

Lake Ouachita

Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

Handbook



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Table of Contents

- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island Policy----- 1
- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island Safety Guidelines----- 3
- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island Application----- 4
- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island (Adult) Wavier----- 5
- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island (Minor) Wavier----- 6
- Adopt-a-Shoreline/Island Evaluation Form----- 7

Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

Policy Statement

Purpose: The Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program is a partnership program sponsored by the US Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District (USACE) providing for volunteer public involvement in increasing public awareness of, and controlling litter at Lake Ouachita. Individuals, families, educational institutions, houses of worship, organizations, civic groups, and businesses are invited and encouraged to adopt a section of shoreline/island to help control litter, and provide for a cleaner, healthier, and more attractive recreational environment.

Guidelines: The following guidelines apply to any adoptee in the program.

- Recognition of the volunteer commitment and the results of the adopter's efforts will be acknowledged by the release of data notices to local media, and certificates of appreciation.
- Eligible sections of shoreline, including islands, may be chosen by the adoptee, in coordination with the USACE, with special consideration to safety. In general, the section of shoreline to be adopted will average from one to three miles in length, but may vary in length subject to the request of the adoptee and approval by the USACE.
- The adoption period shall be a minimum of two (2) years, renewable at the request of the adoptee. Litter removal events, as a minimum, should be conducted at least twice a year with one being during the month of September.
- The Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or sexual preference. This program is not intended to be used as a means of providing a public forum for the promotion of name recognition,

political causes, or priority claim for shoreline or island camping of the adopted area. The USACE therefore reserves the right to deny adoption to any prospective adoptee.

- The program encourages the involvement of youth organizations. However, all person under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by an adult, on a ratio of one adult for every five (5) persons under the age of eighteen (18).
- Litter removal equipment and supplies; safety vest, grabber sticks, and litter bags, for volunteer use, will be provided by the USACE at no charge. Prior to a litter removal event, the adoptee representative should contact the USACE, Lake Ouachita Field Office, 1424 Blakely Dam Road, 501-767-2101, identifying the adoptee by name, indicating the number of participating individuals, and coordinating a time and location to pick up the equipment and supplies.
- Following the litter removal event, all of the equipment and unused supplies should be returned to the USACE Field Office, and all trash should be left in the location identified by the USACE representative. Within two weeks of the event the adoptee should file its report indicating the adopter's organization, the number of participants, the number of hours devoted to the event, the number of bags of litter collected, and the resulting shoreline/island condition.



Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

Safety Guidelines

STOP – THINK – SAFETY FIRST

Our volunteers are our most valued asset. As our partner please take all the safety precautions available to you when collecting litter. Please read and adhere to the following guidelines.

DO NOT PICK UP ANY DANGEROUS OR UNSAFE LITTER!

Dangerous or unsafe litter includes, but is not limited to: sharp objects that can cut (broken glass, razor blades, etc.), hazardous household products, hazardous medical waste (used dressings/syringes), dead animals, condoms, and all unlabeled containers whether jars, jugs, bottles, buckets, or drums that appear to contain unidentified materials. If you encounter any dangerous or unsafe materials, mark and make a note of the location, and report their existence to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when you complete the cleanup.

Other Cautions!

- Never go into an area alone. Partner up with a buddy. It's more fun and you are safer.
- Never enter or attempt to collect litter in an active, occupied camp site.
- Always wear your safety vests. It is a bright color and makes you more visible.
- Always stay within ear shot of your litter removal team. If you need assistance, call out for help.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and careful when working the shoreline. The ground is uneven and wet, and you can slip. Be sure of your footing.
- When walking in the grass and brush areas above the shoreline be aware of your footing, holes, loose material, and either fallen, storm driven or water deposited debris may cause you to stumble or trip.
- Do not go into the water or wade into floating debris to retrieve litter. The water may obscure your view, and snakes, spiders, or other dangers may be present.
- Do not overextend your reach. If the litter is not accessible with your grabber stick or rake, leave it alone.
- Never reach blindly into an area to retrieve litter. Use your grabber stick or rake to identify the litter before removing it.
- Above all, use good common sense. Do not undertake any risky actions.

Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

Application

As the representative of the entity indicated in the *Adopter's Organization Name* area, I hereby make application to adopt the shoreline/island identified, named, or described in the *Shoreline/Island Identification* area. .

I have read the guidelines and safety regulations of this agreement and I/(the Organization) am/(is) willing to take active responsibility for keeping this shoreline free of litter by conducting a minimum of two (2) litter removal events a year commencing ____/____/____. I will ensure that I/ (my group) will comply with the Safety Guidelines provided with approval of this application. I will also adhere to the age stipulations and chaperone ratios as prescribed.

Adoptee's Name/Organization Name

Shoreline/Island Identification

Adoptee Representative's Name (print) Adoptee Representative's Signature ____/____/____
Date

US Army Corps of Engineers Representative's Signature ____/____/____
Date



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

AGREEMENT / RELEASE / WAIVER FORM ADULT (18 Years of Age or Older)

In consideration of permission to participate in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program, and recognizing that this program will involve activities which because of their nature and close proximity to water and types of litter handled are inherently dangerous. I/ (My organization) intend(s) to be legally bound hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, and voluntarily assume all risks of accident or injury and release and forever discharge the USACE, their respective employees, officers and agents from any and all liability for personal injury or property damage of any kind sustained in association with my/ (our) participation in the program.

I (My organization) covenant and agree to indemnify and hold harmless USACE, their respective employees, officers, and agents, from any liability, loss and expense, including but not limited to damages, legal expenses and cost of defense, in any matter arising from my participation in Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program.

As used herein, "Agents" shall include local area coordinators and other volunteers working on behalf of the USACE.

I/ (My organization) further agree to abide by all applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the USACE and agree to follow instructions of all supervisors and/or instructors who are connected with this activity.

PARTICIPANT (signature)

DATE

PARTICIPANT (name printed)

ORGANIZATION/GROUP

____ Check here if on medication or health problems may affect participation in the cleanup activity. A site coordinator must speak with you if this line is checked.

I am a competent swimmer: Yes _____ No _____



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

AGREEMENT / RELEASE / WAIVER FORM MINORS (Under 18 Years of Age)

I/we the undersigned, parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____(name of minor), a minor under the age of eighteen (18), do hereby grant for said minor to participate in the Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program cleanup activities sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) , and in consideration of said minor being allowed to participate in the activity and recognizing that this program will involve activities which because of their nature and close proximity to water are inherently dangerous. I/we, intending to be legally bound hereby, for myself/ourselves, my/our heirs, executors and administrators, voluntarily assume all risks of accident or injury of said minor and release and forever discharge the USACE and their respective employees, officers and agents from any and all liability for personal injury or property damage of any kind sustained in association with participation in the program.

I covenant and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the USACE, their respective employees, officers, and agents, from any liability, loss and expense, including but not limited to damages, legal expenses and cost of defense, in any matter arising from my participation in Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island Program activities.

As used herein, "Agents" shall include local area coordinators and other volunteers working on behalf of the USACE.

I/we further agree that said minor will abide by all applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the USACE and will follow instructions by all supervisors and/or instructors who are connected with this program.

PARTICIPANT (signature)

PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

DATE

Check here if on medication or if health problems may affect participation in the cleanup activity. A site coordinator must speak with you if this line is checked.

I am a competent swimmer: Yes _____ No _____



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Lake Ouachita Adopt-A-Shoreline/Island

Evaluation Form

Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated by the Lake Ouachita Corps of Engineers. Your efforts help keep our beautiful lake clean and free of debris. At your convenience, would you please fill out this evaluation form and return to the Lake Ouachita Corps of Engineers Field Office or mail it to 1424 Blakely Dam Rd. Royal, Arkansas 71968.

1. Did the Lake Ouachita Corps of Engineers properly accommodate you or your groups needs before, during and after the program?

Yes___ No___

Comments

2. Were you allowed to adopt the area of Shoreline/Island that you requested?

Yes___ No___

Comments

3. Was proper directions and access provided for you to get to your adopted site?

Yes___ No___

Comments

4. Did you or your group receive proper recognition for your efforts in the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program?

Yes___ No___

Comments

5. How many bags of trash did you or your group accumulate at the end of the program?

Number___

Comments
