

# USACE Headquarters Partnership Program Update



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March 3, 2020

*"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."*



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# FY 19 Partnership/Volunteer Data

**FY19 total partners: 2,378**

(9% increase from FY 18)

**Corps projects with partnerships:**

264 of 403 (66%)

**Total value of partnerships:**

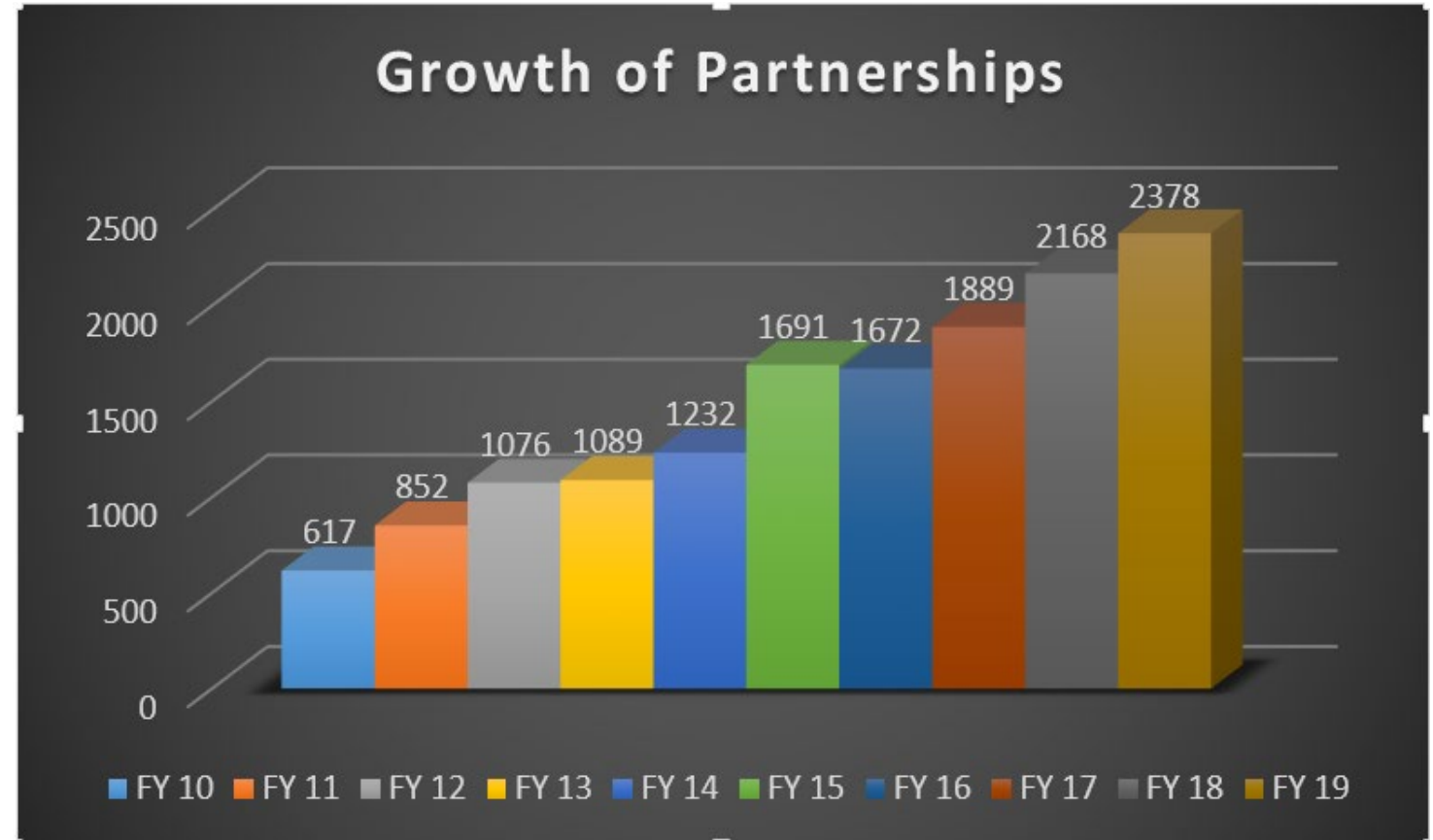
**\$ 118,367,539**

(68% increase from FY 18)

(Corps: \$23.6 million investment/  
Partner leveraged investment:

\$94.8 million)

**FY19 volunteers: 28,550 vols, 1.5 million  
hours served, with a value of \$38.3 million**



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## FY 19 Partnerships and Volunteer Program Summary Sheet

\*Data from NRM Assessment

The Corps of Engineers' natural resource management mission is to manage and conserve natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations. The challenges facing this mission require a new way of doing business, by increasing community engagement and collaboration to ensure we meet the needs of the public. Our partners and volunteers are organizations and people who want to give back to their communities and are interested in being involved in the Corps natural resource management program. Whether it is an environmental ethic, a love of parks, or enthusiasm for the outdoors, like-minded partners and volunteers share their expertise, resources, time and energy to work together toward common goals.

**Total partners: 2,377**

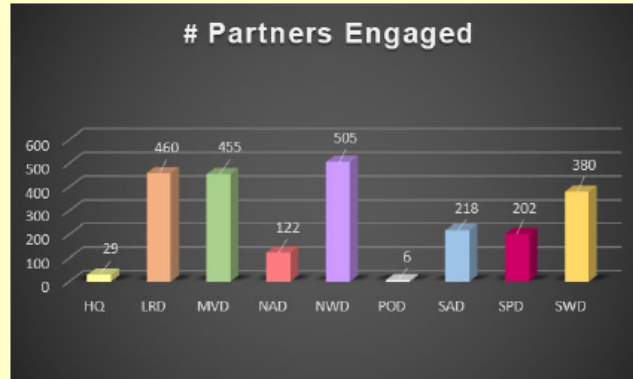
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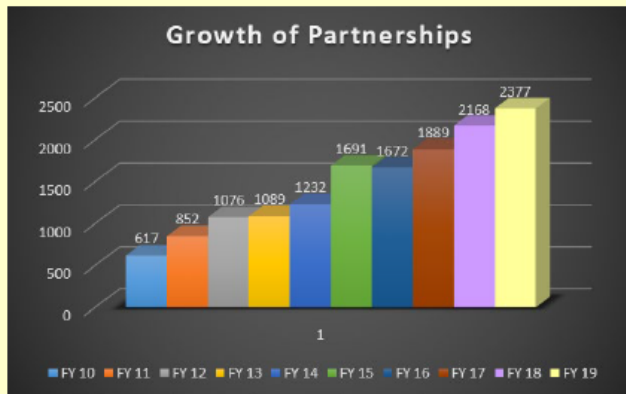
**Total value of partnerships: \$118,367,539**

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We strive to match our partners and volunteers' talents and interests with work to be done, in order to achieve our shared vision. While partners and volunteers are not a substitute for Corps management of the federal resources, they help accomplish programs and activities for which funding is not available and therefore would not normally be performed. In FY 2019, 46% of our partnerships were for environmental stewardship projects, and 54% were for recreation projects.



- **CVBs, businesses, community organizations:** More than 1,000 businesses and community organizations partnered with the Corps to offer recreation related services and supplies to visitors while also generating an economic benefit to the local communities.
- **Cooperating associations:** 53 nonprofit associations held special events, operated bookstores, fundraised, gave interpretive programs, and served as community advocates for the Corps.



- **Boy/Girl Scouts:** 3,688 scouts from 118 troops were able to complete eagle scout projects, learn new outdoor skills, beautify parks through shoreline cleanups, raise funds by recycling, perform service projects, earn badges, and participate in educational programs by park rangers to learn about natural resource careers.
- **Educational institutes:** Corps lakes provided 137 universities and schools with hands-on learning in an outdoor classroom setting, research projects, volunteer projects to meet service goals, water safety and environmental education programs, and career days.
- **Youth service and conservation corps:** 34 Corps lakes worked with conservation service corps organizations to provide 16 to 25 year-old youths with job training, academic programming, leadership skills, and experience in environmental stewardship and recreation projects.

- **National organizations with MOUs:** 153 Corps projects partnered with 32 national organizations to improve access, upgrade facilities, and create new opportunities for their members and the public at Corps lakes.
- **Public organizations:** 240 public entities, including federal and state land management agencies, local government agencies, military organizations, and tribal entities completed projects to improve recreation, restore habitat and meet environmental stewardship goals.



Beginning in 2016, Corps volunteers who served 250 hours with the Corps of Engineers or other participating Federal land management agencies became eligible to receive an America the Beautiful (ATB) Interagency Volunteer Pass. In FY 2019, 321 America the Beautiful Volunteer passes were issued to Corps volunteers for their service. In addition to the ATB pass, 105 Corps volunteers who served 100 hours received a Corps annual day use pass.



Volunteers who perform exceptional service are also eligible to receive a Corps Foundation Volunteer Excellence coin, and can be nominated for the Corps Foundation sponsored National Volunteer of the Year Award or the Enduring Service Award. In FY 2019, 44 Volunteer Excellence coins were awarded for exceptional volunteer service.

**Total volunteers: 28,550**

**Volunteer hours: 1,505,860**

**Value of volunteer service: \$38.3 million**

(Total volunteer hours x \$25.43/hour standard rate set by the Independent Sector and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

**Corps projects with volunteers: 291 of 403 (72%)**

# Annual Partnership and Volunteer Program Summary sheet

<https://corpslakes.e rd.c.dren.mil/partners/ombil-annual.cfm>

# Partnership Program Update

- Handshake Program: 193 partnerships funded since 2004. Total value \$15.2M, 61% partner share (\$9.3M).
  - Next request for nominations will be sent out in June/July. Due September 30.
- 2019 Excellence in Partnerships winner: Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance, partner at Lake Shelbyville (St. Louis District, MVD)
- 2019 Volunteer of the Year winner: The Wall Family, W. Kerr Scott Dam (Wilmington District, SAD)
- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Legends/Beacon Award nominations: Due March 31
  - Legends = lifetime achievement of Corps employee for recreation
  - Beacon = individual from the public or private sector leading the way on innovative partnerships, technologies or projects that improve recreation access, infrastructure, or funding solutions to recreation program needs



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# Partnership Program Update

- Civilian Inmate Labor Program: Delegated down to ASA (CW) on February 5
  - Next step = Delegation from ASA (CW) to District Commanders
- National cooperative agreement: Feb 2020 – Jan 2021 = last option year with SCA
  - Next step = Funding opportunity announcement for next 5-year agreement to be posted on Grants.gov
- Upcoming National MOUs
  - Back Country Horsemen of America
  - YMCA
  - Southeast Tourism Society
  - (Pursuing new MOUs with National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and updating MOUs with Boys Scouts/Girl Scouts)
- R1S reservation system changes: Working with BAH to make procedural changes to allow non-Federal entities to use the system on behalf of USACE in jointly managed parks



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# New National MOU: Kids In Parks TRACK Trails

- Purpose: Develop TRACK trails (self-guided trails) on Corps projects to get more kids outdoors
- Brochure-led discoveries
- Incentives/prizes for participation
- Trail types: biking, paddling, disc golf, hiking, citizen science



### Discover Treasures on Price Lake

Paddle around the perimeter of Price Lake and visit these colored zones to discover just a few of the stories the lake has to tell.

#### Wild Waters

Rain and snow from the surrounding peaks flow into Boone Fork and other small creeks that drain into Price Lake. The flowing water from these streams brings valuable nutrients and oxygen to the lake, making these areas abundant with aquatic wildlife. Carefully paddle around the mouth of Boone Fork and the other creeks. Look for raccoons on the surface of the water and schools of fish swimming below. What was the coolest thing you found?

Boone Fork Creek

#### Active Beavers

Beavers live at the lake and are always busy gnawing and cutting down trees. The wetland on the south end of the lake was created by beavers. They used logs and mud to block the stream to raise the water level so they could build their dome-like homes, called lodges, in the water. Can you find any signs of beavers?

Chewed Trunk

North American Beaver

Wetland

#### A Young Grandfather

Grandfather Mountain

While paddling along the lake's eastern shore, you get a unique view of Grandfather Mountain. Long ago, massive bodies of rock folded and compressed to form the Blue Ridge Mountains. In this area, older rock was actually pushed over younger rock. Over time, the older rocks on top eroded away, revealing the younger rocks beneath that form the distinct profile of Grandfather Mountain.

#### The Man behind the Park

Julian Price Dam

Julian Price was a nationally known insurance executive and civic leader. He originally bought this land (now called Julian Price Memorial Park) so that his employees would have a place to vacation. After Price's death in 1946, the estate was given to the National Park Service with an agreement that a lake would be made. Years later, the dam was built which created the 47-acre lake. From your boat you can get an excellent view of the dam as the northern end of the lake. What road goes over the dam?

#### Evergreen Shrub

From a boat, you are able to see the different levels of the forest. Rhododendron is an understory (lower level) plant that stays green all year long.

Rhododendron

Rhododendrons have bright pink, purple, or white flowers in the summer. The leathery oval leaves are about the length of an adult hand.

#### Who's Swimming Underneath?

Fish

The lake is stocked with fish including all three trout species - brook, rainbow and brown. Brook trout is a large fish native to North Carolina. Brook trout only live in cold water and are powerful predators.

Fish Food

Fish in Price Lake eat algae, zooplankton (microscopic creatures), insects, and... other fish! The most common fish in the lake are golden shiners. These small fish were introduced to the lake to provide food for the larger fish.

Brook Trout

Golden Shiner



# New National MOU: The Great Outdoors Fund

- Purpose: TGOF seeks donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations to provide grants for improvements to recreation infrastructure, access, and habitat, as well as for education/outreach, monitoring/evaluation, and research.
- Database being built to identify projects with potential for funding from private sector.
- NOW SEEKING project proposals to load into the database. If your Project has backlog maintenance needs for recreation facility improvements, please fill out the Project Entry Template form found on: <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/national.cfm?Partner=tgof> and send it to [lori@thegreatoutdoorsfund.org](mailto:lori@thegreatoutdoorsfund.org)
- This will be an on-going process.

[www.thegreatoutdoorsfund.org](http://www.thegreatoutdoorsfund.org)



# New National MOU: Union Sportsmen's Alliance

- Purpose: Utilize USA's flagship conservation program "Work Boots on the Ground" to facilitate opportunities for their members to volunteer their time and unique trade skills towards construction, repair and restoration projects on USACE public lands and waters
- USA contributes private sector resources and highly trained Union member volunteers such as:
  - Electrical workers
  - Plumbers, welders and service techs
  - Machinists
  - Sheet metal workers
  - Painters
  - Roofers
  - Bricklayers
  - Iron workers
  - Carpenters
- <http://unionsportsmen.org/>
- Find out more at <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/partners/national.cfm?Partner=usa>





# Partnership Program Update: Volunteer Clearinghouse Closure

- USACE has been using two volunteer recruitment websites since 2002
  - Volunteer Clearinghouse (used only by USACE)
  - Volunteer.gov (used by 10 federal land management agencies)
- Volunteer Clearinghouse contract expired on December 31 and was not renewed.
- USACE will continue to use Volunteer.gov along with the other federal agencies
- Starting in late 2020, District volunteer coordinators will be given training and access to volunteer.gov to post and administer the opportunities for the projects within their districts.
- Heather Burke and Bobby Jackson (LRN) are serving as USACE administrators and will respond to general inquiries via the 800-VOL-TEER toll-free phone number and [volunteer.gov@usace.army.mil](mailto:volunteer.gov@usace.army.mil) email address
  - Bobby is POC for: NAD, SAD, LRD, MVD
  - Heather is POC for: NWD, SPD, POD, SWD



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# Volunteer Background Investigation Procedures and Requirements Decision Matrix (DRAFT)

	Volunteer Type	Level of Background Investigation (BI) Required	Security Office Involvement/ Processes BI	Background Investigation Expiration	Notes
Level 1	One-time event	None required, but may choose to use local contractor at project level or District Security Office to run FBI fingerprints	No (Unless running an FBI fingerprint check)	N/A	
	Only work under LOSS by USACE personnel with infrequent contact with minors Less than 6 consecutive months and do not meet any of the scenarios below				
Level 2	Work independently of USACE personnel with unescorted access into controlled space/non-public areas	Special Agreement Check (SAC) FBI fingerprint check	Yes	SAC valid for lifetime as long as there is not a 2 year break in service.	Fingerprints may be done at military base, District Office, law enforcement office, etc.
	Require access to government files/records Collection/handling of fees				
Level 3	Volunteering more than 6 consecutive months	Tier 1: FBI fingerprints, SF 85, and OF 306 using PSIP and EQIP	Yes	BI valid for lifetime as long as there is not a 2 year break in service.	Volunteer may begin their service once their SAC results (FBI fingerprint check), SF85 and OF 306 forms have been favorably reviewed by the District Security Office for no adverse information, and the SF 85 and OF 306 forms have been submitted to OPM through the PSIP to process the full investigation.
	Involving regular contact with children under 18 years without a parent or guardian present and without constant LOSS by USACE personnel			BI valid for 5 years	
	Requiring USACE networked computer access/VOLAC card			BI valid for lifetime as long as there is not a 2 year break in service. VOLAC valid for 5 years.	



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# Upcoming Training

- PROSPECT Partnerships in Natural Resources Management class
  - June 8 - 11, 2020: Seattle District Office
  - **August 3 – 6, 2020: Willamette Valley Project, Eugene, OR**
  - October 26 – 29, 2020: Philadelphia District Office
  - May 3 – 6, 2021: Allatoona Lake, Cartersville, GA
- National NRM Workshop: April 2021



# Resources: NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

## Partnerships

[Headquarters POC](#)

[Partnerships Pages Quick-finder Index](#)

In today's financial environment PARTNERING is an essential tool that allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to effectively manage recreation and environmental resources. In order to successfully meet our recreation and stewardship missions, and to foster shared values, vision, and a sense of ownership it is imperative that we work together with state governments, Native American tribes, private/public organizations, local communities, and other partners to maintain or advance programs from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements.


Partnering helps to pool scarce resources, to promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The NRM Program has embraced this reality and is committed to fully exploring the potential development of new public-private partnerships to leverage limited appropriated funds and human resources.

This page will help you determine the [right tools for your partnerships](#), [find the right training to expand your knowledge](#), and [learn from the successful efforts of your peers](#). You will find answers to longstanding questions and discover how to effectively utilize important partners such as the [Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#). The bottom line: **partnering is smart business**.

### Partnership Types: [Which is right for you?](#)

- [Challenge Partnerships Program](#)
- [Handshake Partnerships Program](#)
- [Contributions Program](#)
- [Cooperating Associations Program](#)
- [Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement \(MOU/MOA\)](#)
- [Volunteer Program](#)
- [Economy Act Agreements](#)
- [Cooperative Agreements](#)

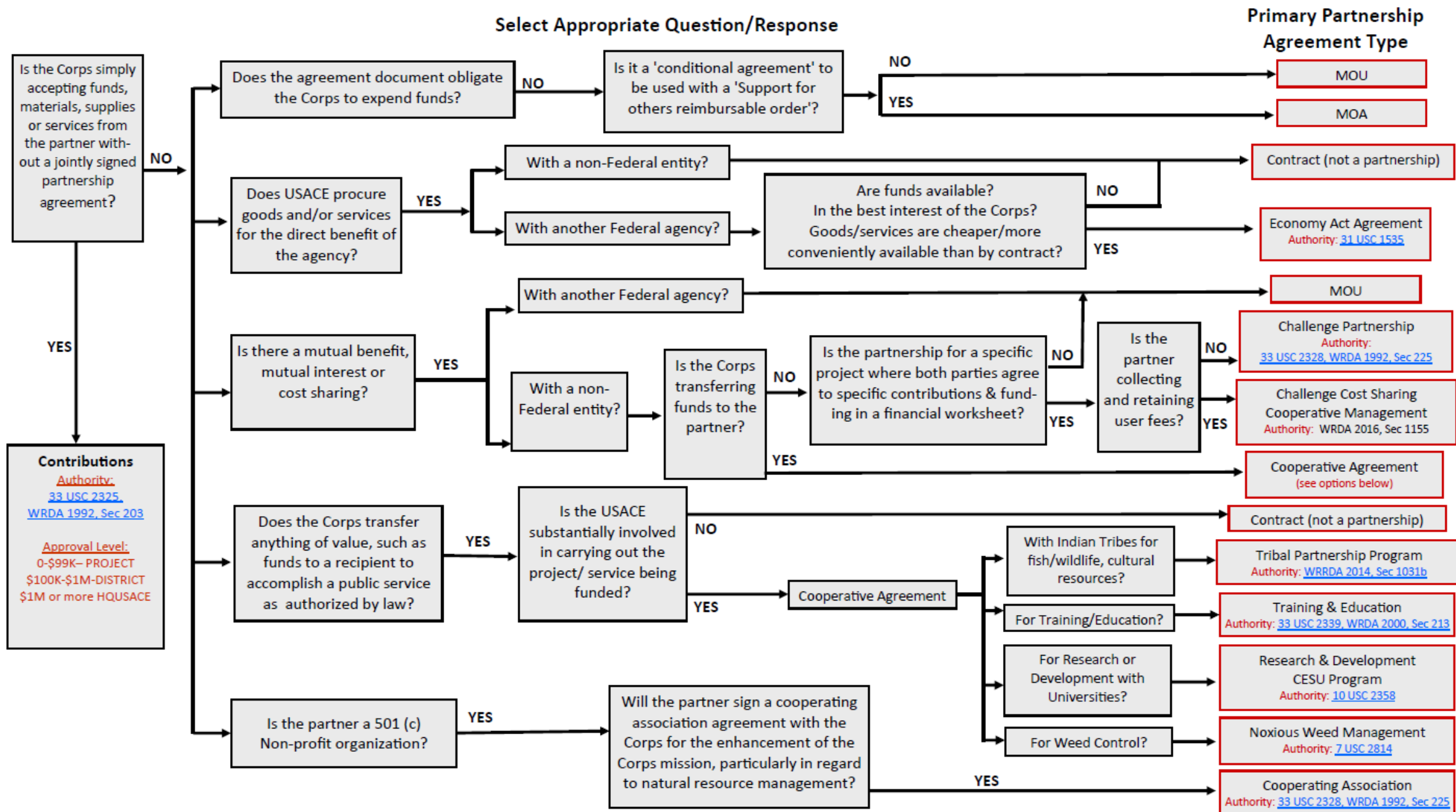
### How To:

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Grants/Alternative Funding Sources](#)
- [Partnership Advisory Committee](#)
- [Division & District POCs](#) 
- [Partnerships in OMBIL](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Partnership Outreach Sheet](#)



# USACE NRM Partnership Agreement Decision Tree

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)



## NRM Partnership Agreement Approval Levels

This document is intended to provide a brief overview of available partnership authorities and approval requirements.  
Corps personnel should coordinate all proposed agreements with their Office of Counsel.

Agreement Type	Authority	Special Considerations	\$ Value	Signature*
Contribution	<a href="#">33 USC 2325, Sec 203 of WRDA 1992</a>	Acceptance level based on \$ value	< \$2,500: Any staff member \$2,500 to < \$100K: Manager \$100K to < \$1M: District NRM and OC \$1M or >: HQUSACE OC, NRM, DCW *Reference 2008 Contributions, Fundraising and Recognition Reference Guide, Sections 5.2 and 5.3	No agreement to sign. District Contributions Plan provides authorization.
Challenge Partnership	<a href="#">33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992</a>	Signature based on \$ value	\$25K or <: delegable to OPM > \$25K to \$200K: delegable to Ops Chief > \$200K: District Commander *Reference ER 1130-2-500, Ch 12-2.k.	District Commander unless delegated to Operations Project Manager and/or Chief of Operations per ER 1130-2-500. Agreements involving projects in more than one district must be approved by MSC Commander or their delegate.
Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management	<a href="#">WRDA 2016, Sec 1155</a>		N/A	District Commander *Reference 30 Mar 2016 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1155, Management of Recreation Facilities, of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, PL 114-322.
Cooperating Association	<a href="#">33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992</a>	A moratorium is currently in place for cooperative agreements and associated leases that allow CAs to collect and retain fees for use of Corps facilities. *Reference CECW Memo dated 12 September 2013.	N/A	Agreements that do not involve fee collection/retention may be approved by District Commanders. Until further guidance is issued, all agreements involving fee collection/retention for use of Corps facilities must be approved at HQUSACE.
Economy Act	<a href="#">31 USC 1535</a>	Agreements w/ DoD entities	N/A	District Commander *Reference ER 1140-3-1, para. 6.
		Agreement w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the servicing agency	N/A	MSC Commander unless delegated to District Commander. *Reference ER 1140-3-211, para. 8.
		Agreements w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the ordering agency	N/A	SES or General Officer. *Reference DoD FMR Vol. 11A, ch. 3, para. 030304.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	No explicit authority required. MOUs are non-binding agreements that do not commit either party to do anything. However, the Corps must have authority to perform the activities or carry out the intentions referenced in an MOU.	Level of signature depends on complexity of agreement and level of partner signature	N/A	OPM, Operations Chief, District Commander or higher official - depends on which authority is cited (if any) and/or level of signature at partner organization. Agreements with regional or national implications should be coordinated with affected MSCs and HQUSACE.
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	Authorities vary. MOAs are used to document binding agreements between parties based on specific statutory authority (e.g., Economy Act agreements).	Depends on authority	Depends on authority	Depends on authority
Volunteer	<a href="#">33 USC 569c</a>	Delegation memo on file	N/A	District Commander unless delegated. *Reference 12 Aug 2016 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, PL 113-221.
Cooperative Agreement - Noxious Weed Management	<a href="#">7 USC 2814</a>			ASA (CW) has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officer signs the agreement.
Cooperative Agreement- Educational/Training Activities	<a href="#">33 USC 2329, Sec 213 of WRDA 2000 as amended by Sec 1047(e) of WRRDA 2014</a>			District Commander has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officer signs the agreement. *Reference 31 Aug 2015 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(e) Training and Educational Activities, of WRDA 2014, PL 113-121 and Delegation Memos to all District Commanders
Cooperative Agreement -with Indian Tribes for fish/wildlife, water quality, cultural resources	<a href="#">WRRDA 2014, Section 1031(b)</a>	All cooperative agreements must be signed by a certified grants officer, regardless of \$ value. The authority for who can enter into the cooperative agreements varies depending on the specific law.		Director of Civil Works has authority to approve district MOAs and delegate authority to Division and District Commanders to enter into cooperative agreements. District Grants Officer signs the



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# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Opportunities



## Why Partner with the Corps?

### Benefits of Partnering with the Corps

- Potential for national exposure by partnering with a federal agency
- Variety of partnering opportunities because of the Corps' diverse missions
- Potential market branding to reach out to new customers
- One of the nation's leading federal providers of recreation
- We manage more than 400 lake and river projects equaling more than 12 million acres of land and water in 43 states.
- Our parks have significant economic impact, with visitors spending upwards of \$10.7 billion on trip expenses, strengthening the environmental, social and economic health of communities.
- 5,000 recreation sites with more than 93,000 campsites, 3,700 boat ramps, 7,800 miles of trails, of which 90% are within 50 miles of a metropolitan area

### Connecting with the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages some of the most cherished lakes, rivers and lands near your cities and towns. Communities are proud of their special place in our parks. Great family memories are created during a boating, fishing, camping trip, or after a quiet day of hiking or biking on one our many trail systems. These experiences are important in strengthening families and organizations. Our parks also have significant economic impact, with 250 million visits per year supporting 180,000 jobs in communities near Corps lakes.

With the help of our partners, we can provide more service to the public than without you by our side.

To find out more about partnering with the Corps please visit: <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/visitors/partners.cfm>.



### Partner Spotlight

The Corps Foundation assists by partnering with a wide range of organizations including local Friends groups, private individuals and businesses to support educational activities which enhance our visitor's experiences.

To learn how you can work with our national foundation, visit the Corps Foundation website: <http://corpsfoundation.org>



### Connecting with Communities

**Natural Resources Management Excellence in Partnership Award:** General Wehr, Colonel Mitchell, and Mary Coulombe presented the Excellence in Partnerships Award to the Okaw Valley School District for their partnership with Lake Shelbyville in Illinois. Over 300 middle and high school students, project partners, teachers, and elected officials were present for the award. The school district leases land from the project which provides a learning environment for the students in land and water stewardship, recreation, and facility maintenance and operations. Businesses in the local communities donate materials, equipment, and financial support. This partnership was started with Corps Handshake program seed funds which are matched by the partner, and in this case significantly exceeded. This award is sponsored by the Corps Foundation.



Okaw Valley students planting trees at Lake Shelbyville.

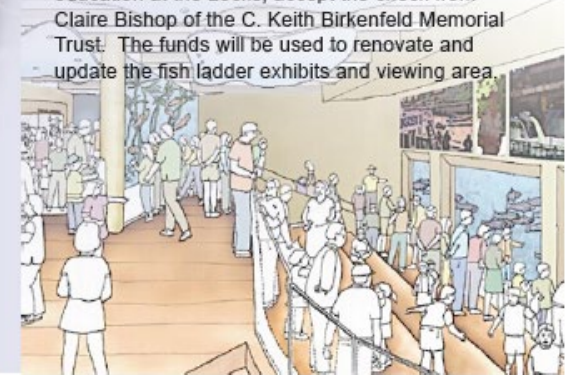
### \$400,000 Grant from Birkenfeld Trust Provides Major Upgrades to Support Visitor Education at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks

Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander, acknowledges the single largest gift nationally to a Corps of Engineers facility. Jim Adams of Discover Your Northwest and Rich Deline of the Corps Foundation, two non-profits supporting visitor education at the Locks, accept the check from Claire Bishop of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust. The funds will be used to renovate and update the fish ladder exhibits and viewing area.



### A Final Note

In a time of decreasing federal funding, America's lakes and waterways are at risk of reduced access, eliminated programs, and closures. By partnering and working together, we can help maintain and improve programs and facilities and keep these treasured resources healthy and vibrant.



Partnering with the Corps information sheet



# Bridging the Gap



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Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2020

'Bridging the Gap' is an electronic publication produced biannually by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about partnerships and volunteer programs around the country. For more information, or to submit stories for future editions, contact your PAC team representative.

## Your Partnership HQ Update

Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, HQUSACE

### The Great Outdoors Fund: Helping USACE Find Donors

The Great Outdoors Fund (TGOF) is a nonprofit organization which seeks donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations to provide grants for improvements to recreation infrastructure, access, and habitat. If you have a project that needs funding, please send an email to [lori@thegreatoutdoorsfund.org](mailto:lori@thegreatoutdoorsfund.org) to request access to the TGOF database where you can add your project proposals.

### Skilled Laborers In Search of Volunteer Opportunities at USACE Projects

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) is a nonprofit organization comprised of union workers around the country who are dedicated to volunteering their skills and expertise to complete hands-on, community-based volunteer projects to improve public access to the outdoors, enhance wildlife habitats, restore America's parks, and engage youth in the outdoors. With a national MOU in place with USACE, USA members are now looking to help us out! If you have a volunteer project in need of skilled volunteers, please fill out the Volunteer Request Form found on the NRM Gateway and send to Mari Lou Livingood at [marilou@unionsportsmen.org](mailto:marilou@unionsportsmen.org) or Forrest Parker at [forestp@unionsportsmen.org](mailto:forestp@unionsportsmen.org) to submit your requests for assistance from USA volunteers.

### 2021 National NRM Workshop: Update your IDPs

A PDT is currently planning the National NRM Workshop that will take place in April 2021. If you'd like to learn more about partnerships as well as other NRM key topics, be sure to list the workshop on your Individual Development Plan (IDP) or you could risk losing the opportunity to attend!

### Partnerships in NRM PROSPECT Courses

Would you like to learn more about USACE NRM partnership authorities and how to use them to the maximum extent and benefit for your project? Each year we offer two PROSPECT courses at various locations around the country where you can hear success stories from instructors and other participants, learn the do's and don'ts of partnering, and meet/learn directly from partners at a local USACE project. Work with your District training coordinators now to be added to one of the next classes:

August 3 – 6, 2020

Willamette Valley Project, Eugene, OR (Portland District)

October 26 – 29, 2020

Philadelphia District Office (Philadelphia District)

May 3 – 6, 2021

Allatoona Lake, Cartersville, GA (Mobile District)



Class field trip at Lucky Peak Lake (NWW)

# Partnership Newsletter:

## Conemaugh River Lake Receives Archeological Research Expertise

April Richards, Natural Resources Specialist, Conemaugh River, LRP



The Anthropology Department of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) has partnered with USACE on Conemaugh River Lake property due to its cultural richness. A few field studies have been conducted by the university in the past.

Earlier this year, Professor Ford contacted USACE with a proposal to conduct an archaeological field school near the old site of Newport Village, which was settled by Europeans in the late 1700s near the Conemaugh River. After obtaining all necessary permits and real estate instruments, 17 IUP students spent six weeks in the summer learning archaeological field techniques such as creating shovel test pits, excavation units and geophysical surveys. During their lab, they dug up pieces of stone debris that showed humans were at this location as much as 8,000 years ago.

Artifacts were transported to the IUP archaeology lab to be cleaned and cataloged according to Department of the Interior standards. The students are studying the artifacts during the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. Once processed, the artifacts will be curated with USACE and a report



will be provided to Conemaugh and the Pittsburgh District Office.

Additional projects have been identified and both entities are looking forward to working together in the coming years. At present the organizations are working towards formalizing their research relationship with a MOU.

"A group of students and professors from Indiana University of Pennsylvania discovered something unexpected while working on an archaeological dig near Blairsville Borough—artifacts from 8,000 years ago. Anthropology professors Ben Ford and Bill Chadwick oversaw 17 IUP students for six weeks while they dug, mapped and explored Newport Village, which thrived from 1790 to 1820 near where Black Lick Creek meets the Conemaugh River."

**"IUP Digs Into Blairsville, Find Artifacts 8K Years Old,"**

WESA-FM (Pittsburgh's NPR News Station), August 28, 2019



Dr. Ford teaches on-site to a group of IUP students



(A great way to find out more about our outstanding partners and volunteers!)

We need your stories!





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**WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?**  
You are eligible to volunteer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if you are:

- A U.S. citizen or a legal alien (permanent resident), or foreign exchange student with J-1 or F-1 student visa
- 18 years or older
- Anyone under age 18 may participate with written consent from a parent or guardian.

Many volunteer positions do not require prior experience, but let us know if you have an area of expertise.

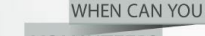
**WHEN CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?**  
Volunteer opportunities are available for a day, a weekend, or long-term. Positions range from office work to vigorous physical outdoor labor. You may work part time or full time, anytime of the year.

**HOW TO VOLUNTEER**  
Contact a nearby USACE lake visitor center or office and talk to a park ranger to learn more. You can also apply online and view volunteer opportunities across the nation at [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov).




**US Army Corps of Engineers.**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



**WHEN CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?**

Volunteer opportunities are available for a day, a weekend, or long-term. Positions range from office work to vigorous physical outdoor labor. You may work part time or full time, anytime of the year.



**VOLUNTEER**  
US Army Corps of Engineers

**HOW TO VOLUNTEER**

Contact a nearby USACE lake visitor center or office and talk to a park ranger to learn more. You can also apply online and view volunteer opportunities across the nation at [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov).

**WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?**

You are eligible to volunteer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if you are:

- A U.S. citizen or a legal alien (permanent resident), or foreign exchange student with J-1 or F-1 student visa
- 18 years or older
- Anyone under age 18 may participate with written consent from a parent or guardian.

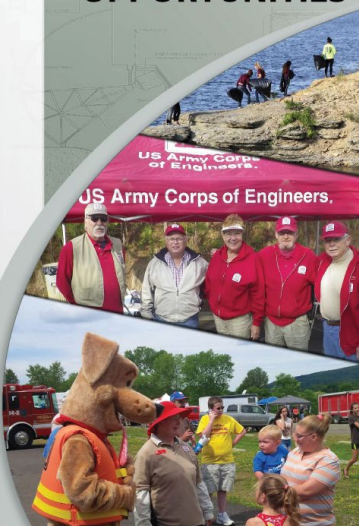
Many volunteer positions do not require prior experience, but let us know if you have an area of expertise.

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
Volunteers play a valuable role in helping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) care for the environment and provide high quality recreation opportunities. Each year, people like you give their time, expertise, and resources to serve millions of visitors who enjoy USACE-managed lands and waters.

USACE is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor recreation with more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states, and stewardship responsibilities covering approximately 12 million acres of public lands and waters. Our volunteers are people who want to give back to their communities and are interested in the work of the USACE natural resources management program.

**WHY VOLUNTEER?**  
People volunteer for many reasons. Some like the flexibility volunteering allows, while others want to make a difference, or want to gain new skills/experience.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**  
You will become part of a team of more than a half million volunteers who, in the last decade, have served more than 15 million hours worth \$300+ million.

**WHERE CAN YOU SERVE?**  
USACE lakes and river projects are located throughout the United States. Visit [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) to find an opportunity. Additional information about USACE lakes can be found at [www.corpslakes.us](http://www.corpslakes.us).

**How our volunteers help:**

**Recreation**

- Build and maintain trails
- Serve as campground/visitor center hosts
- Conduct educational programs and tours
- Develop and build displays
- Maintain facilities
- Collect fees

**Natural Resource Management**

- Remove invasive species
- Plant native vegetation
- Build and install wildlife/fish habitat
- GIS/Mapping
- Remove trash and debris

**Administration**

- Write or edit materials for publication
- Photography
- Computer/database entry
- ..... And so much more!



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

# Volunteer Brochures: Two new options

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**WHY VOLUNTEER?**

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Volunteering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a great opportunity to:

- Meet people and form new friendships
- Explore and live in new places
- Work in beautiful outdoor settings
- Provide community service
- Increase your career options
- Earn college credits with internships
- Enjoy free camping while serving
- Have fun!




**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

# Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) 2020

- Tennille Hammonds – At-Large  
(SWF - RPEC)
- Francis Ferrell – SAD  
(SAW - Falls Lake)
- Allison Walker - LRD  
(Nashville District Office)
- Stacy Sigman - MVD  
(MVK - Lake Ouachita)
- Heath Kruger – NWD  
(Omaha District)
- Scott Sunderland – NAD  
(NAP - Blue Marsh Lake)
- Taylor Saia - SPD  
(SPK - Northern Operations Branch)
- TBD - SWD



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# Questions?



- What would you like to know about?
- How do you see the Corps partnership program from the field/partner perspective?
- How can we improve the program? What are your needs?



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