



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

OCT 20 2008

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-CO-N

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS; CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS, NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BRANCHES, AND OPERATIONS PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: National Youth Marine Alliance's *Preserve America's Waterways* Initiative

1. I'm pleased to announce that Steven L. Stockton, Director of Civil Works, has signed the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding with the National Youth Marine Alliance (NYMA) to help advance the awareness of water-based educational and recreational opportunities for our nation's youth (Enclosure 1).
2. In support of this MOU, the NYMA is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other entities under the new *Preserve America's Waterways* (PAW) initiative, which is the most comprehensive national youth stewardship effort ever undertaken with our nation's water resources. Preserve America's Waterways is a targeted youth initiative designed to engage boys and girls ages 14-20 in a national volunteer work effort to foster stewardship of our water resources. Additional information is enclosed (Enclosures 2 and 3).
3. What does this mean for the Corps? Approximately 300,000 boys and girls are now committed to this initiative with the goal of giving back one million community service hours protecting and preserving our lakes, rivers and watersheds. Many highly motivated young adults, who are enrolled in scouts and other youth organizations, stand ready to assist our lake staffs in accomplishing critical conservation work at very little cost to the Corps. Youth crews will perform work under the constant supervision of two adult leaders, as provided by the youth organization. Lake managers who choose to take advantage of this program will be responsible for identifying the service project(s) and for providing the materials required for the project (paint, lumber, equipment). No salary, stipends, travel, lodging, or overhead costs are required. All workers and their supervisors must be officially enrolled under the Corps Volunteer Program prior to beginning work.
4. The National Youth Marine Alliance has targeted 1 January 2009 as the official kick-off date for this program. In preparation for this launch, the NYMA is requesting that we identify potential service projects work sites. Beginning 22 October 2008, each site offering a service project can access the www.PAWATERWAYS.org website and enter general information about the project and the number of anticipated volunteer hours. Information can be edited or revised at any time.

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5. Beginning 1 January 2009, youth organizations will have the opportunity to view all available service projects on the web site and "adopt" their favorite project. Once a project has been adopted, the lake manager will receive an email confirmation and will be provided the contact information. Service projects begin on or after 30 March 2009.

6. The potential benefits of this program are endless. Not only does this provide our lake projects with the ability to accomplish critical conservation work with highly motivated young adults (and at little cost and supervision to the Corps), but it also provides meaningful work for our nation's youth as they learn important life skills and become the future stewards of our country's lands and waters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James R. Hannon, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

3 Encls

JAMES R. HANNON, JR., P.E.
Acting Chief, Operations
Directorate of Civil Works