

Partnering with Schools & Universities



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Why Partner with Educational Institutes?

- Involvement with local universities and schools is a natural fit with the Corps increasing emphasis on environmental stewardship.
- A good program can foster ownership of the project which is beneficial when seeking community support.
- The easiest way to reach an adult is through the experiences of their children. Don't forget these programs have the ability to drive visitation from these contacts.
- Think outside the box: graphic design, environmental studies, event planning, recreation, biological sciences, engineering, architecture
- Give them the opportunity to say yes.



Job/Intern Fairs

These are an easy way to begin interaction with your local university.



- Recruit volunteers
- Educate
- Establish an agency presence



Court your Local School Teachers

- Parks as Classrooms
 - You have the resource they have the students
 - Reaching students now can result in changed behaviors later
- Meet with your school superintendents and let them know what your projects has to offer its teachers and students.
- Host curriculum-based CE courses
 - Project Wet
 - Project WILD
 - Aquatic WILD
 - Aldo Leopold Education Project
 - Food, Land & People



Guest Speaker for Intro to Rec Classes

The Athletic Department is a great way to promote water safety but the Recreation Department is your best way to get direct student interaction at your lake project.

- Educate
- Establish an agency presence
- Recruit

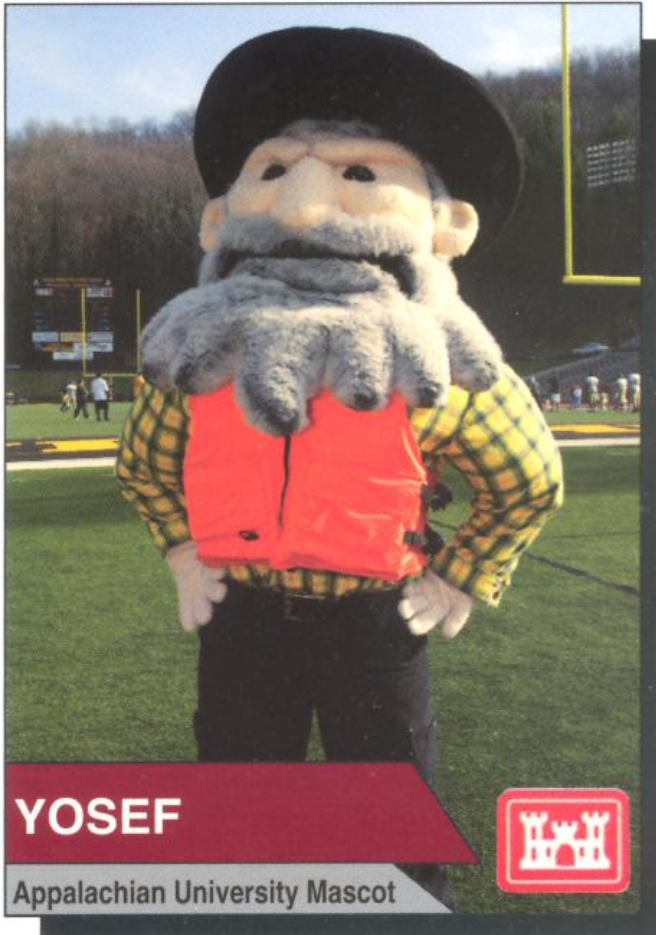


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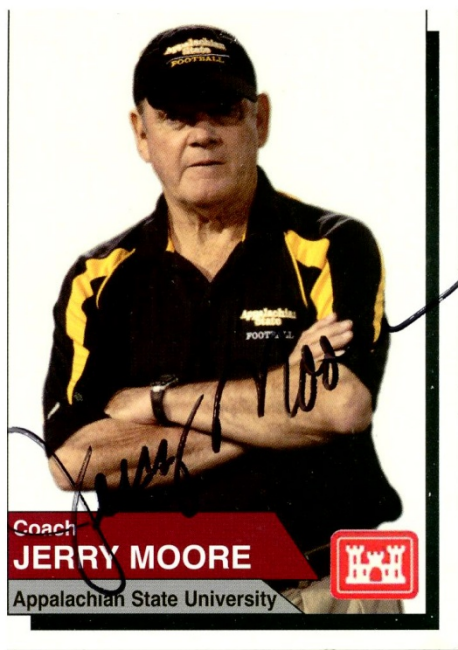
Case Study: W. Kerr Scott Lake & ASU



- Make initial school commitment easy, i.e. “Could we have 10 minutes of your time to take a picture of the mascot in a life jacket? Anytime would work for us.”
- At W. Kerr Scott Reservoir SAW, Appalachian State University allowed a ranger to come to a practice to get photos and video of players, coach and mascot wearing life jackets and promoting water safety.



Water Safety Trading Cards



These are popular with kids and are cost effective way to promote water safety (4 cents per card)



Take Advantage of the Image

Once you have established contact and made a successful interaction get creative



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Keep the Ball Rolling!

Once you have established contact with the school seek ways to remain involved. If you have promoted water safety with the athletic department a coloring contest is an easy next step.



Coloring contests allow you to integrate other partners such as elementary schools.



Through the local cooperating association, this group paid for the football prizes signed by the coach.



FRIENDS OF
W. KERR SCOTT LAKE

499 Reservoir Road • Wilkesboro, NC 28697 (336) 921-3390



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Contest was Judged by ASU Recreation Students



The Grand Tour

Once you have visited with the Recreation Department arrange for them to visit you.

- Give the faculty a tour of your park
- Brainstorm ways to work together
- Maintain the attitude “Our park is your oyster”





Work with the event planning class

Students in these classes are tasked to plan, market and execute events.



At W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, the event planning class has organized:

- Take a Kid Fishing Day
- Mountain Bike Clinic
- Fly Fishing Clinic
- Activities for understaffed BSA group



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ASU student Melissa Autin was a certified canoe instructor whose event planning class assisted a Boy Scout event



Get creative and research the schools existing programs.

How can you work together?



Read With a Ranger

(How W. Kerr Scott piggy backed with ASU's summer reading program)

- Present interpretive programs at your local library
- Literacy is a great tool to teach Environmental Education
- Host a book swap event



Volunteer Interns

If you have a good working relationship with a university in proximity to your project you can recruit volunteer interns.

Students are often required to do internships to fulfill their graduation requirements.



Jonathan and Jacob





ASU
Students!



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Jonathan and Jacob performed 400 hours of service at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and received 12 credit hours from ASU. The MOU was drafted by a park ranger and a recreation department professor.





Jacob arranged for one of his professors, a Lewis and Clark re-enactor, to assist with a Cub Scout day camp.



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Get Students in your Park

Bird watching = partnership?

NC State biology and computer science department

+ interested citizens

+ Jordan Lake

= EAGLE CAM



Eagle Cam

- This project originated when Army Corps of Engineers biologist, Francis Ferrell, led a class of NCSU ornithology students on a visit to an active Jordan Lake Bald Eagle nest in March 2010.
- A team of volunteer engineers, NCSU graduate students, faculty, and staff formed over the next six months.
- Video cameras installed at an active nest in October and began monitoring the breeding pair just before female laid two eggs in early December.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Live Video - Bald Eagle Nest at Jordan Lake, NC



Nest is visible dawn to dusk Eastern Standard Time.

Restoring Native Species

- Lake Allatoona has a 10-year plus relationship with Berry College.
- Ranger Terrell Stoves approached a professor at the college about a possible partnership to reintroduce the Mountain Longleaf Pine to Pine Mountain at the project.
- This success led to the expansion of the program 7 years later to include the project as a test site for the introduction of potentially blight resistant American Chestnuts.



- The Professor on the Longleaf Pine project also happened to be the state coordinator for the American Chestnut Foundation with whom the Corps has a National MOU.





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Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

- A national network of federal agencies, universities, tribes, state/local governments working together to provide technical, scientific, and educational support for natural/cultural resource management
- Organized in 17 geographic units with >325 partners
- MOU between agencies. Specific projects set up through cooperative agreements.
- Corps agreements coordinated by AI Confrancesco through ERDC
- Host universities coordinate admin support and access to staff/students
- Projects for education, research, technical assistance



Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

- Facilitates collaboration across agencies/non-fed partners
- Provides a pathway for federal agencies to fund projects at partner institutions with defined overhead (17.5%) and cost-sharing
- Examples of USACE work completed through CESU agreements
 - ▶ National Aquarium- Coastal restoration of seagrass, saltmarsh and dune grass in Chesapeake Bay; long-term monitoring
 - ▶ Lewis & Clark Community College National Great Rivers Research and Education Center - Japanese Hops monitoring, control and management
 - ▶ National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology- Protocol development for citizen science avian monitoring in floodplain forests in St Louis district (helps to meet Level 1 and 2 inventory requirements)
- <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>
- Procedures to initiate a CESU project on Gateway

