

WINTER 2022-2023 WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES REPORT

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Prepared By:
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Safety Team Representative

APRIL 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVD National Water Safety Team Representative

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

- Erica Nabers, MVD National Water Safety Representative

National Water Safety Product Orders

The National Water Safety Products are being shipped out now. If you do not receive your order by May 1st, please reach out to me. THANK YOU for all that you do to promote water safety!

National Water Safety Photo Contest

The 2021-2022 National Water Safety Photo Contest has been judged and the winners will be announced soon, so stay tuned!

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>



VICKSBURG DISTRICT (MVK)

De Gray Lake

1. Maintain hypothermia and water safety material updates on all bulletin boards and digital signs around the lake.
2. Add hypothermia into all outreach programs.
3. Teach the importance of swim lessons during the winter months.
4. Talk to kids about the dangers of playing on ice.
5. Try to add at least one new program and event to the work calendar this year.

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Illinois Waterway Project

- Composed water safety messaging for three publications LaSalle County Events, Ottawa Times and two different ads for the Outdoor Adventure magazine.
- Registrations for Illinois Boat Safety Classes have begun. Five classes are scheduled for this year.

2023 Boater Safety Classes Offered At Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

- April 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- May 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- June 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- July 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- August 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Don't miss one of these free (DNR-approved) boater safety classes.

Only one 8-hour class is required to receive your certification. However, the age of 17 is required. Students under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Did You Know...? (at least one on or after Jan. 1, 1984, who intends to operate a motorboat) must be accompanied by an instructor or other person who is licensed to operate a motorboat. This class is recommended for:

- New boaters
- Boaters that are taking pleasure
- Boaters that are taking instruction
- Boaters that are taking instruction
- Boaters that are taking instruction

Class materials will be provided.

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam
950 N. 27th Rd. (Dee Bennett Rd.), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054

ILLINOIS WATERWAY VISITOR CENTER

LIFE JACKETS WORN...NOBODY MOURNS

95% of boaters who died in boating accidents were not wearing life jackets. Wear it for your loved ones.

US Army Corps of Engineers

LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

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Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

Your Best View of Starved Rock

US Army Corps of Engineers

- I&M Canal / Illinois Waterway Information
- 2023 Boat Safety Classes
Apr. 15, May 20, Jun. 17, July 15, Aug. 19
- Group Programs
- Gift Store

US Army Corps of Engineers - Starved Rock Lock & Dam
950 N 27th Rd (Dee Bennett Rd), Ottawa, IL • 815-667-4054

Mississippi River Office

The US Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project staffed a water safety booth at the Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Adventure Show held at the QCCA Expo Center on February 16-19. They also staffed a booth at the RV Show held at the QCCA Expo Center from February 24-26. Participants at both shows were able to interact with Park Rangers and volunteers. They could sign up for upcoming boat classes, pick up America the Beautiful passes, annual day use passes, river charts and other water safety items. There was a life jacket try on station and water floatation demonstration. At the fishing show specifically, a few lucky kids were able to participate in a scavenger hunt around the Expo Center and earn a free tackle box at the Corps booth. Both events were well attended with 2,883 people stopping by the booth.



The Mississippi River Project's annual recreation guide "Along the River" was published and 12,000 copies were received for distribution in January. This guide includes several water safety messages throughout it's 48 pages. A digital copy of this guide is also posted on our website at www.missriver.org

ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Lake Red Rock Project

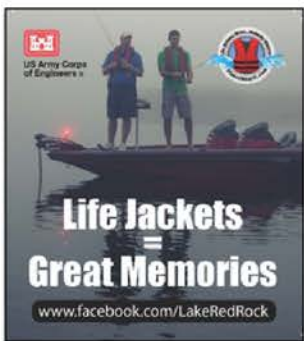
The digital kiosk in the Red Rock Visitor Center received an update in content recently, and part of the update included some new water safety messages and graphics. A quiz about the various types of buoys and other short water safety videos were provided by the Corps National Water Safety Program.

Lake Red Rock purchased ad space in the spring issue of the Iowa Outdoors magazine which will feature a water safety message in the issue. Red Rock was able to utilize an ad originally designed for the 2023 Pella Travel Guide. According to the Iowa DNR, approximately 40,000 people subscribe to the Iowa DNR's publication, and 120,000 readers are reached per issue. The publication will provide readers with a water safety message in time for the upcoming recreation season.



Red Rock renewed its partnership for with local sprint car driver Dan Henning to continue sharing water safety messages to race fans and lake visitors.

Henning sports several Bobber logos on his car, and a water safety message is provided by the race announcer when Dan is introduced before each event. He also plans to take part in some meet-and-greet events at the lake, encouraging visitors to wear their life jackets.



Red Rock and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG) have renewed their partnership to offer Vessel Safety Checks at the lake, and they are also working to schedule a Safe Boating Course for the spring. The closest flotilla to Red Rock is based out of Des Moines.

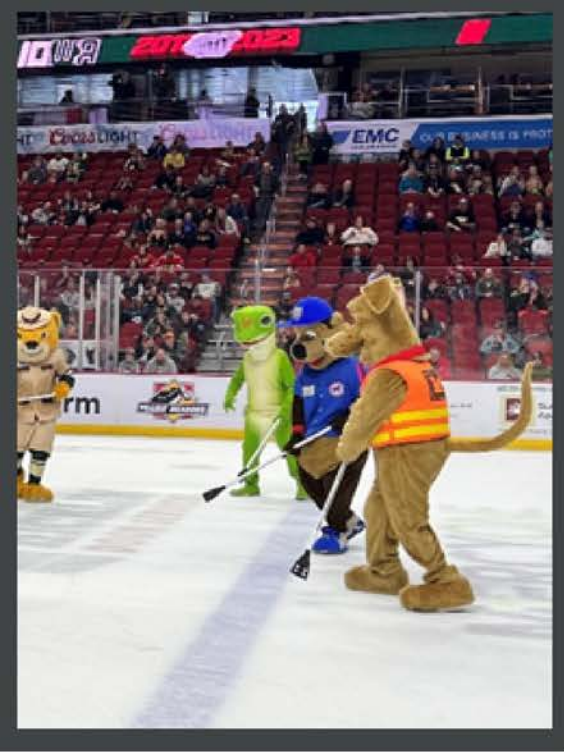
The USCG wasn't able to provide safe boating classes for several years due to COVID restrictions, but they provided a vessel safety check for boaters last spring at the Whitebreast ramp.



ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT (MVR)

Saylorville Lake

Iowa Wild Crash's Birthday Party: On February 19th volunteers and Bobber attended the Iowa Wild Crash's Birthday Party. At this event, Bobber got to participate in many fun activities with mascots from around Iowa, including Cy from Iowa State University, Herky from University of Iowa, Crash from the Iowa Wild, and several others. Bobber got to play broom ball and race with his fellow mascots. This is another great opportunity for Bobber to spread our water safety message to fans from all around the Des Moines metro. Around 500 water safety contacts were made directly, however the arena was full of spectators cheering on the mascots.



Iowa Wild Pucks N Paws: On December 4th Saylorville Lake rangers, volunteers, and Bobber attended the Iowa Wild's Pucks N Paws event at Wells Fargo Arena. While there, Bobber got to engage with the public (and their dogs!) and spread our water safety message. Our partnership with the Iowa Wild allows us to get in a water safety message while staffing a booth during the hockey game. Around 350 water safety contacts were made.



ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

Blackhawk Park & Eau Galle

The La Crosse Sports show took place 9-12 February 2023 in La Crosse, WI. Rangers from Blackhawk Park and Foresters from the La Crescent ES office assisted with staffing our informational booth. We/Corps was immediately set up near the only entrance which resulted in thousands of visitors coming to our booth to learn about water safety, boating on the Mississippi River and Federal Rules and Regulations regarding federal waterways. Total attendance at the show was 18,789. A conservative estimate of contacts is about 1/3, so 6,263 direct contacts.

Minneapolis Boat Show took place January 18-21 in Minneapolis, MN. Park Rangers from Eau Galle assisted for the weekend.

1/20 Minnesota Boat Show- 100 WS contacts

1/21 Minnesota Boat Show- 250 WS Contacts

Leech Lake Dam Recreation Area

We focused the last few months on visiting local schools and hockey tournaments for our water safety initiatives, utilizing the "Safe Passage" video and water safety products/posters.

Park Ranger Shawn Weissenfluh presenting an EKO program to Remer Elementary 4th grade students.

Remer Elementary 4th Grade Students Watching "Safe Passage" Video



ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

Lake Ashtabula (Baldhill Dam) & North Dakota Flood Control Section

Park Ranger staff from Lake Ashtabula Project conducted a radio interview with KOVC in January about ice safety.

Park Rangers staffed a booth at Red River Sports Show in Fargo, ND March 2-5, resulting in 1,450 direct contacts.

Teamwork!

Cross Lake Recreation Area

St. Cloud Sports Show - Park Ranger Ellie Tabako attended the Annual St. Cloud Sportsmen's Show on behalf of USACE where she interacted with visitors regarding water and boating safety, discussed dam operations and navigation, and introduced hundreds of attendees to USACE parks and campgrounds. An estimated 800 contacts were made throughout the weekend.



Winterfest - In partnership with The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway, Cross Lake Recreation Area participated in Crosslake's annual Winterfest. Rangers and members of the Byway prepared a chicken enchilada soup which placed 3rd in the People's Choice Amateur category! The campground also hosted a water safety coloring contest, designed by Park Ranger Daniel Williams, and collected nearly 80 coloring sheets. Winners in 4 different age categories received a lifejacket donated by The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. In addition, visitors were invited inside to color their own water safety t-shirt. An estimated 160 water safety contacts were made.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Carlyle Lake

20 Facebook posts related to water safety were displayed on the Carlyle Lake Facebook Timeline with 327 post engagements from the 24,100 followers.

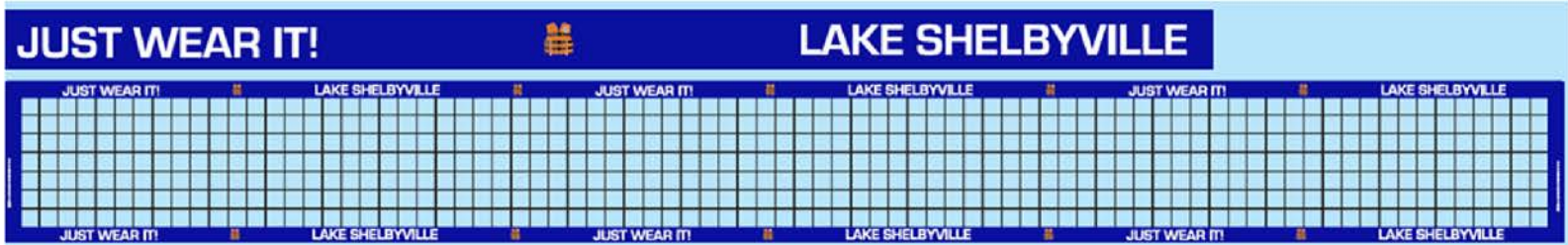


Installed water safety window clings on the walk-in cooler at a local gas station near the Dam West Recreation Area.



Lake Shelbyville

While preparing for the upcoming 2023 recreation season, Lake Shelbyville ordered 12 custom made water safety volleyball nets for the project. These nets promote water safety with a message and image of a life jacket.



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



1. On the first Friday of every month, Lake Shelbyville Park Ranger's join local news station WTIM to promote water safety messages and Lake Shelbyville updates.





ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rivers Project Office/National Great Rivers Museum

Clarksville Lock and Dam 24 Tours - In partnership with the City of Clarksville and in conjunction with Clarksville Eagle Days Rivers Project staff and volunteers facilitated guided tours of the dewatered Lock 24 in Clarksville, Missouri. In a two-day span, 22 tours of the dewatered lock were given accommodating over 400 visitors. In addition to tours, the Rivers Project manned an educational booth inside the Apple Shed, the primary location for the event, which generated nearly 600 water safety contacts.

Ice Jam at the Dam - In partnership with Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, and several other local organizations the Rivers Project presented the second annual Ice Jam at the Dam at the National Great Rivers Museum. On 18 February 2023 over 1,000 visitors attended the family focused event. Attractions included open tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam, live animal presentations, live music, plenty of winter-themed educational booths, and visits from Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Open tours of Melvin Price brought 650 visitors to the top of the structure to learn about the Navigational Channel and how it can change when the Mississippi River freezes over in the winter. Additionally, a special water safety-themed Polar Passport was granted to children who visited 6 of the 11 educational booths.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Rend Lake

Hosted "Let's Celebrate Christmas" as part of the Small World Program series on December 20. The 80 participants read a book, created their own holiday ornaments, and met Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Santa Claus. Bobber passed out Bobber Activity books for the kids to take home.



At the beginning of each Small World Program, parents and their children learned about water safety and Rend Lake's life jacket loaner program. At the end of the programs, ISOP rangers passed out Bobber Activity Books and Bobber tattoos. Total contacts made for January, February, and March Small World Programs were 225 contacts.



The Rend Lake Project and area emergency response partners participated in an emergency action plan exercise as part of the Dam Safety Training. District 13 Illinois State Police, Franklin County Sherriff's Office, Jackson County EMA, Franklin County EMA, Rend Lake Conservancy District, and other partners were in attendance.



The Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center posted 15 different water safety social media messages that engaged 1,187 audience members.



ST. LOUIS DISTRICT (MVS)

Wappapello Lake

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson and Student Trainee Matthew Watson presented an Animal Adaptation and Water Safety program to the Neelyville Head Start on 10 March 2023. The students also received a surprise visit from Bobber the Water Safety Dog.



*Thank
you!*

For all that you do to promote water safety in the Mississippi Valley Division!