



### The Corps Volunteer Program



Volunteers play an important role in protecting natural resources and maintaining recreation facilities at Corps projects.

In 2023: 42,839 volunteers contributed 1,715,001 million hours of work with an estimated value of \$54.5 million

Volunteers can perform almost any task that a paid employee can:

- Park/Campground/Visitor Center hosts
- Interpretation/education
- > Fish and wildlife habitat improvements
- Invasive species management
- > Trail construction and maintenance
- GIS/mapping
- Photography.... And more!









### Why You Need Volunteers



 Budget realities do not allow you to accomplish your mission with the staff and resources you have.



Volunteers are your link to the local community. They are often some of the best advocates of the Corps of Engineers and our partners.

 Volunteers have unique skills and abilities that you can draw on.... Anything from a lifetime of experience to the strength and enthusiasm of youth

Every position we fill with volunteers, is an opportunity to engage the community and build our constituency.





### What Volunteers Can and Can't Do



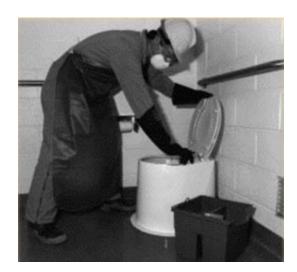
- Volunteers can perform almost any task that a paid employee can do, provided they have received training or have experience.
- They can perform duties that once were or are currently preformed by Corps employees.
- Cannot:
  - Enforce Title 36
  - Create policy
  - Volunteers will not be used to displace any personnel of the Corps of Engineers



### **Designing Positions for Volunteers**



- Good volunteer position design is key to the ultimate success of a volunteer program.
- We are trying to 'sell' our volunteer opportunities, not only to the public but to our coworkers.
- It is important to stress the added value to the Corps by volunteers' efforts and give specific examples of how volunteers can help paid staff accomplish specific goals.



- Brainstorm programs or services you wish you could accomplish but cannot, due to limited resources.
- Ask coworkers to help refine these positions and develop new opportunities.



### **Volunteer Needs Assessment**



VOLUNTEER NEEDS ASSESSMENT	FOR (NAME OF O						VOLUNTEER CO	ORDINATOR NAME:		
LIST EACH TASK ON SEPARATE ROW	REQUIRED SKILL S	EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	QUALIFICATIONS	PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS	KNOWN WORK HARZARDS	PROG RAM	WORK MUST BE	PRIORITY 1=NE CE \$\$ARY 2=IMPORTANT	THIS TASK SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN WHICH JOB	FOR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: STATUS AND DATE (OPEN, FILLED, COMPLETED)

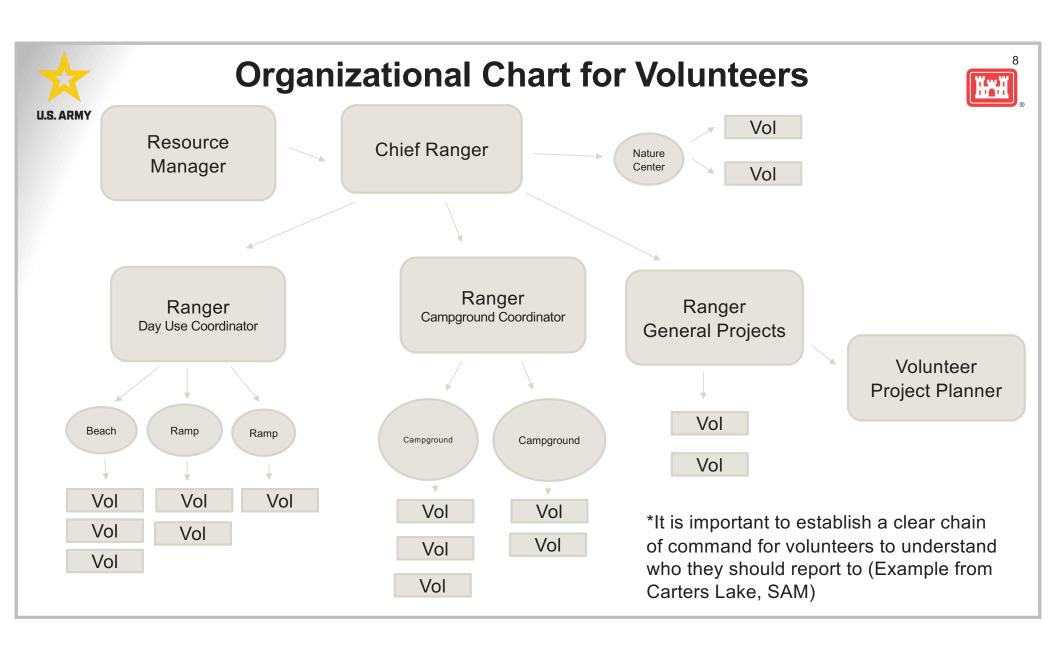


### **Motivating Your Volunteers**



- People are motivated to volunteer for a variety of reasons. What one person loves to do; another might not prefer to do.
- It is the volunteer coordinator's goal to achieve planned results through other people, by giving them:
  - Ownership
  - Responsibility for outcomes
  - Authority to think
  - A defined way to determine success
- Create a sense of community
- Have FUN. Having fun and spending time with your volunteers is better than any certificate or award.







### **Volunteer Management**



- Recognizing if your volunteer is the wrong person for a particular task
- Dealing with difficult people





Know when to cut someone loose.



"I take it this department has had conflicts."



### **Volunteer Management Exercise**



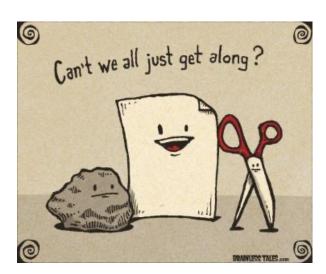
Scenario Cards

One group member = volunteer

One group member = volunteer coordinator

Class discussion:

How did it go? Any best practices?





### **Volunteer Program Authority/Policy**



- 33 USC 569c (Public Law 98-63), Amended by WRRDA 2014 Sec 1047(d): Gave the Chief of Engineers the authority to accept the services of volunteers and provide for their incidental expenses, including expenses relating to uniforms, transportation, lodging, and the subsistence of those volunteers to carry out any activity of the Corps except policy making, law or regulatory enforcement.
- ER/EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 10 Corps of Engineers Volunteer Program. Superseded by 12 August 2016 "Implementation Guidance for Section 1047 (d) Services of Volunteers, of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) 2014, Public Law 113-121" (Working to convert 2016 guidance into ER- Currently with Army General Counsel in the ASA's office)
- Volunteer Background Investigation Policy, March 2020: updates/supersedes background investigation policy from 12 August 2016 implementation guidance
- **Policy Letter 04-01**, October 2004: Established the Corps use of the Independent Sector's hourly rate to determine the value of service
  - > FY 24 rate = \$33.49 (Typically updated each April during National Volunteer Week)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 441 G STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECO-I

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Volunteer Program Background Investigation Procedures

- References.
- Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2014, Section 1047(d). Public Law 113-121.
- b. Public Law 98-63, Section 101 (33 U.S.C. § 569c), Chapter IV of Title I, Services of Volunteers, 1983.
- c. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors.
- d. Army Directive 2014-23, Conduct of Screening and Background Checks for Individuals Who Have Regular Contact with Children in Army Programs.
- 2. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify guidance and procedures in the "Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2014, Public Law 113-121" for volunteer background investigations.
- 3. The following clarifications are provided to meet the most current security standards for processing background investigations and to provide consistency in procedures across all Major Subordinate Commands of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). These procedural updates are effective immediately and will also be incorporated in the appropriate Engineering Regulation and Engineering Pamphlet when they are revised:
- a. Persons who have ever been convicted of a violent crime, sexual crime, arson, crime with a weapon, sale or intent to distribute illegal drugs, or are an organized crime figure will not be utilized as volunteers, regardless of when the crime took place.
- b. With the exception of the crimes listed in 3.a. above, the existence of a criminal conviction does not automatically disqualify an applicant from being a volunteer. Volunteers with criminal convictions not listed in 3.a. may be considered for service at

## **Volunteer Background Investigations Procedures**



Volunteer coordinators will practice due diligence in screening volunteer candidates to assure the safety and security of USACE employees, contractors, and the public.

Memo from HQUSACE Chief Security Branch sent 09 March 2020 to clarify background investigation guidance and procedures established in the Aug 12 2016 Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of WRRDA 2014





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

Level of

Security

Background



# Volunteer **Background** Investigation **Procedures and** Requirements **Decision Matrix**



## **Fingerprinting**



- Level 2 and 3 volunteers require background investigation processing through District Security Office.
- Fingerprinting may be conducted at military bases, District or Division Offices, Project offices, military recruiting centers, universities, other Federal agencies, or law enforcement offices.
  - ➤ HQ Security Office may have funding to provide to locations that need to purchase fingerprinting machines. Any USACE employee can take volunteer fingerprints and submit them through the webbased system to their District Security Office.
  - ➤ Digital fingerprints are the preferred collection method. In locations where digital collection is not available, fingerprints may be obtained on the SF 87 or FD 285 fingerprint card and submitted to the District Security Office for transmission to the Personal Security Investigation Center of Excellence-(PSI-CoE). All fingerprint cards require a valid Security Officer identifier (SOI), Submitting Office Number (SON), and an Agency Location Code (SLC) to be processed in PSI-CoE.

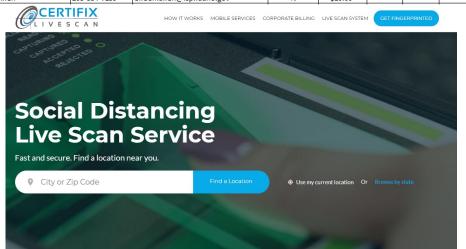


### **Fingerprinting Locations**



										Appointment				
										Required	Fee Charged		Paper	USACE/
MSC	▼ District ▼	Name of Location of Fingerprint Machin	Street Address	City ▼	Stat( *	Zip ▼	POC name	POC phone	POC email	Y/N 🔻	Y/N 💌	Digita 🔻	Only 💌	Milita 💌
NWD	NWK	Jefferson County Sheriff - Perry Lake	1360 Walnut St.	Oskaloosa	KS	66066		785-863-2351		N	Y	\$15	X	
NWD	NWK	Marion County Sheriff - Marion Lake	202 S. 4th St.	Marion	KS	66861		620-382-2144		Υ	N	N	X	
NWD	NWK	Miami County Sheriff - Hillsdale Lake	209 S. Pearl St.	Paola	KS	66071		913-294-4444		N	Y	\$20	X	
NWD	NWK	Cherryvale Police Department - Big Hill & E	123 W. Main St.	Cherryvale	KS	67335		620-336-2400		Υ	Y	N	X	
NWD	NWK	Morris County Sheriff - Council Grove Lake	501 W. Main St.	Council Grove	KS	66846		620-767-6310		Υ			X	
NWD	NWK	Osage County Sheriff - Pomona & Melvern	702 Ash	Lyndon	KS	66451		785-828-4991		Y	Y	\$10	X	
NWD	NWK	Pottawatomie County Sheriff - Tuttle Creel	108 N. 1st St.	Westmoreland	KS	66426		785-457-3481		N	Υ	\$10	X	
NWD	NWK	Russell County Sheriff - Wilson Lake	204 E. 4th	Russell	KS	67665		785-483-2151		N	Υ	\$10	X	
NWD	NWO	NWO District Security Office	1616 Capitol Ave-Room 668	Omaha	NE	68102	Christina Luna	402-995-2828	Christina.Luna@usace.army.mil			X		X
NWD	NWO	Big Bend Project/Lake Sharpe	33573 North Shore RD	Fort Thompson	SD	57339	Delane Albers	605-245-1800	delane.l.albers@usace.army.mil			X		X
NWD	NWO	Gavins Point Project/Lewis & Clark Lake	55245 Hwy 121	Crofton	NE	68730	Brian Ahrnes	402-667-2555	brian.c.ahrens@usace.army.mil			X		X
NWD	NWO	Oahe Project/Lake Oahe	28563 Powerhouse Rd	Pierre	SD	57501	Shannon Lodge	605-945-3402	shannon.m.lodge@usace.army.mil			X		X
NWD	NWO	Bismarck Army Reserve Office	3319 University Dr	Bismarck	ND	58504	Brian Beuten	701-223-5455				X		X
							Nick Racine	503-808-4325	nicholas.m.racine@usace.army.mil	·				
NWD	NWP	NWP District Security Office	333 SW 1st Ave	Portland	OR	97204	Nick Klynne	503-808-4442	Nicholas.M.Klynn@usace.army.mil	Y	N	X	ļ	X
NWD	NWP	Lane County Sheriff's Office	125 E 8th Ave	Eugene	OR	97401		541-682-4150		N	\$30		Х	
NWD	NWW	Clearwater County Sheriff's Office	150 Michigan Ave	Orofino	ID	83544		208-476-4521		Y	\$3.00	X		
NWD	NWW	NWW District Office	201 N. 3rd Ave	Walla Walla	WA	99362	James Frank	509-527-7138	james.d.frank@usace.army.mil	Υ	N	X		X
NWD	NWW	Idaho State Police	700 S. Stratford Dr	Meridian	ID	83642	Eileen Allen	208-884-7159	eileen.allen@isp.idaho.gov	N	\$10.00			

- Consolidated national list on NRM Gateway
- Searchable list of Department of Justice/FBI-Certified private, state, local providers of electronic fingerprint services: https://www.certifixlivescan.com/



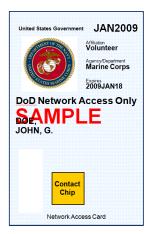


### **Computer Access For Volunteers**

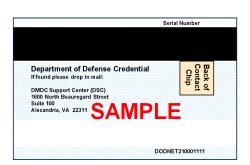
 Volunteers requiring government computer access connected to Department of Defense (DOD) networks must be issued a Volunteer Logical Access Credential (VOLAC) card.

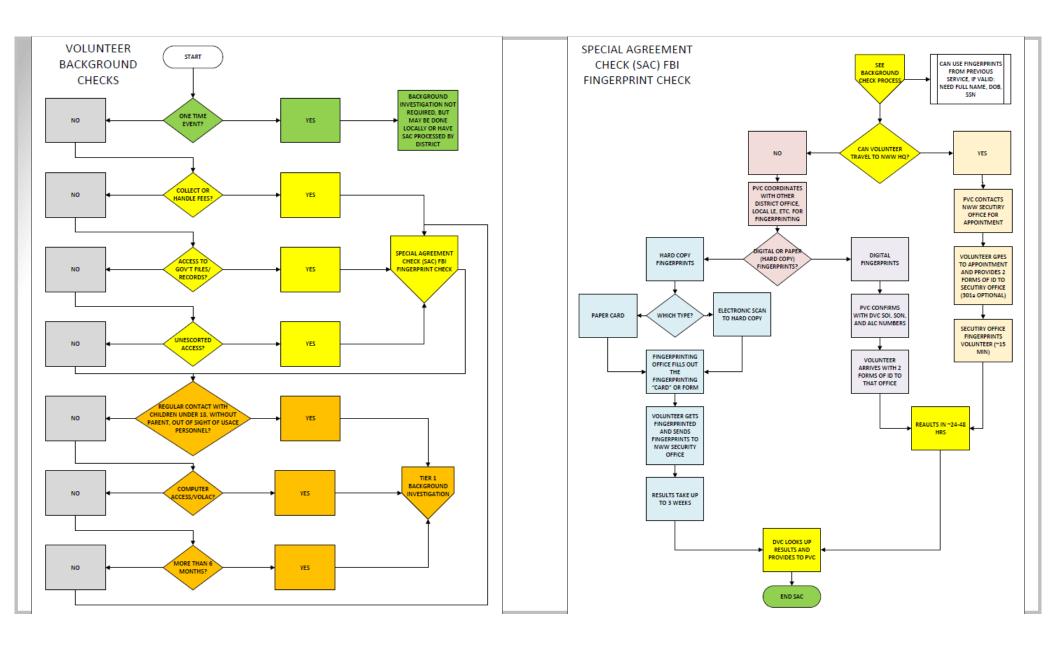


 There is no cost for the VOLAC card, but there may be a cost associated with obtaining the required fingerprints during the background check process.



 Volunteers who only use stand alone government computers that are not connected to a DoD network do not require a VOLAC









### **Children Volunteers**





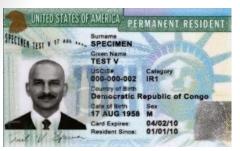
- Children under the age of eighteen years may be volunteers, provided they have the written consent of their parent or guardian on the OF 301a Volunteer Service Agreement form.
- If children are volunteering as part of a group, the leader must provide a complete list of group participants and separate OF 301a agreements signed by the parents/guardians for all participants under the age of eighteen.
- Army General Counsel ruled that signing another organization's consent form is not sufficient to protect USACE.



# U.S. ARMY

### **Legal Alien/Permanent Resident Volunteers**

Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551)





Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp or temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV)





Appendix E of ER: Examples of acceptable documentation forms

- Volunteer service may be accepted from legal aliens (permanent residents) or foreign exchange students.
- Must present J-1 or F-1 Student Visa (or passport if in the U.S. in tourist status from a visa-waiver country where visas are not required) or U.S. Permanent Resident Card INS Form I-551 (formerly known as Alien Registration Receipt Card) for review and verification.







### **Volunteer Clothing**



- Official Corps volunteer clothing items must be purchased from the Corps uniform contract provider. Local purchase of similar items to the contact in different colors is not authorized.
- Multiple quantities of items may be provided to an individual. (Recommend 1 clean shirt per day of work week.)
- Volunteers are not authorized to wear the NRM uniform patch or any other item of the official NRM Class B-C-D uniform.
- For volunteers performing maintenance duties, T-shirts may be ordered from a local vendor with the Corps logo and "Volunteer" but must be in colors similar to those offered under the uniform contract, with the exception of safety-colored shirts and reflective materials.









### **Volunteer Clothing**

#### Available from Image Authority:

- Vests: red
- Sweatshirt jacket: red
- Winter ball cap: white/black
- Summer ball cap: khaki or red
- Name Plate: magnetic or pin
- Shor sleeve polo: red
- Long sleeve polo: red



CO4107 Unisex Volunteer Vest



CO5127 Unisex Volunteer Hooded **Jacket** 



CO7169 Unisex Summer Ball Cap



CO7170 Unisex Summer Ball Cap



CO7171 Unisex Volunteer Ball Cap



CO5032 Unisex Long sleeve Volunteer Polo



CO5013 Unisex Short Sleeve Volunteer Polo



CO7172 Magnetic Volunteer Nameplate



CO7173 Pinback Volunteer Nameplate

#### To order:

Website: http://imageauthority.com/lma

**Account Number: All in CAPS** (project code - typically 5-6 letters total, with 3 letters for district and 2-3 letters for project.)

**Example:** LRNOLD is the code for Old Hickory Lake in the Nashville District.

Password: All in CAPS (same as above Account #).

Click on USACE logo, Enter Acct # and PW and click LOGIN, Click on CONTINUE.

Go to PRODUCTS and select VOLUNTEER PROGRAM from the dropdown menu.

Use the government VISA credit card to purchase.



### Food/Beverage Purchases



- Food and beverages may be provided to volunteers only when such subsistence is incidental
  to the rendering of volunteer services.
- The Government Purchase Card (GPC) may only be used to purchase food with prior written approval from the District Commander.
- Volunteers may be reimbursed for meals during the period of volunteer work, which shall not exceed the General Services Administration (GSA) schedule for government per diem.
- Meals and beverages provided for a recognition event are not incidental to the rendering of volunteer services and are therefore impermissible.
- Any food or beverages purchased under this policy must be reviewed and approved by the
  District Resource Management Office (RM) and documented (i.e. email or Memorandum for
  Record (MFR)).









### **Volunteer Lodging**

- Volunteers may be provided modest lodging at the project where their service occurs and not be required to pay a user fee.
- Districts may use appropriated funds to rent, purchase, or construct volunteer accommodations.
- Permissible lodging may include mobile homes, RVs, campers, cabins, hotel rooms, apartments, former government housing, or campsites.
- Accommodations should be noted on the volunteer agreement.



### **Volunteer Transportation**



- Reimbursement for transportation expenses to and from a volunteer's residence may be authorized
  if within a reasonable commute.
- Volunteers needing routine reimbursement for local mileage driven in a personal vehicle should be added to Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) and local travel vouchers processed as with USACE employees. Volunteers may sign up for direct deposit.
- Reimbursement for personal vehicle (POV) mileage will not exceed rates identified in the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR).
- Long distance travel may be reimbursed in cases where it can be shown that the services of the volunteer are of exceptional value.
- Invitational travel orders approved at the District level shall be used for long distance travel.
- Long distance reimbursement will not exceed the amount identified in the JTR
- Transportation may include any mode recognized by the JTR, including POV, public transportation, trains, and airplanes.



### **Volunteer Appreciation**

Projects are encouraged to show appreciation for volunteer services. Recognition is an ongoing
integral part of the management process, not only the banquet or certificate given annually.



- Volunteers may be issued a certificate of appreciation to acknowledge their service, as well as be featured in articles, on websites, and thanked in person.
- OPMs may waive day use fees for one day or provide free one-night camping certificates to volunteers.
- Items such as celebration meals, appreciation gifts, or cash awards are not authorized for purchase with appropriated funds for volunteers, but <u>may be donated</u> by Friends groups, cooperating associations, or other partners to recognize outstanding volunteers.
- Individual and family/couple volunteers are eligible for the Enduring Service Award, National Volunteer Award and Volunteer Excellence Coins, sponsored by the Corps Foundation



### **Informal Recognition**



How we say thank you in day-to-day ways:

- Invitation to team meetings
- Eating meals together
- Writing articles about their good work
- Celebrate special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries
- Providing volunteer villages with services (laundry, Wi-Fi)
- Taking the volunteer out on 'fun' jobs (boat patrol, aerial surveys, etc.)
- Give recognition as soon as possible after the task is accomplished.
- When recognizing many volunteers at once, you can still plan different activities for different tastes.
- Recognition should be meaningful to the person being thanked and should be given in a timely manner.





### **Enduring Service Award**



- Established by the Corps Foundation and sponsored by Bass Pro Shops to honor long term service (6 years or more) and outstanding accomplishments by individuals and families as Corps of Engineers volunteers
- Request for nominations: September (due in December)
- Winners receive plaque, coin, Bass Pro gift certificate and \$500 cash award









### **National Volunteer Award**





- Sponsored by the Corps Foundation
- Awarded to one outstanding individual volunteer or one couple/family of volunteers
- Request for nominations: September (due in December)
- National winners receive a plaque, certificate, and coin
- Regional nominees receive a certificate and coin



## **Volunteer Appreciation**



Volunteer Appreciation Walls/Displays







# Volunteer Pass Program: Corps Pass and America the Beautiful (ATB) Pass



- Approved in 2012: enables volunteers who have served a minimum of 100 hours at Corps managed areas to receive a free Annual Day Use Pass
  - Volunteers can accumulate hours at multiple Corps projects.
  - Supplemented by the ATB Volunteer pass in 2016
- 250 hours of cumulative service = free America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass
  - Volunteers can accumulate hours at Corps, BLM, BOR, FWS, USFS, and NPS sites. Hours earned at other agencies must be verified by the volunteer's prior coordinator.
  - Volunteer hours earned at Corps lakes can be verified and entered by volunteer coordinators in the volunteer app or entered in volunteer.gov by district volunteer coordinators for volunteers that have a volunteer.gov profile.
  - Covers entrance fees and day use fees at participating agencies for one year from date of issuance



### **Volunteer Coin Program**



- Created in May 2015. Sponsored by the Corps Foundation
- Coins awarded to regional nominees/national winner for the National Volunteer Award and to volunteers who perform extraordinary acts of service
- Larger coin developed for national and regional level recognition



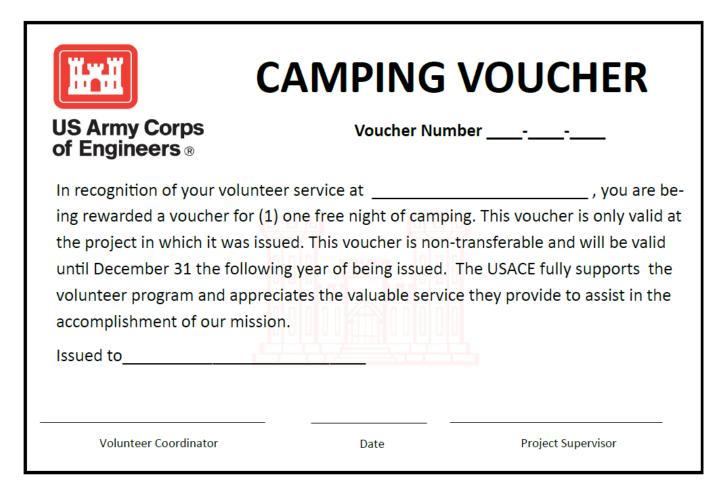






### **Volunteer Camping Voucher: LRH**

- LRH District Policy describes how a camping voucher may be issued to a volunteer for 1 free night camping
- Typically given to offsite volunteers for special events, presentations, flood event clean up, etc. for 8 hours of service





### **Volunteer Reporting in CWBI-OPS**



- Volunteer data must be captured each year during October in the CWBI-Ops tool, Partnerships and Volunteer Module
- Non-Partnerships Volunteer data: Record total number of volunteers, volunteer hours, and reimbursed incidental expenses for volunteers who are not serving as part of a partnership or organization
- Partnerships Volunteer Update: Record number of volunteers and volunteer hours that the partner provides
- USACE and other federal agencies use the Independent Sector's hourly rate as set by the Bureau of Labor Statistics each spring to calculate the value of service per hour, regardless of age or activity. No cost of living or other adjustments of any kind may be made to this rate.



### **Volunteer Program Forms**



- OF 301: Volunteer Application (Approved by OMB for all agency use)
- OF 301a: Volunteer Agreement (Approved by OMB for all agency use)
- **OF 301b:** Volunteer Group Agreement (for adult groups)
- ENG Form 4882-R: Volunteer Service Record
- Standard Form 1164: Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business (Volunteer's incidental expenses)
- Standard Form 87: Federal Employee and Military Fingerprint Card (Used for background checks for VOLAC card)
- Standard Form 85: Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions (for VOLAC)
- OPM 306: Declaration for Federal Employment (for VOLAC)



### **Resources: NRM Gateway**



https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm







#### 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 post opportunities on <a href="https://www.volunteer.gov">www.volunteer.gov</a>, an interagency volunteer portal that is used by the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, and Department of Commerce to recruit volunteers for natural and cultural resources programs. Volunteers may find opportunities on <a href="https://www.volunteer.gov">www.volunteer.gov</a> and may also call 800-VOL-TEER for more information.

- National Volunteer Week
- News / Current Issues
- FAQs
- Good Enough to Share
- Volunteer Clothing, Brochures, and Posters
- Volunteer Plans and Handbooks
- Related Sites
- Background Checks/Volunteer Computer Access
- Corps Photo Album for Volunteers
- Volunteer Pass Program
- Volunteer Program Annual Reports

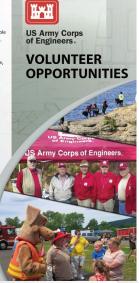
- Policy & Procedures
- Volunteer Forms
- Program History
- Training
- Volunteer.gov
- Job/Activity Hazard Analyses
- National Public Lands Day
- Division & District POCs
- Volunteer Awards
- Workamper News
- Corporate Social Responsibility/Volunteer Programs







https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/clothing.cfm



MAKING A

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 is one of the nation's leading federal providers

interested in the work of the USACE natural resources

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

USACE-managed lands and waters.

DIFFERENCE

management program.

## Resources: Volunteer Brochures: 2 options





**US Army Corps of Engineers** 





# 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
- Enjoy free camping while serving
- · Have fun!

#### How our volunteers help:

- · Build and maintain trails
- · Serve as campground/visitor center hosts
- · Conduct educational programs and tours
- · Build and install wildlife/fish habitat

- ..... And so much more!

#### For more Information: Call: 1-800-VOL-TEER (1-800-865-8337)

Email: volunteer.gov@usace.army.mil Visit: www.volunteer.gov













- Explore and live in new places
- Provide community service
   Enjoy free camping while serving

- Build and maintain trails
- Serve as campground/visitor center hosts
   Conduct educational programs and tours
   Build and install wildlife/fish habitat

- GIS/Mapping
   Computer/database entry
   .... And so much more!

Call: 1-800-VOL-TEER (1-800-865-8337) Email: volunteer.gov@usace.army.mil Visit: www.volunteer.gov





Volunteer Posters in two sizes -8½ x 11" and 18 x 24"

https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/clothing.cfm



#### **Volunteer Week Spotlights**





**APRIL 21 - 27** 



the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities, and be a force that

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize transforms the world. This week, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent, and voice to make a difference in their communities.





provided landscaping services to improve project areas

Rusty and Diane Oleszewski volunteered during the 2023 recreation season at Buffumville Lake's damsite. Together, the couple went above and beyond in landscape maintenance and office repairs. With an ambitious work ethic and experience in property management, the project's recreation areas were made pristine. Together they peeled back layers of overgrowth throughout the disc golf course and kept it spotless of trash. Diane's green thumb helped to beautify the office's landscape beds. They successfully rejuvenated pollinator gardens using excess plants from other overgrown areas. Rusty, a reliable handyman, lent help in major debris clean ups of the dam. Repairs to lower priority issues that park staff didn't have time to address were fixed in an instant.

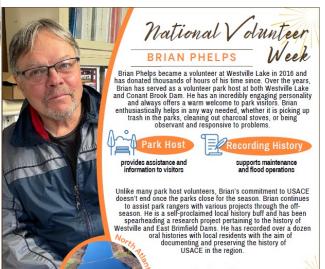
There's more to the Oleszewski couple than just their skills, though. Their joyous demeanor and open communication made them stand out within the



team. As spring sets into motion, the Buffumville Lake gardens are beginning to bloom and serve as a reminder of their hard work. We are excited for Rusty and Diane to return for another great recreation season this April.

(A great way to highlight stories about outstanding volunteers and use to recruit new volunteers)

https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/ employees/volunteer/week.cfm



THANKYOU





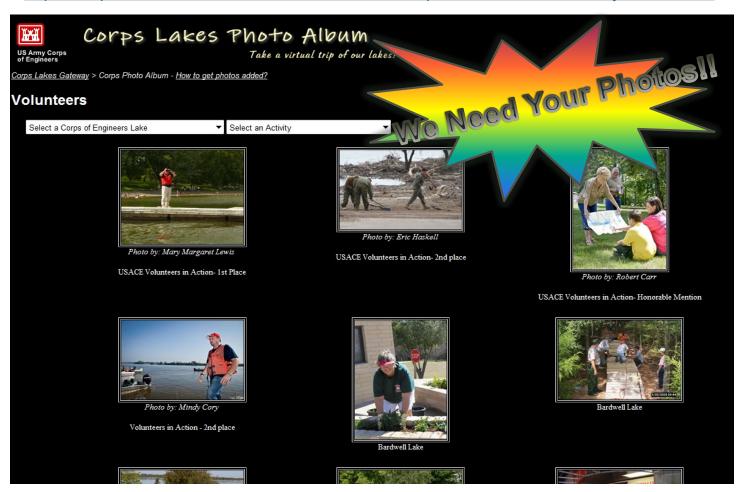
https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/volunteer.cfm



# **Resources: Corps Lakes Photo Album**



https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/album.cfm?Option=View&Id=0&Activity=Volunteers



#### BRIDGING

Volume 8

About Bridging the

Gap

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

In This Issue

Mark Twain Lake Environmental Adventure Bike Trail.....

Extension of Grand Trunk Trail at Westville Lake.....

Celebrating Los Angeles District's Premier Cooperative Partnership Agreement.....

2024 Handshake Program Funding Recipients ......

Podcasts and Partnerships...

March 2024

#### National MOU: Backcountry **Hunters and Anglers**

In September 2023, USACE and the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) signed a national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop and expand collaborative engagement on the broad and diverse communities of interest in wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation and sustainable wildlife habitat.

Under this MOU, BHA and USACE strive to:

- Collaborate on projects, including potential cost sharing activities;
   Implement stewardship projects, education, outreach, and research
- Increase public awareness through education, special events, and advocacy of the value and benefits (social, economic, physical, and environmental) derived from participation in sustainable outdoor recreation on public lands.



offered through BHA include the collegiate program, hunting for sustainability, armed forces initiative, and current partnering efforts between BHA and USACE include collaboration on hunting/fishing events, lake cleanups, and other special events, construction of BHA will be held from 1:00 -2:00 Eastern on Mar. 20, 2024. Tune in to learn more!

A few examples of programs stewardship program. Past and accessible fishing docks and archery ranges. A webinar with

#### **Partnership Newsletter:**





- March 20: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers webinar, 1:00 pm Eastern
- June 18: Handshake FY 25 Funding Program webinar, 2:00 pm Eastern
- July 24: Handshake FY 25 Funding Program webinar, 11:00 am Eastern
- August 14: Handshake FY 25 Funding Program webinar, 2:00 pm Eastern
- September 30: FY 25 Handshake applications due
- September 30: FY 24 Handshake Applications due

REMINDER

April 21-27, 2024

is National **Volunteer Week** 

This is a great

opportunity to recognize the collective impact of

volunteer service to the

USACE NRM program. National Volunteer Week can be used to offer up

new volunteer

opportunities, identify

and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make

communities.

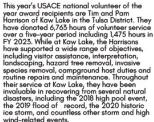
2023 Excellence in Partnerships | Page 2 Award Recipient -

14 The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership across projects within NWD, SWD, and MVD has been selected as the 2023 Excellence in Partnerships Award recipients. This partnership has united private landowners, universities and over 15 federal and state

agencies under the common goal of eliminating feral hogs from public and private lands throughout the state of Missouri to protect public health, agriculture, and natural resources through control measures, education, legislation actions and enforcement, and disease

The Excellence in Partnerships Award annually recognizes exceptional contributions by a partner providing substantial support to the USACE Recreation and Environmental Stewardship programs.





The national volunteer of the year award recognizes extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourage an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for USACE lands, facilities, and resources. (A great way to find out more about our outstanding partners and volunteers!)

We need your stories!

Have you attended the PROSPECT Partnerships in NRM class yet? If not, sign up for one of our classes:

- FY 25 Session 1: Rend Lake, Benton, IL. Oct. 21-24, 2024
   FY 25 Session 2: Kansas City District Office, Kansas City, MO. Apr. 28 May 1, 2025
   FY 25: Session 3: Raystown Lake, Hesston, PA. Jul. 21-24, 2025

Please visit https://ulc.usace.army.mil/CrsScheduleNewFY.aspx to enroll



https://corpslakes.erdc. dren.mil/partners/newsl etter.cfm

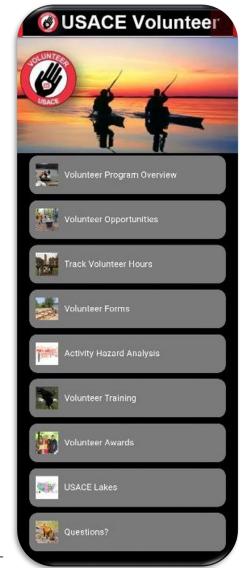
corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm

corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm



### **Volunteer App**

- New app developed by Innovations and PAC Teams
- Includes:
  - Volunteer program overview
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Track volunteer hours
  - Volunteer forms
  - Activity Hazard Analysis forms
  - Volunteer training
  - Volunteer awards
  - USACE lakes link
  - Questions





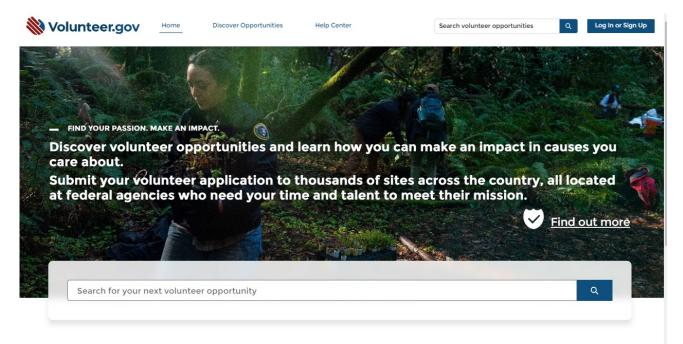


https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/volunteer/app.cfm



### **Volunteer.gov Public Site**





#### **Latest Opportunities**





Forest Service



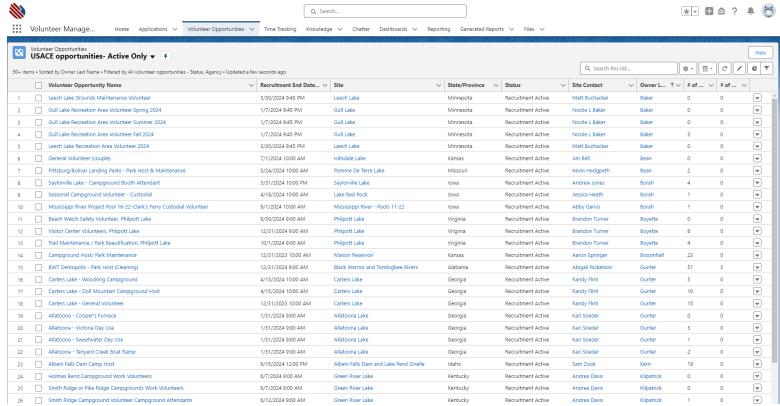
Forest Service



### **Volunteer.gov Administrator Site**



District volunteer coordinators have volunteer.gov Salesforce accounts to post opportunities and forward applications to project volunteer coordinators.

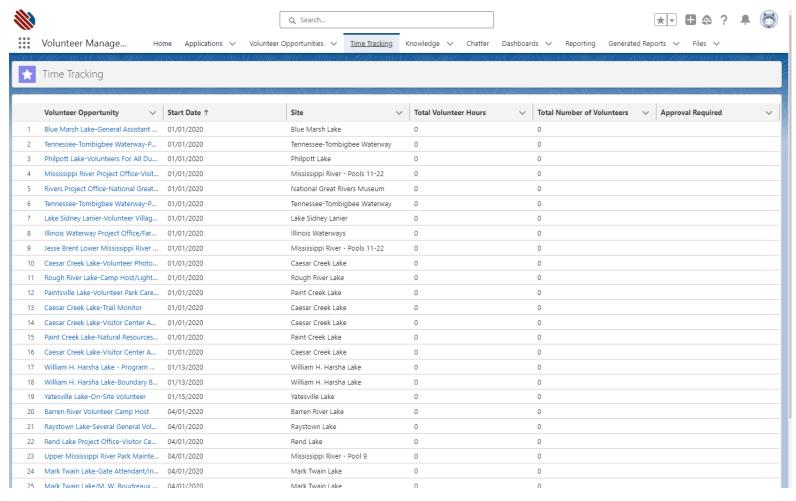




### **Volunteer.gov Time Tracking**



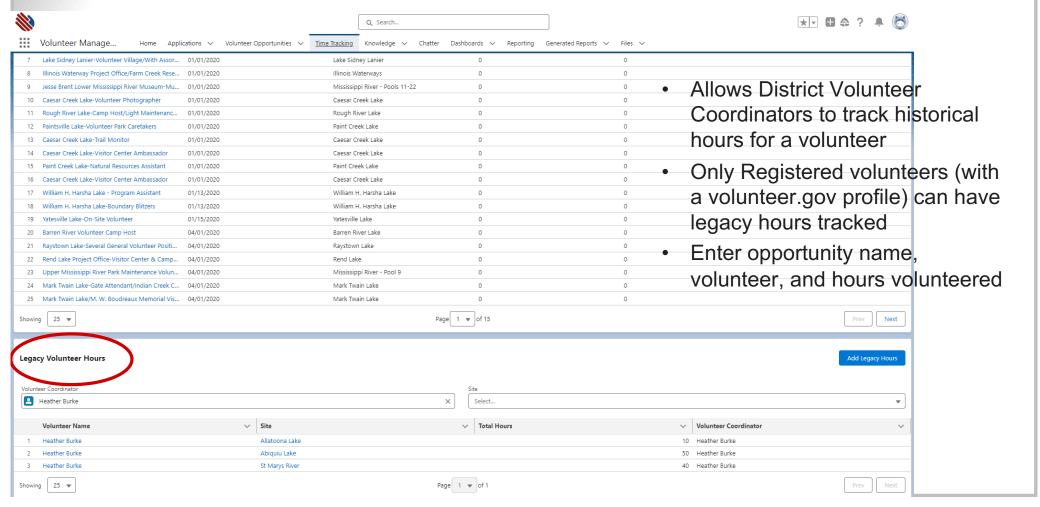
Volunteers can log their hours on the public site and District volunteer coordinators can verify their hours in the administrative site.





### Volunteer Legacy Hours Tracking in Volunteer.gov



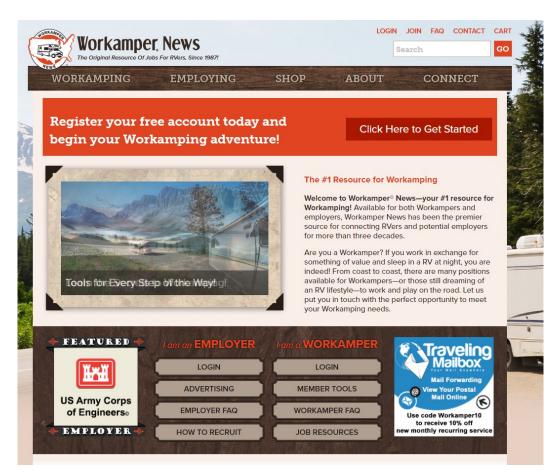




#### **Workamper News**



- Website/magazine that USACE contracts with to post volunteer and paid camp host opportunities.
- Each project gets the following for FREE with our contract :
  - ➤ Ten Hotline ads (up to 100 words) per year online. Runs for 2 weeks
  - Unlimited searches in Resume Database
  - Articles and videos
  - Online courses
  - Access to an applicant resume database for volunteers/ contractors seeking opportunities
  - Ability to create an employer tour to show off your Workamping environment
  - Ability to record podcasts about volunteering at your project





# "Volunteers don't get paid. Not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

-Sherry Anderson







#### **True or False:**

Volunteers are allowed to operate gatehouses and collect recreation fees.

True





# **Recap Questions**

#### **True of False:**

The Corps can purchase volunteer awards and gifts for their outstanding and valued service.

False





# **Recap Questions**

What are volunteers NOT allowed to do?

Enforce Title 36



# **Recap Questions**

#### Volunteers CANNOT be:

- a. non-U.S. citizens.
- b. children under age 18.
- c. persons arrested and awaiting trial for a violent crime.
- d. paid for vehicle mileage.





# Questions?

