



National Youth Marine Alliance
"Preserve America's Waterways"
USACE Strategic Partnership



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Program Purpose: *Preserve America's Waterways* is a targeted youth initiative designed to engage boys and girls ages 14-20 in a national effort to foster stewardship of our greatest natural resource. It is the position of the National Youth Marine Alliance that all children be given an opportunity to connect with the water and enjoy the many recreational benefits that water based activities provide. Boating, fishing, sailing, snorkeling, swimming and all water sports give youth a strong connection to the environment that can foster a lifelong relationship with fun outdoors.

The *Preserve America's Waterways* is the most comprehensive national stewardship effort ever undertaken with youth and our water resources. The US Army Corps of Engineers can play a significant role as a strategic partner in this initiative. Corps properties attract more than 370 million visitors a year and the Corps ranks #1 among federal providers of outdoor recreation. With over 54,800 miles of shoreline on Corps properties it is positioned to be a leading partner in this exciting youth initiative.

Approximately 300,000 boys and girls are now committed to the project with the goal of giving back 1 million community service hours protecting and preserving our lakes, streams, rivers, watersheds and shoreline. **The NYMA lead partnering organization on the 2009 project is the Venturing Scouts – BSA.**

Planning & Deliverable Accomplishments: Logistical planning for the project began on March 1, 2008. The launch of the project is January 1, 2009 and the effort will continue through the 2009 calendar year.

Cost, Funding & USACE Funding Requirements: Initial budget requirements for the national service project are \$287,000.00 which includes field coordination of youth resource teams and identified service projects and sites; marketing & awareness materials; youth recognition program. This budget does not include site specific materials required for an identified service project. Funding for the project shall be provided by corporate partners, foundations, and fishing & boating industry support. USACE funding requirements are limited to any materials related to a site specific service project (i.e. Building materials, paint, trash bags for debris clean up etc.) No funding is being sought from USACE for the general project budget.

USACE Collaboration Responsibilities: The follow actions would be required for USACE Collaboration;

A). USACE shall communicate to the appropriate individual(s) at all USACE properties the nature and scope of the *Preserve America's Waterways* youth initiative.

B). USACE shall submit a service project request form to the appropriate individual(s) at all USACE properties (e-version may be available for electronic communication). The forms shall be provided by the NYMA and its partner organization BSA. The duration of each service project shall be limited to a weekend time frame. The projects may include but are not limited to light repairs around a waterfront site, physical clean-up, sign posting of public safety messages for waterfront activities; installation of lifesaving equipment such as Life Jacket Loner Program Boxes (Boat US Foundation), or throw rings mounted on docks or bulkheads. The service projects are only limited by the need and creativity of each leader at USACE sites.

C). Specific materials required for the service project at a USACE site shall be provided by the USACE. (paint, lumber, equipment etc.)

D). USACE shall work in cooperation with BSA and NYMA to increase awareness of the projects among all **target age** youth in the vicinity of a Corps property where a service project will occur. The scouts shall provide a minimum of two deep adult supervision during each site project and strongly encourages area (non scout) youth to join in the activity. This is an excellent opportunity for the Corps to engage youth and inform them of the outstanding opportunities that exist for service in the Corps and to encourage use of Corps property for regular recreational enjoyment.

Additional Notes:

Due to the scope of this national youth initiative, service projects shall be sought from a wide variety of organizations. The following organizations have expressed a desire to create service projects and would be joining the USACE as additional partnering organizations in the project: *Bout US ; NOAA Marine Sanctuaries; US Power Squadron; National Boating Federation; Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology; Related Fishing Organizations and State Agencies; Community Based Boating and Fishing Clubs*

The NYMA shall request an MOU with the USACE on this youth initiative

Contact:

Thomas M. Griffin
NYMA
2 Lilac Dr
Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 935-6248
captkid@cox.net