



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CECW-CO

S: 20 December 2005

**MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND
DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, CONSTRUCTIONS-OPERATIONS DIVISIONS**

SUBJECT: Excellence in Interpretive Partnership Award Nominees

1. It is time to nominate an outstanding cooperating association within your areas of responsibility for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award. The award will be presented at the Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) annual conference to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas in March 2006.
2. The Corps Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award was created to recognize outstanding contributions to interpretative and/or environmental education efforts of the Corps by a cooperating association. Nomination packages assembled according to the enclosed information will be forwarded electronically from division commanders to CECW-CO by COB 20 December 2006. A selection committee will review the nominations and provide recommendations to the Director of Civil Works.
3. The winner will be honored at the APPL award ceremony that recognizes the partnering efforts between cooperating associations and the Corps, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service and other federal agencies. As a true reflection of our commitment to these partnerships, if the winning association cannot attend because of financial concerns, I strongly encourage you to issue invitational travel orders so they may be there with your Corps representative.
4. My POC for this activity is Ms. Debra Stokes, Senior Policy Advisor for Partnerships, NRM Community of Practice. Ms. Stokes may be reached by phone at 202-761-1736 or via e-mail.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GERALD W. BARNES, P.E
Chief, Operations Division
Directorate of Civil Works

Excellence In Interpretive Partnerships Award Nomination Information

Purpose of the Award - The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award was created to recognize outstanding contributions to interpretative and/or environmental education efforts of the Corps by a cooperating association.

Eligibility - Cooperating associations who have a formal agreement with the Corps are eligible for this award.

Definition - Cooperating Associations are nonprofit, tax-exempt corporations whose partnership with the Corps results in the enhancement of and contributions to the Corps mission, particularly in regard to natural resources management. See Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for complete details of the Cooperating Associations Program.

Nomination Package - The nomination package will include the following:

- Corps project name
- Corps point of contact
- Cooperative association's name
- Association point of contact
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- A narrative describing the nominee's accomplishments:
 - should be a concise description of the nominee's project(s) or efforts that shows why the organization should be recognized.
 - must address the criteria described below to enable the review committee to easily compare nomination packages.
- The narrative requirements:
 - a maximum of three single-spaced pages
 - using 12 point Times New Roman font
 - 1-inch margins
 - up to four pages of support material, including photographs and letters of recommendation may be attached. Photographs should be digital, at least 300dps and properly identified.
- The entire nomination package will be submitted electronically.

Nomination Criteria - Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

(1) Creativity and Originality - The nominee has shown creativity and originality in serving the public and assisting the Corps in meeting the needs of its customers.

(2) Improvement in Public Awareness - Enhancing the public's awareness of the built, cultural and natural resources on Corps projects and their relationship to public;

(3) Public Education - Providing members of the public with significant opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values and attitudes related to Corps projects and public lands in general;

(4) Accomplishment of Management Objectives - Accomplishing management goals and objectives and has assisted the Corps in accomplishing work items that it would not have been able to accomplish without the partnership;

(5) Involving Other Partners - The partnership has increased community involvement and understanding of the Corps role in serving the Nation.

(6) Serving Diverse Audiences - The partnership has strengthened and improved the Corps ability to provide good customer service by developing programs that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of diverse audiences.

The nominee's efforts should be completed within the **preceding two calendar years** and should result in the completion of field level products, projects or programs.

Nomination Process – Each division will forward one nomination package to Debra Stokes, CECW-CO (debra.j.stokes@hq02.usace.army.mil) NLT 20 December 2005. A selection committee will review the nominations and provide a recommendation to the Director of Civil Works.

The winner will be honored at the Association of Partners for Public Lands Convention federal agencies award ceremony during the first week of March 2006. If the association cannot attend because of financial concerns, you are strongly encouraged to issue invitational travel orders so they may be there with your Corps representative to receive this recognition.