



South Atlantic Division

WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Quarter 2 • Published April 2023

Photo: Ranger Schaefer,
Walter F. George Reservoir

Goals for Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter

Why participate in this quarterly newsletter?

- Showcase what your project or office is doing nation-wide
- Share water safety programs & initiative ideas between projects and offices
- Provide a brief record of SAD water safety initiatives

Water Safety Initiatives Newsletter Timetable

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Dec. 25th

Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Mar. 25th

Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by June 25th

Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Sept. 25th

Good News Story

'Life jackets do save lives': Rescuers say 5 people rescued from Lake Hartwell had on life jackets

Share



Updated: 6:21 PM EST Jan 30, 2023

Infinite Scroll Enabled



Jennifer Ready

Anchor/Reporter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

UPDATE: WATER SAFETY PRODUCT ORDERS

The USACE Depot is working hard to get all product orders shipped. If you haven't received your office or lake project's water safety product order by the end of April please contact Emily Jones the SAD Water Safety Representative at Emily.A.Jones@usace.army.mil

FY98-22 USACE PUBLIC RECREATION FATALITIES DATA SUMMARY (COPY LINK LOCATION)

WATER SAFETY SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

The National Water Safety Program's social media pages (Please Wear It on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) that are managed in cooperation with The Corps Foundation will be posting regular water safety messages for offices and lake projects to share and post on Corps social media channels.

DLL-SAD-WATER-SAFETY

If you would like to be either added or removed from the DLL-SAD-Water-Safety listserv please email Emily Jones the SAD Water Safety Representative at Emily.A.Jones@usace.army.mil

SAD QUARTERLY AWARDS SCHEDULE

The SAD Water Safety PDT wants to recognize you for your outstanding efforts to educate the public on water safety, the environment, Corps mission, your project, and more!

- Awards program open to all employees within the Operations Community of Practice
- Recipients receive time off awards
- Nominations can be received from anyone (co-workers, supervisors, self-nominations)
- No effort is considered too small
- Can include - direct contacts, social media engagement numbers, EKO cards, and pictures

Quarter 1 | Oct. - Dec. | Submit by Feb. 14th
Quarter 2 | Jan. - Mar. | Submit by Apr. 28th
Quarter 3 | Apr. - June | Submit by July 28th
Quarter 4 | Jul. - Sept. | Submit by Nov. 30th

Send nominations to your district representative on the SAD WS PDT!

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

Photo: @JacksonvilleDistrict

Okeechobee Waterway

Ranger James Norris conducted an informative discussion with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9 out of Stuart FL. Flotilla 5-9's provides services to the public including Waterway Patrols, Boating Safety Courses, Vessel Safety Checks, and Public Outreach Activities. Their meeting began with the pledge of allegiance, roll call, and voting the meeting into quorum. After these activities were conducted, I informed the group of our partnership and that I was pleased to develop a professional relationship with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The information covered during the meeting was the mission of the Corps of Engineers at the Okeechobee Waterway, what the responsibilities of the Park Rangers are in Visitor Assistance, Title 36 enforcement, shoreline management, interpretive programs and water safety.



Park Ranger James Norris presented a Water safety interpretive discussion with Boy Scout Troop 823 at Saint Lucie Lock and Dam North side camping area during their annual overnight camping event 9 thru 11 December 2022, in Stuart, FL. Park Ranger Norris covered the topics of buddy swimming, that jumping from cliffs or bridges is a hazardous activity, using the rescue techniques reach, throw, row, go. During the event, Ranger Norris had 15 Boy Scouts present with many of their parents attending as well as the Boy Scout Troop leader David Dye.



MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

West Point Lake

Park Ranger Derrick Wilkerson attended a career fair at Lanett City Schools Junior High in Lanett, AL on February 24, 2023, where he introduced junior high and high school students ranging from 8th – 12th grade to the field of natural resources. He also included a water safety message as well for the students. During the event, Ranger Wilkerson was able to make 387 water safety contacts.



Park Ranger Christine Dowell presented a program to K-5th grade students and their parents at Clearview Elementary School in LaGrange, GA on March 16, 2023, as a part of the school's Family STEAM/Math night. Park Ranger Dowell demonstrated the principle of buoyancy by using oranges to show what happens if someone doesn't wear a life jacket while in the water. During the event, Ranger Dowell made 120 water safety contacts.



Supervisory Park Ranger Ben Williams represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at W.F. Burns Middle School Career Day in Valley, AL, March 22, 2023. He spoke with 410 students about the mission of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and water safety.



MOBILE DISTRICT (SAM)

Photo: @USACEMOBILE

Walter F. George Reservoir

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walter F. George Reservoir (WFG), attends local festivals and fairs every year. One of which, held in February annually, is the Worlds of Work Career Fair held in Dothan, AL, which is the second year we have attended the career fair. These fairs allow USACE to spread the word about the many career paths available through just USACE. Eighth and ninth graders attend the fair every year from many schools surrounding the fairgrounds. This year 456 young minds were touched with a career booth set up at the fair. Pictured are Rangers Anthony Strickland and Shannon Schaefer speaking with youngsters!



Park Rangers Anthony Strickland and Shannon Schaefer demonstrate the importance of PFDs during a capsized boating simulation for K-6 at Parker Elementary School on Fort Rucker, AL. The students also learned about drowning victim rescue tactics at the program held on 9 MAR 2023. There was a total of about 500 students at the school, with an average of 125 per group.

Chief Park Ranger Joshua Davis and Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer assisted in river cleanup efforts held on 11 March 2023 hosted by Farley Nuclear Plant and Alabama Power. The cleanup efforts were hosted out of Gordon Boat Landing, and Volunteers of the cleanup effort went by land and the Alabama Power pontoon boats. Volunteers arrived at 08:00 and picked up litter until 12:00, with lunch being held afterward with door prizes given out. Many tires were picked up, along with many bags of trash. There were about 25 Volunteers in attendance at the event. A couple of little boys were even sworn in as Junior Rangers by Ranger Shannon Schaefer and given goodie bags with water safety products in them!



SAVANNAH DISTRICT (SAS)

Photo: @SavannahCorps

J. Strom Thurmond Dam & Lake

Park Rangers Makayla Barlow, David Quebedeaux, Chief Ranger Henry Way and Professional Angler Charlie Evans promoted the Every Kid Outdoors program, water safety, and the importance of life jackets to every 4th grade student (2,104) in Columbia County Georgia. 5th Grade students at North Columbia Elementary School also attended the program. Chief Ranger Henry Way accepted a donation of lifejackets to help stock project life jacket loaner stations.

- 2,104 Every Kid Outdoors Passes issued
- 50 Donated Life Jackets

MLF sponsor Onyx donates PFDs to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Life Jacket Loaner Program at Clarks Hill Lake

Major League Fishing and the US Army Corps of Engineers teach water safety at North Columbia Elementary School



WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Photo: @PhilpottLake

Philpott Lake



Ranger Dillon Brown set up a booth at Anglers Choice Boat Show in Martinsville Virginia. We made about 400 water safety contacts through handouts and speaking with participants. Along side us was The Fallen Outdoors, who partners with us to put on an annual Salute to Service Fishing Event. Event participants were there to listen to pro anglers give seminars and look at the 2023 boat and fishing gear line-up.

Philpott Lake Rangers set up a booth at the annual Fast Track convention in Martinsville, Virginia. Fast Track is a trade show where local businesses and non-profit entities set up to network and learn what local businesses have to offer. It was a very busy event and approximately 650 contacts were made.

John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir & W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir

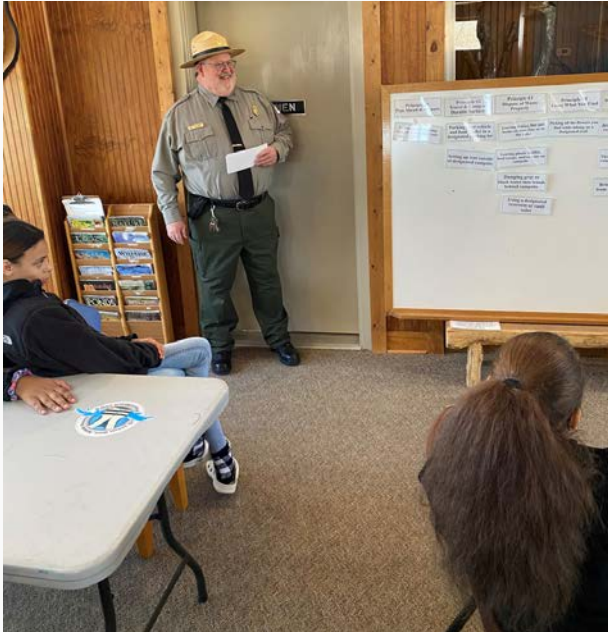
On 24-26 Feb, Rangers Johnny Jones and Grace Trimble of W. Kerr Scott along with Rangers Emily Jones and Debra Hood of John H. Kerr operate a booth at the Central Carolina Boat & Fishing Expo in Greensboro, NC. A total of 875 expo attendees stopped by the booth to learn more about water safety and recreational opportunities with the Corps.



WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Photo: @PhilpottLake

John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir



Rangers Ed Crowder, David Crowder, and Emily Jones facilitated a program about careers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to 13 Warren County Middle Schoolers at the Joseph S.J. Tanner Environmental Education Center. The program focused on the responsibilities of park rangers, shoreline rangers, and foresters. Students learned about water safety through a Leave No Trace activity.

On March 2nd the John H. Kerr Team hosted a safety meeting between partners and lease holders which focused on water safety, sharing roles, responsibilities, and challenges in order to improve our communication and working relationships. The meeting was attended by Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Virginia State Parks, North Carolina State Parks, Virginia Department of Forestry, Mecklenburg County Virginia Sheriff's Office, and John H. Kerr staff.




SAD ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!



 **SAD Water Safety Team Award**
Hartwell Dam & Lake



SAD Water Safety Individual Award 
Ranger Stephen Cahn



 **SAD Team Education Award**
John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir

SAD FY23 Q1 AWARD WINNERS

Q1 Water Safety Award Jeff Mau, West Point Lake

Park Ranger Jeff Mau was nominated for his work promoting water safety at the 43rd annual “Special Day for Special People” and a “Trunk or Treat” event at a local elementary school. Ranger Mau’s participation in these events resulted in over 1,100 direct water safety contacts and countless indirect contacts in the community around West Point Lake.

Q1 Education Award Dillon Brown, Philpott Lake

Park Ranger Dillon Brown is recognized for his collaborative efforts with the Dan River Basin Association to continue the very successful Streamside Trees in the Classroom Program. Through this partnership, 448 students participated in interpretive programs and planted black willow seedlings at Philpott Lake. Ranger Dillon also spread the water safety message with students in his interpretive programs and at a local “Touch a Truck” event.

Congratulations