



Welcome to the Winter 2022 Edition of the Corps Foundation Newsletter.

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Earn Money for Yourself and Help The Corps Foundation

As a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) retiree, I've thoroughly enjoyed my part-time work managing five U.S. Coast Guard grants for the Corps Foundation since 2014. There are many other types of grant funding opportunities that could benefit USACE, but the Foundation's all-volunteer board needs more retirees or other people to help manage them. You don't usually get paid for writing grant requests, but you can be paid for managing them.

According to PayScale.com, the average base salary for a grant manager is \$59,215 per year. You can work from home (or anywhere), select how many hours annually you want to work, and pick your own hourly rate in your grant request. I'm a contractual employee, so I have the autonomy and flexibility to work whenever I want and I do not receive benefits such as health insurance and paid time off. I also must pay estimated taxes quarterly on grant income. I've chosen to only work 1,075 hours per year so I have plenty of time to travel and enjoy my "retirement" too. The Corps Foundation's Board Chairman Greg Miller and the entire board are a great group to work with. The Corps Foundation benefits from collecting 10% in indirect funds from the grant that I manage so your help in managing other grants could also aid in sustaining them as a nonprofit.

I selected a boating and water safety grant because that's one of my areas of expertise, but there are many other types of grants. Pick something that you're interested in and search online to find a grant that would help USACE and The Corps Foundation. You can search for federal grants at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Also, there may be state or local grants that could help a USACE lake or river project near you.

Grant funds could be requested that help to improve public safety or recreational facility accessibility, enhance environmental sustainability, produce more opportunities for people from underserved populations to enjoy USACE's natural resources and recreational facilities. The possibilities are endless and only determined by your own interests and time limitations.

It has been a pleasure for me to share my expertise by managing grants. If you're interested in helping out USACE and the Corps Foundation and possibly supplementing your income, I'd be glad to help you get started. Please don't hesitate to ask me any questions or discuss any grant ideas you have with me Rachel Garren at Jara15@charter.net or contact the Corps Foundation directly on their website using the contacts tab form.

by Grant Manager Rachel Garren

The Corps Foundation Supports Responsible Recreation.
Please see [Recreate Responsibly.org](https://RecreateResponsibly.org) for more information.



Winter Edition



Ways to #RecreateResponsibly outside:

- 1 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**
Some areas are seasonally closed or have limited hours, and many places become dangerous with winter weather. Research your destination, weather, and road conditions prior to your trip.
- 2 PLAN AND PREPARE**
Know your limits and your gear. Pack extra layers, waterproof clothing, and safety equipment or beacons for the backcountry. Have a Plan B in case you can't access your destination.
- 3 BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS**
Everyone deserves to experience a winter wonderland. Be an active part of making the outdoors safe, accessible, and welcoming for all identities and abilities.
- 4 RESPECT OTHERS**
From mountain tops to shores to prairies, parking can be in short supply in the winter. Park only in safe and legal spaces. Learn to Ski Kind or Tread Lightly when skiing, riding, or traversing off-road.
- 5 LEAVE NO TRACE**
Respect the land, water, wildlife, and Native communities. Follow the Leave No Trace Winter Use Principles.
- 6 MAKE IT BETTER**
Keep our winter playgrounds clean. Pack out any human or pet waste. Consider your responsibility to take action to protect our climate; today's snow is tomorrow's water.

Join the movement
RecreateResponsibly.org



Life Jacket Video Contest 2022

The Corps Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are proud to announce the 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest. The contest invites anyone 18 or older nationwide to create a video public service announcement (PSA) to help encourage adults to wear life jackets while boating or swimming around boats. Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2022 and that's a month earlier than ever before. Winners will receive a cash prize and the opportunity for national exposure for their winning entries.

This contest was developed because every year thousands of people in the United States mourn the loss of loved ones who could have survived if they had been wearing a life jacket while spending time on or near our nation's waters. Over the last 10 years, 88 percent of all USACE public water-related fatalities were male, 87 percent were the ages of 18 and older, and 89 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

Key Information about the 2022 Life Jacket Video Contest:

- Deadline for Video PSA entries is August 1, 2022.
- All entries will only be accepted through the online application that can be found at LifeJacketVideoContest.com.
- Anyone within the United States who will be 18 years old or older August 1, 2022 can enter.
- Entrants may enter individually or as part of a team consisting of no more than four (4) members. All team members must be 18 years old or older.

- New for the 2022 contest, we're requiring some type of vessel e.g. canoe, kayak, paddleboard, speedboat, pontoon boat, Jon boat etc. to be included in video entries.
- Entries will be accepted for a 55-second video and a 25-second video. A winner will be selected in each category. The winner of the 55-second video category will receive a cash prize of \$5,500 and the winner of the 25-second category will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.
- Winning entries and other entries may be turned into PSAs and distributed nationwide to USACE lake and river projects and their partners to use on social media, websites, television stations, movie theaters, and more.

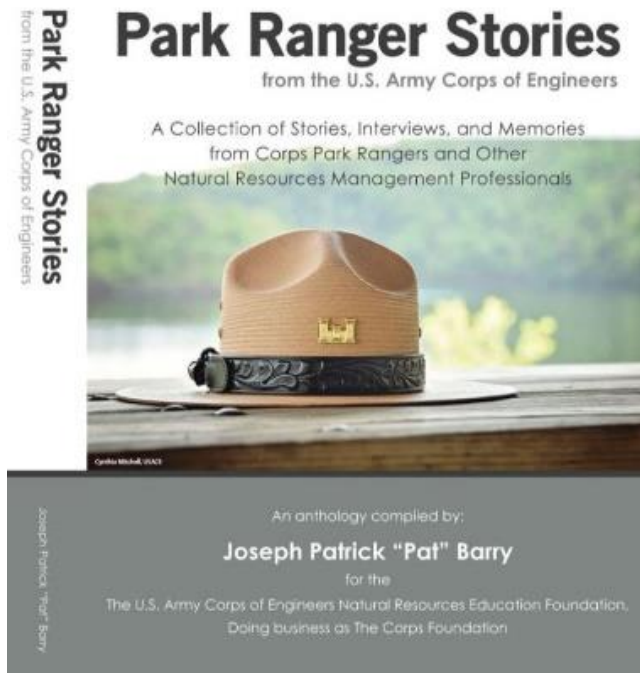
USACE employees and members of their immediate households are not eligible to enter and no government funds can be used to procure a video entry. However, USACE employees may assist entrants in developing video scripts/storyboards and shooting videos at their location.

For full entry guidelines, official rules, FAQs, and resources to assist in promoting the contest, visit LifeJacketVideoContest.com. Funding for the Life Jacket Video Contest is provided by a Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grant that was awarded to The Corps Foundation and is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Be sure to follow "Please Wear It" on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for other great information and visit PleaseWearIt.com for a variety of water safety promotional materials.

Corps Foundation Book Wins Award from the National Association for Interpretation

We are pleased to announce that the Corps Foundation's book, "Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A Collection of Stories, Interviews, and Memories from Corps Park Rangers and Other Natural Resources Management Professionals" won the third place Award in the Book Category of the National Association for Interpretation's 2021 Interpretive Media Awards. A Corps Foundation board member attended the online ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 14th 2021



If you still have not received a copy of the book, it is available in two forms:

1. Paperback (650 pages) (\$87.91 plus shipping)
[Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A Collection of Stories, Interviews, and Memories from Corps Park Rangers and Other Natural Resources Management Professionals: Barry, Mr. Joseph Patrick "Pat": 9781712590256: Amazon.com: Books](#)
2. E-book Kindle Version (\$12.95)
[Amazon.com: Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A Collection of Stories, Interviews, and Memories from Corps Park Rangers and Other Natural Resources Management Professionals eBook: Barry, Joseph Patrick "Pat": Books](#)

Again, for those suffering from sticker shock, the book is expensive because of production costs based on 650 pages and about 300 photos, mostly in color. The author receives no royalties and the Corps Foundation makes only \$5. a copy.

We are contemplating doing a second edition so if you missed the first, contact Pat Barry at jpatbarry@hotmail.com

Don't miss this opportunity to own a part - or be a part of Corps history.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Ouachita Volunteers, Windell and Carolyn Belford nominated for a Volunteer Excellence Coin.



Windell and Carolyn Belford have served in the Denby Point Recreation area on Lake Ouachita since 2008. During the peak seasons (May-September), they served as contract fee hosts, but during portions of the off-seasons (October-November and March-May), they were volunteers in the Denby Point area. Mr. and Mrs. Belford helped to maintain the recreation area by blowing the leaves and debris off campsites and roadways, cleaning fire rings and pedestal grills, reporting any maintenance issues, maintaining bulletin boards, picking up litter, and providing information to visitors when Park Rangers were not available. Mr. and Mrs. Belford have volunteered at Lake Ouachita for the past 14 years making them the volunteers with the longest duration of service, and they are now retiring to spend time with family. They have been extremely beneficial in providing a point of contact and assistance to the public, and cleaning the recreation areas, allowing the Park Rangers and Operations and Maintenance personnel at Lake Ouachita to spend more time on other projects such as campsite amenity upgrades and renovations.



Mr. and Mrs. Belford were always ready to assist campers finding and setting up on a campsite in the campground, and Visitors have complimented the Belford's on their kindness and courteous manner and knowledge of the area. They distributed lake maps, campground maps, and other recreation information each day

they were working. They also helped campers navigate the recreation.gov website to book a reservation. In addition to serving as campground hosts, Mr. Belford is an avid fisherman and loved to give daily fishing tips to the public. Mr. Belford has also assisted our Natural Resource Management staff in sinking fish shelters to enhance the fisheries habitat on Lake Ouachita.

Windell and Carolyn Belford assisted in promoting water safety at Ouachita by handing out coloring books, asking visitors to wear their lifejackets, and helped maintain the lifejacket loaner board located at the swim beach by re-hanging and re-stocking lifejackets when needed.

Since October 2008, they have donated over 3100 hours of service. It is very rare to drive through Denby Point and not see them working or visiting with campers. They both shared how much they would miss Denby Point and all the campers, friends, and Corps personnel they have formed relationships with over the past 14 years. The Corps and recreation users will certainly miss them, and the Corps of Engineers, Lake Ouachita, appreciates their dedication and service to accomplish our missions, and feels they are most deserving of a Volunteer Coin of Excellence.

by Amy Shultz,
Natural Resource Specialist
Lake Ouachita Field Office



New Feature! Corps Foundation Partner Spotlight: Meeting of the Rivers Foundation - National Great Rivers Museum, Illinois

Welcome to our inaugural Spotlight in which we proudly showcase what Corps friends and partners do every day for visitors. These locally-based groups have a passion for “their” local lake or waterway. Run almost exclusively by volunteers, they tirelessly assist with project operations and environmental efforts, offering programs, staffing and accepting donations and/or applying for grants. Future Spotlights will highlight one of 60+ cooperating associations, local organizations and other non-profits operating at Corps projects. We invite you to contact us to Spotlight your group.

Introducing...

Meeting of the Rivers Foundation- National Great Rivers Museum, Illinois.

An Illinois-based, non-profit organization, the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation (MTRF) was incorporated in 1998 with a mission to promote public awareness and understanding of river issues and solutions via educational and community outreach initiatives. Their principal role has been to secure funding from private and public sources to support the museum and outreach related responsibilities. They collaborate with other non-profit organizations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to elevate the impacts of environmental education, outreach, and awareness surrounding the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois waterways and their watersheds.



The National Great Rivers Museum is designated as one of a dozen Congressionally-mandated “Class A” Regional Visitor Centers across the country operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The museum is strategically located at the confluence of three major rivers-Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois in Alton, Illinois at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam. Volunteers with the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation’s provide free

tours of the adjacent Melvin Price Locks and Dam, and support river-related education and outreach in the surrounding area.

The MTRF offers a host of activities and events throughout the year. Festivals throughout the year celebrate harvest, eagles and ice, paddling and river navigation. The MTRF also offers summer camps and participates in the national program of Every Kid Outdoors. Check out their list of great events HERE <https://www.mtrf.org/mtrf-upcoming-events/>



MTRF volunteers Charlie Dralle and Dan Garner assist with the nationwide Every Kid Outdoors initiative.



MTRF volunteer Annette Walsh assists in leading a Girl Scout program.



MTRF volunteer Randy Moonier helps teach a student proper archery technique at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, an environmental restoration and recreation area.



MTRF volunteer Veronica Douglas poses with Eric the Eagle at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Learn more the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation at: www.mtrf.org
or contact them directly at: meetingoftherivers@gmail.com
The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation can be found on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/MTRFoundation>

Send Some Smiles to the Corps Foundation!

One simple way you can help the Corps Foundation is to donate to the Foundation through Amazon Smile. If you are like most people, you've been ordering more online than ever. Amazon Smile gives you an opportunity to send a small contribution every time you order.

See the website for more details:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/dashboard/ref=smi_se_mirp_dshb_smi

IMPORTANT See the USACE Website for updates on the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://www.usace.army.mil/Coronavirus/fbclid/IwAR0Wxq9t_2TqIm67Qnh-9IkNU27avZfXxaVWH_Q9IU317OdcUfowu2G2c58/

Like what you've read? Can we count on your support today?

You can make the difference in programs and partnerships that are critical to providing improved services to the visiting public- *like you!* We are fully managed and operated by volunteers so your support is used directly for priority program initiatives, not administrative overhead.

Please join by visiting our website at www.CorpsFoundation.org, and clicking on the "Donate Now" button takes you to our membership form.

While supplies last, if you donate at the \$50 level or higher, you'll receive a logo dry bag for your next boating adventure!

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Membership Renewal: Your Support Makes a Difference!

Please enter your contact information in the space below.

Name:

Address:

Email:

ZIP:

Phone number:



Contribution Level Payment

Please return this form with your check payable to CNREF, c/o Dave Wahus, 422 Silver Fox Lane, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. If you prefer, you can renew your membership online by visiting the Foundation's website at www.corpsfoundation.org

Please indicate your contribution level:

___ \$25 ___ \$250 ___ Other: \$ _____
___ **\$50** ___ \$500
___ \$100

Your Support Makes a Difference!

Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, tax ID #20-5545091, doing business as The Corps Foundation.

Your donation may be tax-deductible for you as permitted by Federal law for nonprofit organizations. Your support of the Corps Foundation helps U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and friend's groups connect, grow, and increase their capacity to fulfill USACE's natural resource education mission on lakes and waterways across the United States. Find out more at the Foundation's website: www.CorpsFoundation.org

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Corps Foundation Volunteer Board Current Members:

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