

## Visitors Get Rewarded for Wearing Life Jackets

### **POC: Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager**

The “I Got Caught” Wearing a Life Jacket initiative that the USACE National Water Safety Program partnered with Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (The Corps Foundation) to enhance has been going strong for four years. This year The Corps Foundation graciously donated insulated lunch bags and neck gaiters that were distributed to USACE lakes and river projects that requested them. In the past The Corps Foundation has donated beach towels, dry bags, vehicle windshield sunshades, and t-shirts. All these products have the “Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns” campaign logo on them, and The Corps Foundation purchased them using grant funds from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. USACE is not authorized to purchase products such as the ones donated by The Corps Foundation for public distribution, so the donations are greatly appreciated.

Every year, for the past four years, the USACE National Water Safety Program has asked USACE projects to submit requests for the products The Corps Foundation donated. This year, 114 requests were submitted and all received either the insulated lunch bags or neck gaiters. The products are handed out to adults caught wearing life jackets.

The following projects received insulated lunch bags or neck gaiters to enhance or start an “I Got Caught” initiative: LRH- Grayson, Burnsville, Summersville, John W. Flannagan, Yatesville, Delaware, RD Bailey, Dewey, Paint Creek, Fishtrap; LRL- Barren River, Nolin River, Nimrod, J. Edward Roush, Rough River, Brookville, Carr Creek; LRN- Laurel River, Barkley, Center Hill, Watts Bar Lock, Cumberland, Cheatham, Cordell Hull, J. Percy Priest, Dale Hollow; LRP- Crooked Creek, Youghiogheny River, Michael J. Kirwan, Mahoning Creek, Tygart, Shenango; MVK- Grenada, Enid, Ouachita; MVP- Eau Galle, Leech, Cross, Lock & Dam 9, Lock & Dam 4; MVR- Saylorville, Mississippi River, Illinois Waterway, Coralville; MVS- Rend, Carlyle, Kaskaskia River; NAB- Raystown, Jennings Randolph; NAE – West Hill, Hopkinton Everett, Franklin Falls; NAP- Blue Marsh, ; NWK- Pomme de Terre, Clearwater, Perry, Tuttle Creek, Rathbun, Clinton, Truman, Milford, Stockton, Pomona, Melvern; NWO – Missouri River, Garrison, Gavins Point; NWS- Libby; NWW- Mill Creek, Lower Granite, Dworshak; SAJ – Okeechobee; SAM- West Point, Alabama River, Carters, Holt, Walter F. George, Seminole, Lanier, Allatoona, Tenn-Tom; SAS- Thurmond, Hartwell; SAW- Philpott, John H. Kerr, W. Kerr Scott; SPA- Santa Rosa, Abiquiu, Trinidad; SPK- Stanislaus River, Black Butte, Success; SPN – Somoma; SWG- Wallisville; SWL- Greeson, Beaver, DeQueen; SWF- Proctor, Town Bluff, Belton, Somerville, Hords Creek; and SWT- Oologah, Kaw, Pat Mayse, Skiatook, Canton, Council Grove, Eufaula.

There have been very positive responses from the park rangers coordinating the “I Got Caught” initiatives and from the adults caught wearing their life jackets. This is a great way to reach adults and show appreciation to those who wear their life jackets and encourage others to wear them. If you haven’t started an “I Got Caught” initiative at your lake or river project, you are encouraged to start one using products you receive from the National Water Safety Program and local partners.



*Photos: Top—Allatoona Lake, Middle—John H Kerr lake, Bottom—Lake Greeson.*



# Water Safety Around USACE

**1 Libby Dam (NWS)** - Libby Dam Park Rangers partnered with the Lincoln County Health Department to receive over 100 life jackets. These life jackets are part of Libby Dam's Water Safety Program and will be matched with those in need of a life jacket throughout the 2024 recreation season.



Image Above: Part of the partnership kickoff included a social media campaign to share the water safety message and have an opportunity to win a life jacket.

**2 Rend Lake (MVS)** - Pursuing opportunities to further promote water safety, the Rend Lake Project hosted the annual Beach Blast celebration at South Sandusky Beach in June. Despite a rainy morning start, 228 beach goers participated in water safety games throughout the day. The annual event included appearances by local emergency service professionals and Bobber the Water Safety Dog.



Left: Beach goers learn the importance of a properly fitted life jacket as they play Musical Life Jackets. Right: Bobber the Water Safety Dog poses with beach goers and the Air Evac Life Team 11 helicopter.



Left: Winning submission of the sand sculpture contest. Middle: Student Interns facilitate Reach, Throw, Go Relay. Right: Student Intern, Olivia Barclay demonstrates the dangers of impairment.

**3 Northwestern Division (NWD)** - NWD's diverse program has a wide range of recreation features including heavily visited areas in, and near, large cities. The 2nd annual water safety training provided all NWD NRM employees and volunteers an in-depth background of the water safety program, tips to improve communication skills, and outreach strategies from subject matter experts throughout NWD and MVD. This 2-day training was recorded to accommodate busy summer schedules.



## We Need YOUR Help!

We need recent (within the past year or 2) photos that represent the diversity of our work in natural resources management, the diversity of our visiting public, and the diversity of our workforce. We use A LOT of photos in various publications and shared media. Please send any images to [tara.j.whitsel@usace.army.mil](mailto:tara.j.whitsel@usace.army.mil). Thank You!



## Share the Experience

The employee Share the Experience photo contest is open until Dec. 31, 2024! Please encourage employees to enter up to 10 photos taken on federal recreational lands at <https://employees.sharetheexperience.org/>. Rules can be found here: <https://employees.sharetheexperience.org/rules>



## Knowledge Management Portal for NRM

The Natural Resources Management Program has several pages on the Civil Work Knowledge management Portal.

Please visit: <https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-CW/SitePages/Natural-Resource-Management.aspx> to access program priorities, metrics, newsletters, and more.

