natural Resource Management Specialist, conducted a podcast on water safety, camping and hiking safety for the month of June.

“It didn’t really cross my mind how often accidents can happen & also easily be prevented by wearing a lifejacket.”

- Audrey White, Park Ranger
Lake Texoma Project Office





Social Media Posts

Tulsa District utilized the National Water Safety Program social media posts for the month of April, May and June.

