



Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project Involvement in Operation Purple® Camp at Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center



In June 2008, the Bay Springs Office of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project partnered with the Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center to assist and conduct programs at an Operation Purple® Camp. Below is a list of activities conducted by the Corps:

Beach Day: The Corps provided use of Piney Grove Beach for "Beach Day." Corps park rangers opened the day with a well-received water safety program, which resulted in the children happily complying when required to use life jackets in the water. Rangers also watched children from the beach area and taught kids how to bank fish. Several campground and beach attendants also volunteered on their day off to help.



Service Project: Part of the camp curriculum included a service project, which Corps park rangers organized. Rangers brought the campers to a degraded nature trail in the campground and demonstrated how to rehabilitate it. The kids were very excited to work on this project, and the trail was greatly improved when they finished. (There were even requests asking if there was more they could do!)



Military Speaker: Another part of the camp curriculum was to provide a military speaker. This is ideally someone who has served in Afghanistan or Iraq, and is familiar with speaking to children. LTC Payne from Mobile District spoke to the kids about his experiences in Iraq and was enthusiastically applauded and questioned by the campers eager to learn more about Iraqi culture.

Fishing Day: Several park rangers led demonstrations and instructional workshops to teach the basics of fishing and aquatic habitats. In the afternoon they took kids to the closest fishing pier and boat ramp to catch their first fish.



Miscellaneous Support: Throughout the week, park rangers regularly stopped by to offer their help (bringing ice, running errands, etc). The camp director reported that the week would not have been as successful without the support of the Corps rangers, and that a lot of interest was sparked in Army Corps park ranger careers.

For more information about Operation Purple® Camps, visit www.nmfa.org