

HANDSHAKE EXERCISE



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GOALS

Handshake Exercise: The goal is to be able to help you hone your skills in writing and evaluating applications for the Handshake or similar programs. At the end of this exercise you should have a good start on a future handshake application.

- I. Brainstorm – 5 min
- II. Section Review – 20 min
- III. Application evaluation – 30 min
- IV. Application Planning– 20 min



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I. Brainstorm

- On your Handshake Project Exercise sheet, fill in the name of your lake, the title of your proposed Handshake project, and potential partners that you might work with.
- Develop a summary statement outlining YOUR plan to work with your partners for your proposed Handshake project.
- The first sentence should say exactly what you are doing.
- Throughout the next three section of the Handshake exercise think of the context as it pertains to your proposed Handshake project.



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II. Section Review

Each student should have a Handshake Scoring Sheet in the Handshake Exercise Packet

- We will walk through each of the application sections together
- There will be examples of good and poor application language
- We will score each of the examples and then write your own for your proposed Handshake project.



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Example Statements

Let's begin by evaluating previously submitted examples of sustainability / longevity.

On your Handshake Scoring Exercise sheet, score each example from 1-10.
(1 = lowest/ 10 = highest score)

Each statement should be evaluated independently of any other statement.



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Sustainability Examples

1. Both the ABA/ADA compliant boat dock upgrade and fishing pier will be constructed of concrete with steel hand rails and will therefore be flood resistant.

2. The materials we are using will last.



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Partnership Value Examples

1. These partners have made significant contributions to the project in volunteer hours, materials, and in-kind services.
2. The project will serve to strengthen our existing partnerships.



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Recreational Benefit Examples

1. The revitalization of the area will provide critical opportunities for plant identification, bird and wildlife watching, lessons in wildlife attraction, photography, and quiet reflection with universal access...

2. The benefit to recreation will be a much safer and user friendly group picnic area.



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Environmental Stewardship Examples

1. The projects will also drastically reduce sediment loads entering the lake in the areas where surface water interacts with the erosion prevention projects; improve the fishery and provide additional habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl and a variety of upland wildlife...
2. It would be a great method to turn an environmental risk into an environmental benefit



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Innovativeness Examples

1 ...is innovative because it attacks four different erosion sources at four different locations with four different specific solutions and provides a multitude of other recreational benefits at the same time.

2. This partnership will utilize common goals to help build stronger recreation and educational opportunities, benefiting all parties.



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III. Application Evaluation

Each student should have a Application Evaluation Sheet in the Handshake Exercise Packet. Each application was submitted for the same years rating period. (2017)

- You will be assigned 2 Applications to review. Take 20 minutes to read through both real Handshake Applications and provide a score for each section.
- Get into groups of 2-3 to discuss your scores and these applications.
- We will discuss each of the examples as a class and then you will write your own for your proposed Handshake project.



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Longevity / O&M - What is the life span of the product and the benefit to the Corps?

Partnership Value - What is the significance of the partner's contribution to the project? (Matching dollars, materials or in-kind service)

Recreational Benefit - Does the product improve the recreational experience for multiple user types?

Environmental Stewardship Benefit - Does the project contribute to the physical improvement of the natural resources? The evaluator should determine if this project shows some value by adding to the wildlife, fishery, or natural world by adding or removing something that will benefit the environment.

Communication and Education Value - Projects that increase public understanding of the Corps and its missions through interpretation, outreach, education and public information?

Innovativeness - Did the application describe the uniqueness of the partnership? Are other organizations doing this kind of project or working with this type of partner? What makes this partnership important and unique? Subjective determination of the evaluator to determine uniqueness.



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IV. Application Planning

- Break into groups of 2-3
- Share your Handshake proposals with your groups and help each other fill in the gaps to make your proposal more competitive.
- Need a few volunteers to share their proposals with the class for critique and more ideas for improvements.



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QUESTIONS?



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