

# Water Safety Project Spotlight:

## Water Safety is a Top Priority at Allatoona Lake

**POC: Pam Doty, Water Safety Program Manager, (817) 886-1727**

Allatoona, located in Georgia 36 miles from Atlanta, has an average of 6.7 million visits every year. At all of our lake and river projects visitors come to enjoy the outdoors and most of them spend time on, in, or near the water. Here are some of the things that are done at Allatoona Lake to help keep their visitors safe.

As part of their water safety initiatives with Cherokee County Safe Kids Coalition the Allatoona Lake staff partnered with them in 2007 to create an Allatoona Lake Ranger Trading Card Program that is still going strong today. The trading cards are distributed by the park rangers to children 15 years of age and under. Children ask park rangers for their card and they must answer a water safety question before receiving a card. After a child has received a certain number of cards they can take them to the project management office to receive donated prizes that includes things like life jackets, water park passes, Zoo Atlanta passes, beach mats, and t-shirts. A brochure is created every year to promote the trading card program.

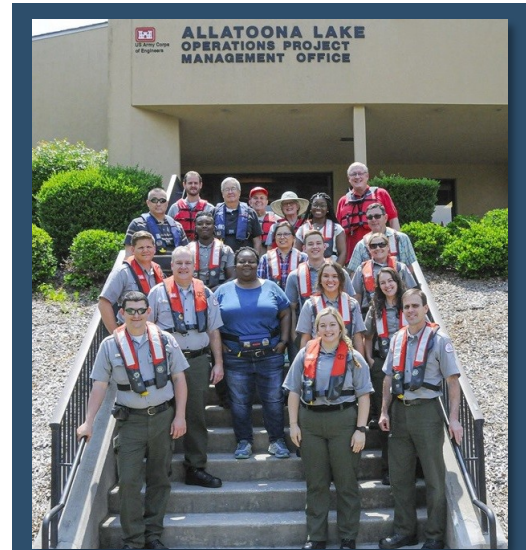
In 2006, Allatoona Lake started their life jacket loaner program with life jackets that were donated by a local Walmart store. Since then, the program has expanded to include 22 stations in 19 recreation areas. Life jackets that are loaned out come from partnerships with the BoatUS Foundation, Sea Tow Foundation, Yamaha Corporation, and Cobb County Safe Kids Coalition. For example, earlier this year the Yamaha Corporation donated 100 life jackets that can be used in the Allatoona Lake and Bartow County River life jacket loaner programs. The life jackets at Allatoona Lake are loaned out on an honor system at stations in their recreation areas and can be checked out at different locations around the lake including at the project management office. Having a loaner program that provides life jackets both on an honor system and check out system helps ensure that the life jackets are returned and reduces the number of life jackets that “walk away”.

The water safety program at Allatoona Lake could not be done without the assistance of a great volunteer staff. Over the years and since the Allatoona Volunteer Village has been created, volunteers have increasingly been asked to help promote water safety. In FY2019, the “Village-People” as they are known, completed over 3,650 hours in recreation and water safety work. Their water safety duties include hanging several posters and banners in different locations around the lake, painting stencils on the pavement at boat ramps and other locations, assisting partners with numerous events, preparing handout materials for events, presenting interpretive programs at the beaches, taking pictures, which some of them were entered in the National Water Safety Program Photo Contest and won, maintaining and inspecting all of the life jacket loaner stations at the lake, and this year they built a new storage rack to hold all of their donated life jackets.

For the last five years, the staff at Allatoona Lake has participated in Wear a Life Jacket to Work Day, which is always the Friday before National Safe Boating Week in May. This year the Bartow County Commissioner and the Mayor of Cartersville, GA signed a proclamation of support for National Safe Boating Week. Members of the staff and volunteers from Allatoona Lake and other partners attended the proclamation signing to show their support.

The Allatoona Lake staff has built upon their water safety program by also incorporating the Every Kid Outdoor passes into their water safety interpretive programs. In 2018, Allatoona Lake led the South Atlantic Division in number of passes issued and this year in 2019 they currently lead the nation, which includes all agencies, by issuing nearly 10,000 passes.

An Allatoona Lake Water Safety Task Force was created in 2015 to build cooperation and combine resources between first responders and partners around the lake to promote water safety particularly on holiday weekends. Since the inception of the task force, Allatoona Lake has seen a large decrease in water-related public recreation fatalities. In 2018, there were no water-related fatalities at the lake. That is the first year ever in the 68 year history of the lake that there were no fatalities.



*Photo Above and Below: Employees participate in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day. Sample of Allatoona Lake Park Ranger Trading Cards.*



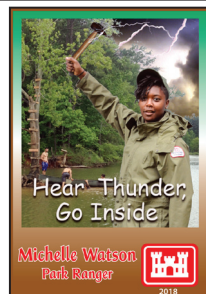
# 2019 Ranger Trading Card Program

*Our purpose is to increase water safety awareness among children and parents.*



## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. Park Rangers will distribute cards to children 15 years of age and under.
2. Children can obtain cards by answering questions and/or by demonstrating to the Park Ranger that he/she understands safe swimming and/or boating practices regarding water safety.
3. Cards must be brought to the Project Management Office to be redeemed for prizes.



Award items are available at:

Allatoona Lake Operations  
Project Management Office  
1138 GA Highway Spur 20  
Cartersville, GA 30121  
• For questions or office hours •  
Call 678-721-6700.

*A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors:*



NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL

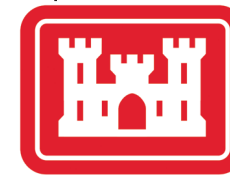


Allatoona Lake

*“Pick a card,  
any card ...*



*... to help increase water safety awareness.”*



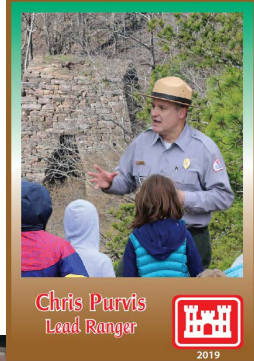
**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Mobile District

2019 **Ranger Trading  
Card Program**

When redeeming cards for rewards, staff will initial the back of each card and indicate the award that was received.

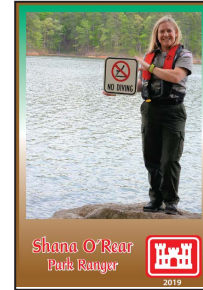
Staff will return the initialed cards back to the child.

Previously initialed cards **Do Not Count** towards another.



## Award Schedule

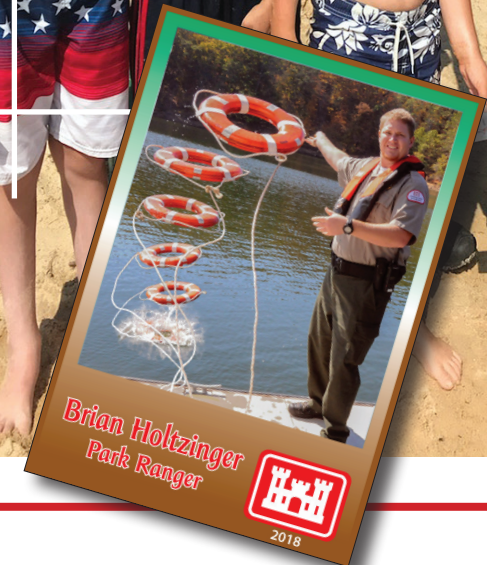
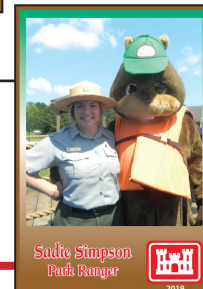
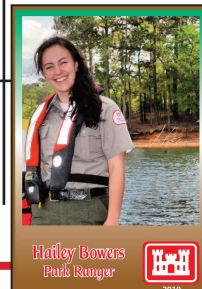
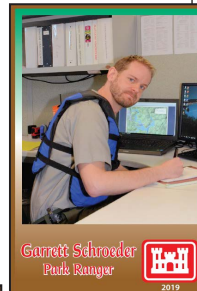
5 cards: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Life Jacket*



6 cards: \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Wear It" water bottle and Bobber Card Game*

7 cards: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Beach Towel, Beach Buddy Matt, "Keep Bartow Beautiful" T-shirt "Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup" T-Shirt*

Buddy Beaver Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Zoo Atlanta Ticket, Tellus Museum Pass or Booth Western Art Museum Pass (limited supply)*





Hailey Bowers  
Park Ranger



2019



Garrett Schroeder  
Park Ranger



2019



Brian Holtzinger  
Park Ranger



2019



Sadie Simpson  
Park Ranger



2019



Summer Rangers



2019



Summer Rangers



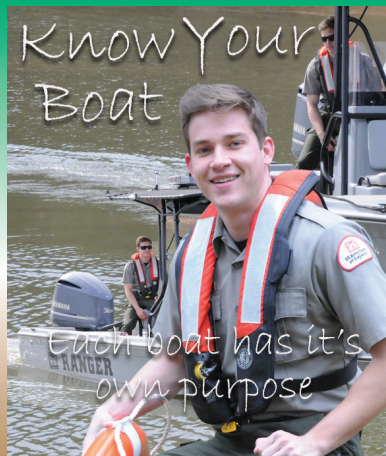
2019



Chris Purvis  
Lead Ranger



2019



Lane Pounds  
Park Ranger



2019



Buddy the Beaver



2019



**Brian Holtzinger**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*  
**Reach, Throw, Don't Go!**

REACH: A boat oar, fishing pole, or anything you have nearby to the person in the water.

THROW: Toss things that will float for the person to grab.

DON'T GO: Never go in to the water. Call 911 for assistance.

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**Garrett Schroeder**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*  
**Know Before You Go**

Check weather and lake conditions before you go. Tell someone where you are going and how long you are going to be there.

Bring water and snacks. Be prepared, know your limits, and know what to do in case of an emergency.

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**Hailey Bowers**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*  
**Have a Float Plan!**

Always tell someone where you are going and when you should return.

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**Summer Rangers**

**Swim Lines for Safety**

Don't swim beyond the swim line. Hazards like deep drop-offs, and unwary boaters can be dangerous. Swim in designated areas and be safe.

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**Sadie Simpson**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*

**Swimming Safety Tips**

1. Learn to swim
2. Never swim alone
3. Swim in a designated swimming area
4. Do not push, shove, or horseplay in or around the water
5. Do not dive into a lake, river, or stream

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**Buddy the Beaver**

**Lane Pounds**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*  
**Know Before You Go!**

Know Your Boat! Each boat has its own purpose. Take a boating safety course. Check your boat for all required safety equipment and file a float plan with a friend. Always wear a life jacket!

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**Chris Purvis**  
*Allatoona Lake Lead Ranger*  
**Play It Safe Around Dams, Rivers, and Canals!**

Never boat 500 feet above or below a dam. Do not go past buoys, signs, ropes or lights that warn of a dam. Never boat or paddle near a low level dam.

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Shana O'Rear  
Park Ranger



2019



Daren Many  
Park Ranger



2019



**Daren Many**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*

**Remember...Only you can  
prevent wildfires!**

Smokey Bear says to always be careful with fire, never play with matches or lighters, and make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.

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**Shana O'Rear**  
*Allatoona Lake Park Ranger*

**Never Dive!**

What is under that water? Sticks, logs, and rocks! Shallow water is also a hazard. Never dive into a lake or stream.

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