

Partnerships 101

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Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Association of Partners for Public Lands



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG

TWELFTH ANNUAL KIDS' FISHING RODEO

Sponsors:



Partners:

- Willow Grove Marina
- David Annett
- Bob Labicki Boat
- Francis Davidson
- McDonald/Langston
- Lee Davidson
- Wilderness Outdoors
- Joan Birdwell
- Duane's Fish Repair
- Big Small Aft Independent Boat Garden
- Wal-Mart, Cumberland, TN
- Spence Shop + Shop
- Thuis Dry
- Wal-Mart, Tompkinsville, KY
- Dale Hollow - 5-Step
- Clark's Boat Bait Co.
- Clay County Sheriff
- Billy "Toxic" Mc Smith
- Dale Hollow Marina
- Dale Reagan
- Overton County News
- IGA Foodmart, Tompkinsville, KY
- Bronda Branning
- Holly Creek Resort
- Clay County Rescue Squad
- Dale Hollow Horizon
- Friends of Dale Hollow
- Punisher Jigs
- Ewood Erwin
- Laura Smith
- Wal-Mart, Alcoa, TN
- 5-Step B&B
- Calvin Lambert
- Jimmy White
- Porky Shuke
- Sue A-Lop
- Bank of Ocala
- Jerry's IGA
- Dan Moore (TVRA)
- Pat Miller (TVRA)
- Big Lots
- Rexco Inc.
- Scott's Bertram
- Horze Creek Resort
- Charles Key
- David Young (TVRA)
- Bill Davidson
- Ted Tucker
- Cedar Hill Marina
- Citizen-Spokesman
- Wicks Quick Shop
- C-1 Services
- Travis Oil
- Johnny Rich

Volunteers:

- Bob Moulton
- Terese Nevens
- Carolyn Currie
- Shirley Jones
- Leigh Shaul
- Denise Rich
- Beto Rich
- Odell Besswell
- Gene Smith
- Aaron Neal

What is a Partnership?

- Mutual interest in, benefits from, or desired goals of a common objective related to the mission of the agency.
- Fosters relationships, common goals and working together
- Builds consensus and broad-based community support
- Leverages resources to meet challenges and improve opportunities.
- Combines individual strengths to accomplish the mission.
- Consistent with agency plans, policies, and priorities.
- Appropriate legal authority.
- A handshake, not a hand out.



Partnering Authorities

- **WRDA 1992, 33 USC § 2325 and 2328, 33 USC 569c** : Authority to accept contributions, volunteers, and set up Challenge Partnership Agreements
- **ER/EP 1130-2-500**, Partners and Support , Chapter 9 (Cooperating Associations), Chapter 10 (Volunteers) , Chapter 11 (Contributions), Chapter 12 (Challenge Partnerships, formerly called Challenge Cost Share)
- **Executive Order 13352**, 26 Aug 2004, Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation: Orders agencies to work together to meet conservation goals
- **Contributions, Fundraising, and Recognition** reference guide, Oct 2008



Types of Partnerships

- **Economy Act Agreements** - Agreements for services and/or supplies with other federal agencies.
- **Cooperative Agreements** - Agreements for services and/or supplies with state, county, city, or other local organizations which define the functions and responsibilities of each party to the agreement. These include:
 - ▶ Cooperating Associations - A cooperative agreement with a tax-exempt non-profit organization that volunteers services to the Corps.
 - ▶ Challenge Partnerships - A type of a cooperative agreement with non-Federal public and private entities to provide for O&M and development of recreation facilities and natural resources at water resource development projects where such facilities are being maintained at full Federal expense.



Types of Partnerships

- **Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement** – Terms are often used interchangeably. These are agreements to cooperate. They provide a foundation to work together on common issues and mutually beneficial programs, projects, and activities. It is an "agreement to agree" but does not obligate funds.
- **Volunteer Agreements** - Agreements that allow the Corps to accept the services of volunteers and to provide for their incidental expenses.
- **Contributions Program** - Authorization for the acceptance of contributions from groups and individuals geared toward environmental stewardship, restoration ,and recreation.
- **Lease/License** – Authorizes use of government property or transfers management responsibility



Which Type of Partnership to Use

- **Does another federal agency want to jointly fund a product or manage an area?**
 - ▶ Economy Act: When goods or services cannot be provided as conveniently or cheaply by contract with commercial enterprise. Requires Determination and Findings (D&F) document.

- **Does an organized group want to assist with cash, materials, and/or in-kind services? Is there a need to transfer funding to the Corps? Is this a short term, definable project?**
 - ▶ Challenge Partnership (Ch 12)

- **Does an organized group operate as a “friends group” and want to assist in broad goals such as natural resources management, interpretation, or visitor service activities?**
 - ▶ Cooperating Associations (Ch 9)



Which Type of Partnership to Use

- **Does an organized group want to assist with long term missions such as natural resources management /recreation?**
 - ▶ MOU/MOA: Coordination agreement spells out responsibilities of each partner. Signed by district commander.
- **Is an individual or group offering their services?**
 - ▶ Volunteers (Ch 10): Agreement spells out scope of work
- **Is an individual or group offering to give us something without conditions?**
 - ▶ Contributions (Ch 11): No formal agreement needed. Must be contained in OMP and contributions plan. Cannot accept real property.
- **Does an organized group want to operate an area?**
 - ▶ Lease or License: Authorizes use of government property or transfers management responsibility



Rules of Partnerships

- Must not cause significant increase in O&M costs
- Cooperative Agreement : Sets up a cooperating association, EP 1130-2-500 Appendix P/Q (Sample agreement and by-laws)
- Challenge Partnership Agreements: Approval <\$25K: OPM; <\$200K: Operations Chief; >\$200K District Commander
- Contributions: Must have a contributions plan in OMP that describes work to be done (funds, materials, supplies, in-kind goods/services)
- Contributions >\$2,500: Manager review for propriety; >\$100K: Coordinate with Counsel; >\$1M: OC, MSC, HQ NRM, DCW review
- Must have a donor recognition plan approved by OPM and OC (Alternative to individual project plans is to develop a district-wide plan)



Cooperating Associations

- Legal entity, organized under state law
- Non-profit tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service code 501 (c)(3)
- Operate under the terms of a cooperative agreement with the Corps
- Free-standing corporate entity with board of directors
- Purposes and abilities consistent with their boards and objectives
- Can collect dues
- Can purchase equipment and materials for use at Corps projects
- Can operate bookstores on-site
- Can conduct and/or fund programs and volunteer recognition events
- Develops partnerships with communities and improves communication among long constituencies

*The Corps currently has more than 30 cooperating associations



Challenge Partnerships

- Provide opportunities for non-federal public and private groups and individuals to contribute and participate in the operation and/or management of Corps natural resources and recreation facilities.
- Allows USACE to accept funds or materials for an operating project
- Cannot accept real estate
- Partnership on Corps operated lands and waters; cannot be used with lessees
- Agreements are not cooperative agreements as defined in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (Assistance Authority)



Challenge Partnerships

NOTE: Challenge Partnerships (formerly known as Challenge Cost Sharing) are NOT the same as traditional cost sharing

Traditional Cost Sharing

- PL 89-72
- Fixed % (Usually 50/50)
- Rigid roles
- Can accept real estate
- Sponsor operates
- Cost share for any business function
- Program Management has lead
- Formal contract
- USACE \$ year by year
- Work over several fiscal years
- Cost share only with non-federal
- Normally only one sponsor

Challenge Partnership

- PL 102-580
- Flexible rate determined by agreement
- Flexible roles
- Cannot accept real estate
- USACE operates
- Cost share only for recreation and NRM
- Operations has lead
- Flexible agreement
- Funds must be available in advance
- Work generally accomplished in one FY
- Cost share with both non-federal and private entities
- May involve multiple sponsors



National MOUs

- **APPL:** Provide education/training, Communicate Corps missions, Develop interpretive messages and products, Assist in finding non-profit partners
- **Boat US:** Develop educational outreach materials and activities
- **BASS:** Provide assistance, funding, public support for projects and research efforts, Seek donations to accomplish work on Corps projects
- **Boy Scouts of America:** Conduct conservation projects, volunteer events
- **Bureau of Reclamation:** Share expertise, Coordinate programs
- **Council for Environmental Education:** Develop educational materials, Exchange scientific data



National MOUs

- **Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation:** Technical assistance for Corps programs, Fundraising, Provide information about needed legislation , Seek corporate sponsorship
- **Girl Scouts:** Conduct conservation projects, volunteer events
- **Health and Human services: CDC and Prevention:** Review recreation facility designs to increase use, Raise public awareness, Develop coalitions in the community, Training, Develop joint products
- **Interagency Agreement on Trails:** Training materials, Connect agencies, Identify trail skills experts, Conduct needs assessments
- **International Mountain Biking Association:** Create trails on Corps lands, Conduct trailbuilding schools, Maintain trails, Develop educational materials



National MOUs

- **Leave No Trace:** Provide training, Develop and distribute educational materials, Find private partners to promote responsible use of Corps lands
- **National Environmental Education and Training Foundation:** Conduct research, Develop educational materials
- **National Trails System:** Coordinate policies and practices, Trails planning, Develop corridors, Trails training, Interagency data sets, Mapping
- **National Wild Turkey Federation:** Conduct research, Provide funds, Materials for habitat conservation work on Corps lands
- **National Youth Marine Alliance:** Develop outreach materials/activities



National MOUs

- **Naval Sea Cadet Corps:** Corps participates in Cadet training programs
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Provide expertise in conservation practices to enhance USACE projects
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America:** Assist Corps with ID of sites for improving accessibility, Develop plans, Find cost-share projects with other organizations/private sector and funding, Develop outreach materials
- **Recreation Fisheries Habitat Initiative:** Pursue funding to support restoration, conservation, and enhancement of fish habitat
- **Safe Kids USA:** Educational outreach/events, Materials publication, Share products, Obtain grants from large corporations for safety education



National MOUs

- **The Nature Conservancy:** Habitat restoration projects, Monitoring and management of special status species, Conduct studies and share data
- **Tread Lightly! Incorporated:** Develop public education materials, Organize events to promote stewardship on Corps lands/waters
- **U.S. Coast Guard and USCG Auxiliary:** Water safety efforts, Sharing of products, data, information, Outreach activities
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** Provide training in earth sciences, Conduct research, Remote sensing/GIS
- **U.S. Power Squadrons:** Public safe boating information, Inform Corps of new safety requirements



National MOUs

- **Watchable Wildlife Incorporated:** Designate WW sites on Corps lands, Provide signs and educational materials, Include Corps projects in WW viewing guides
- **Western States Tourism Policy Council:** Develop tourism educational materials, Assist Corps with planning, marketing, and managing tourism
- **Wilderness Inquiry:** Assist Corps with developing recreation opportunities for people with disabilities, Assist with public information
- **Wildlife Habitat Council:** Enhance and restore native plant habitat on Corps lands, Enhance habitat for recreational fisheries in Corps waters, Public education, Connect people with nature, Coordination with other agencies



Volunteers

In 2010: 54,939 Corps volunteers contributed 1,348,328 hours of work with an estimated value of more than \$28 million

- Typical volunteer jobs: Park and campground hosts, Visitor Center staff, Interpretive programs, Shoreline clean-up, Fish and wildlife restoration work, Trail and facility maintenance
- Operate government owned or leased vehicles
- Produce products at off-site locations
- Sell permits
- Collect fees

Cannot:

- Create policy
- Perform law enforcement duties



Volunteers

- Receive protection for personal liability under the Tort Claims Act
- Entitled to first aid and medical treatment for on-the-job injuries under the Federal Employees Compensation Act
- Compensation can include:
 - ▶ Reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses
 - ▶ A free campsite
 - ▶ Personal safety equipment
- Operate government owned or leased vehicles
- Produce products at off-site locations
- Sell permits and collect fees



Volunteers

- National Volunteer Clearinghouse:
 - ▶ 800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337)
 - ▶ www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer
 - ▶ POC: Carolyn Bauer (615) 736-5116
- www.volunteer.gov/gov
- Volunteer application: Optional Form 301 (Can be downloaded at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>)
- Volunteer Agreement: Optional Form 301A
- Applicants under 18 must have parental or legal guardian consent
- Students who wish to volunteer for college credit must have an agreement between the Corps and the school duties



Resources: Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)

SPD: Chris Gallagher, christanne.j.gallagher@usace.army.mil

MVD: Jamie Gyolai, jamie.l.gyolai@usace.army.mil

NAD: Allen Gwinn, allen.gwinn@usace.army.mil

NWD: Alana Mesenbrink, alana.f.mesenbrink@usace.army.mil

SWD: Jeff Boutwell, jeff.t.boutwell@usace.army.mil

SAD: Michael Hosey, michael.l.hosey@usace.army.mil

LRD: Chris Rapenchuk, christopher.t.rapenchuk@usace.army.mil

HQ: Heather Burke, heather.d.burke@usace.army.mil



Resources: NRM Gateway

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

Partnerships

[Headquarters POC](#)

In managing recreation and natural resources, it is often necessary that agencies work together with neighbors and local communities - in everything from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements and customer service. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is no exception to this rule and welcomes the myriad of present and future partners who share common goals and interests in our resources. Many of our most valuable resources, such as endangered species, do not recognize human or property boundaries. Additionally, funding and labor resource shortages affect all levels of government and society. Partnering can avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, pool scarce resources, and promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions. 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 new initiatives such as [the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#). The bottom line: **partnering is smart business.**

Partnership Programs

- [Challenge Partnerships Program](#)
- [Cooperating Associations Program](#)
- [National Public Lands Day](#)
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- [Corps Photo Album for Partnerships](#)
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- [Volunteer Program](#)
- [Collaborative Summer Library Reading Program](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [National Partners](#)
- [Partnership Success Stories](#)
- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Lessons Learned](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Division & District POCs](#)

Resources: NRM Gateway

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>



US Army Corps of Engineers

Natural Resources Management Gateway

to the future . . .

Home Visitors Lake Discovery Recreation Env Compliance Env Stewardship Partners
News/Events People Forums Learning GETS Tools New Postings Submit Index/Search

Volunteer Program

[Headquarters POC](#)

Corps projects offer many volunteer opportunities in recreation and natural resources management. Volunteers can serve as park and campground hosts, staff visitor centers, conduct programs, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, maintain park trails and facilities, and more. Corps personnel can recruit their own volunteers or get help from the [Volunteer Clearinghouse](#), www.corpslakes.us/volunteer, (1-800-VOL-TEER or 1-800-865-8337), a national information center for people interested in volunteering at Corps projects across the country. Corps offices that have upcoming projects or events that volunteers can assist may use the Volunteer Clearinghouse to [submit their volunteer projects on-line](#).

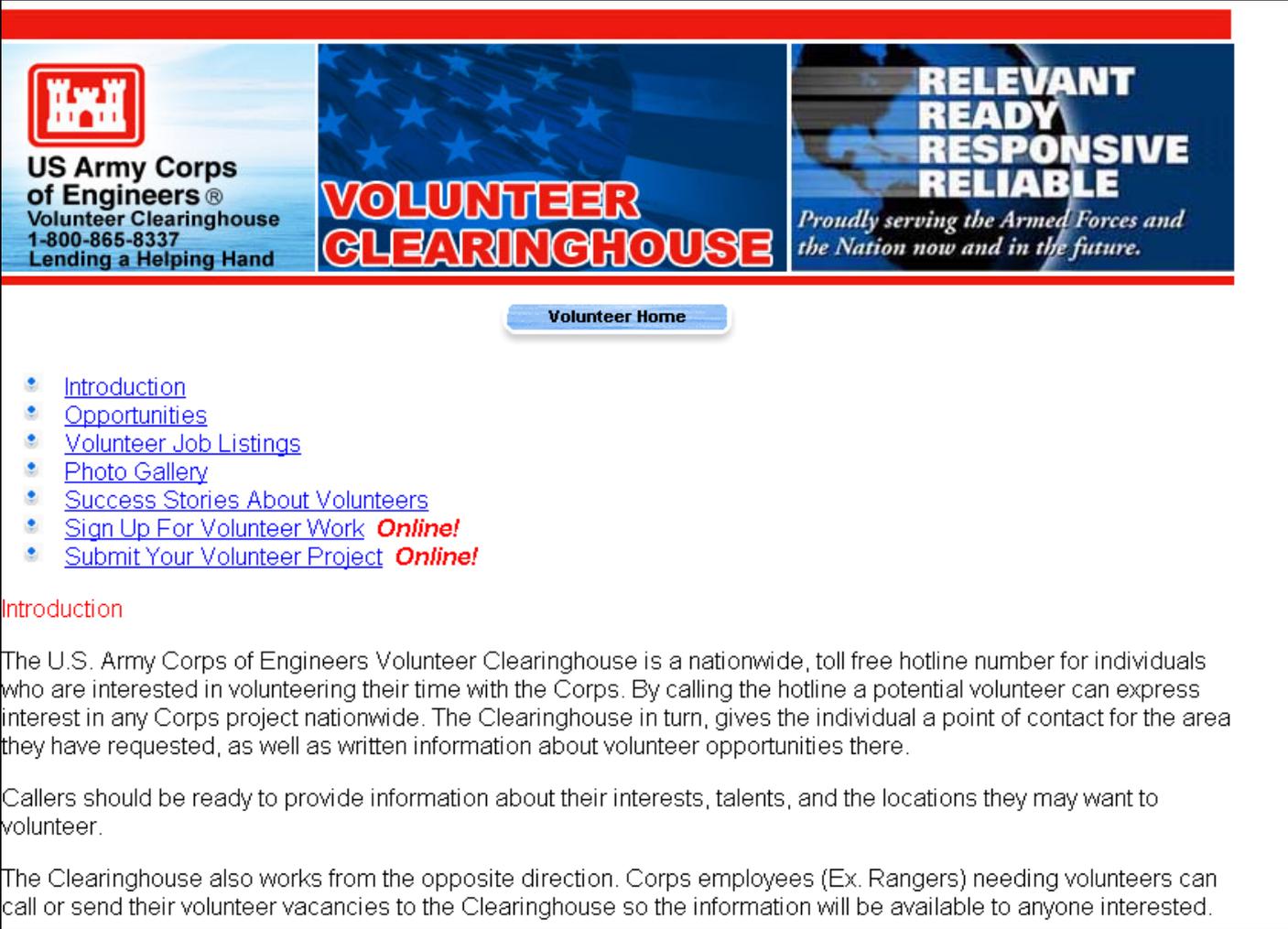
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- [National Public Lands Day](#)

 Item is restricted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will open in a new window.



Resources: Volunteer Clearinghouse

<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer/>



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- [Introduction](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Volunteer Job Listings](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Success Stories About Volunteers](#)
- [Sign Up For Volunteer Work **Online!**](#)
- [Submit Your Volunteer Project **Online!**](#)

Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse is a nationwide, toll free hotline number for individuals who are interested in volunteering their time with the Corps. By calling the hotline a potential volunteer can express interest in any Corps project nationwide. The Clearinghouse in turn, gives the individual a point of contact for the area they have requested, as well as written information about volunteer opportunities there.

Callers should be ready to provide information about their interests, talents, and the locations they may want to volunteer.

The Clearinghouse also works from the opposite direction. Corps employees (Ex. Rangers) needing volunteers can call or send their volunteer vacancies to the Clearinghouse so the information will be available to anyone interested.



Resources: Volunteer.gov

www.volunteer.gov/gov



Volunteer.gov/gov
America's Natural and Cultural Resources Volunteer Portal

Find a Volunteer Opportunity ?

Keyword:

State and/or City: --Select-- Find

Agency: --Select--

Opportunity Type: --Select--

Newest Opportunities: (posted in the last 30 days)



Featured Opportunities

1 2 3

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT VERMONT STATE PARKS: Volunteer at Vermont's highest elevation campground, just east of historic Bennington, Vermont. Woodfod is a large campground surrounded by the Green Mountain National Forest. The park caters primarily to campers but also includes a small pond, a picnic area ad a hiking trail. The George D. Aiken Wilderness Area bounds the park to the south and east...[more](#)

Find Opportunities by State



Volunteer Events

◀ February 2011 ▶

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Participating Agencies





Volunteer/Donate for Veterans



