



**US Army Corps
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News Release

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Notice to the Media

It's Never Too Soon To Learn About Water Safety!

CELINA, TENN, FEB 22, 2008 – Who has been on a boat? Who would like to go boating? Who enjoys going to the pool, or swimming in a lake? Who lives near a pond or stream? These were just a few questions asked of the children at Noah's Ark Preschool recently in Cookeville, Tennessee. With a room full of raised hands, it was shown that of the 37 students, ages three to five years, all of them have or will at some time come into contact with water.

Spring is around the corner, and with the warmer weather, people enjoy getting outdoors and recreating at their local lakes or taking a dip in the community or backyard swimming pool. The Corps of Engineers is the Nation's leading provider of water based recreational opportunities. Knowing this, the Corps takes very seriously the message of water safety. It's never too early to learn the importance of water safety! In an effort to proclaim this message, and to announce Dale Hollow Lake's Life Jacket Loaner program, Park Rangers Sondra Carmen and Allen Earhart shared the vital water safety message to some great kids at Noah's Ark Preschool.

Water, fun and safety go together! The students learned some great points in order to keep them safe when around the water. First, learn to swim! Never swim alone and swim in designated areas only. Don't pretend you are drowning. Beach toys are not to be used as lifesaving devices. And always wear a life jacket!!

Each child learned how to properly fit themselves with a life jacket, and then they had a special visit from "Bobber The Water Safety Dog". "Bobber" is the Corps of Engineers mascot who is on a "dog-gone" mission to share the water safety message and keep visitors to Corps lakes safe when in and around the water.

The life jackets that each child modeled were provided as a grant from the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. In an effort to keep kids safe while on the water, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Dale Hollow Lake has partnered with BoatUS Foundation's "Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids". This program allows boaters to borrow a child's life jacket for the day or the weekend, at no charge!

Here's how the Life Jacket Loaner Program works. If a boating family discovers they don't have enough properly-fitting children's life jackets on board, they can simply visit the registration centers at Dale Hollow Dam, Lillydale, Obey River or Willow Grove campgrounds or Pleasant Grove Day Use Area on Dale Hollow Lake and sign for a loaner infant, child, or youth jacket for the day or the weekend. When they've finished boating for the day, they can return the jackets to the same location. Dale Hollow Lake was awarded a total of five kits of 12

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life jackets each, allowing hundreds of children to stay safer on the water.

If you would like to borrow a child's life jacket, simply stop by the park registration center during their hours of operation. You can also contact the Office of the Resource Manager at (931) 243-3136 to learn more about Dale Hollow Lake's participation in the program.

There are more than 300 BoatUS Foundation Life Jacket Loaner sites located all over the country. These sites have loaned jackets to visitors more than *50,000 times* since the program began in 1997. To learn more about the national effort to put kids in life jackets to guarantee their safety, visit <http://www.boatus.com/foundation>. To learn more about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Dale Hollow Lake, visit <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/DAL/rec/>.

It's never too soon to learn and practice water safety. Park Rangers at Dale Hollow Lake appreciate the kids from Noah's Ark Preschool learning how to be safe, and announcing the "*Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids*". We look forward to your visit to the lake this summer and seeing each boating visitor wearing their life jacket!

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