



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Mobile District

News Release

Release No:
OPSL2007-2
For Release:
18 April 2007

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Partnership to Promote Water Safety at Lake Sidney Lanier

BUFORD, GA – Each year over 7.5 million visitors come to visit Lake Sidney Lanier. They come to picnic, fish, hike, boat, water ski, and to behold the beauty that Lanier has to offer. Unfortunately, not everyone makes it home from their visit. Each year it seems inevitable that someone will drown at Lanier. Over the lakes 50 years an average of 8 people die each year due to drowning or boating accidents. During the 1970s the average number of fatalities peaked at 11 per year. In the 1980s, US Army Corps of Engineers Rangers began teaching and promoting water safety.

Since the 1980s the water safety programs have become more aggressive each year and each new decade lowers the average number of fatalities, despite growing visitation. Over the last ten years the average has dropped to 6 water related fatalities per year. Ultimately, the Corps would like to see that number reach zero.

“Maintaining an aggressive water safety program is not cheap and it is labor intensive” said corps chief ranger Michael Lapina. The corps budget at Lanier has come up short over the past few years to the point where they had to close some of the lake’s parks. With budget problems like these, funding water safety becomes difficult, but fortunately, the corps has been developing many partnerships over the past several years to help with their mission.

<<More>>

A great example of this is the Park Ranger Card program which involves several partners. Baseball style cards were created featuring the lake's Park Rangers. On the reverse of each card is a different water safety rule. When rangers encounter kids in the parks or elsewhere around the lake, they are awarded a ranger card if they can think of a swimming or boating safety rule and tell it to the ranger. Rangers are good at giving hints, but after a child and his/her siblings collect a few of the cards, they can often easily rattle off a list of water safety tips. Aside from the card itself, prizes can be awarded while supplies last for collecting multiple ranger cards.

- A. Collect four different cards win: Frisbee & Beach ball
- B. Collect five different cards win: Life Jacket
- C. Collect six different cards win: Lake Lanier Islands Beach & Water Park Pass

Life Jackets and beach balls are provided by a partnership with the Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County Coalition. The Beach & Water Park Passes are provided by partnering with Lake Lanier Islands. The newest partner in the program is the Gainesville Jaycees. The Jaycees, have provided the funding for the printing of the ranger cards for the 2007-2008 recreation seasons.

Participation in this program demonstrates how the Corps and its partners, are actively involved in child safety and welfare. Children are a primary target in the water safety education. "Though people of all ages drown at Lanier, education of children is key and hopefully good habits learned will carry into adulthood", Lapina said. "The corps is extremely proud to have partners funding this important program. We are also happy to be partners with the Georgia DNR who have three rangers who will also be distributing cards". In all there are 19 new never before seen Ranger Cards being distributed this year, and some rangers may have a few cards left from past years. The program saw its beginning in 1999. This years card commemorates the lakes 50th year Anniversary 1957-2007.

"This program has been a fun way for kids, adults and rangers to keep water safety fresh in everyone's thoughts. The ultimate goal in forging partnerships like this is to continue to drive down fatalities at the lake. We just want all of the lake's visitors to have fun, and to return home safely", concluded ranger Lapina.

<<End>>

Attached to Email is .pdf file with the sample ranger cards.



CHRIS D. ARTHUR
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

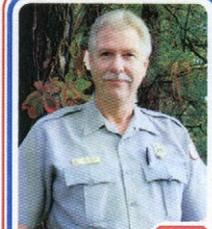
Ranger Cards Provided by:



Chris D. Arthur
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Life Jackets Float, You Don't
Always wear a life jacket whenever you are around the water. Most people drown because they fall in the water unexpectedly. If you have on your life jacket, then you will be safer.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



JACK TAYLOR
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Jack Taylor
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Swimming is Serious Fun
To have fun, you need to be safe. Learn to swim before it's too late.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



ERNEST NOE
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Ernest Noe
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Swim With a Growth-Up
Never go near the water without an adult with you. They need to watch you as you play when you are near the water. It is more fun when they are in the water with you.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



MICHAEL HATCHER
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

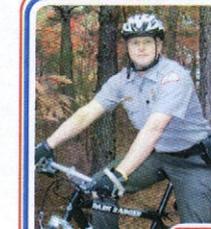
Ranger Cards Provided by:



Michael Hatcher
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Don't Cruise With Booze
Not only is it illegal to operate a boat under the influence, it's just plain dumb. Every year numerous boaters are injured from accidents involving alcohol.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



JEFF EMMERT
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Jeff Emmert
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Life Jackets Save Lives
Whether you're boating, fishing or swimming, any time you're around the water, wearing a life jacket could save your life. Remember: Life Jackets Float, You Don't.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



JASON COUCH
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Jason Couch
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Don't Use Toys as Life Savers
Water wings, inflatable rafts, floating horsies and ducks are toys. If they deflate, you will sink. Only a life jacket will keep you afloat.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



PAMELA GARRISON
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Pamela Garrison
Conservation Ranger
Georgia DNR

Never Swim Alone
It is more fun and much safer to swim with a buddy. Swimming alone can get you into trouble. If you are alone and there is an emergency, no one is there to help you.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



MARK STEPHENS
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Mark Stephens
Conservation Ranger
Georgia DNR

Don't Cry Wolf
Don't pretend you're drowning. It may seem like fun, but people who are watching you may not know if you really get into trouble.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



RUSSELL LUNDSTRUM
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Russell Lundstrum
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Safe Boating Equipment
Be prepared! A spotlight, flare gun, extra life jackets, and emergency horn can help save you, or someone else's, life.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



RYAN HARTWIG
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Ryan Hartwig
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Alcohol & Water Don't Mix
If you want to drink like a fish, you may end up sleeping with them. Don't drink and swim and don't drink and boat!

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



NATALIE EDWARDS
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Natalie Edwards
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Bad Buoy!
Swimming out to the lakes' floating buoys is risky business. Many people attempt to swim to the buoys to show off. Some of these folks don't make it back to shore. To be safe, only swim in designated areas.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



BRENT COSSETTE
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Brent Cossette
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Never Dive!
What is under that water? Sticks, logs and rocks! Shallow water is also a hazard. Never dive into a lake or stream.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



TIMOTHY JADE VICKERY
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Timothy Jade Vickery
Conservation Ranger
Georgia DNR

Don't Drink and Drive
Alcohol and water don't mix. It is just as dangerous to drive a boat when drinking, as it is to drive a car when drinking. Drinking alcohol when near the water is an accident waiting to happen.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



CRAIG SOWERS
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Craig Sowers
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Life Jackets
Life jackets are friends for life. They won't work if you don't wear them!

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



MICHAEL LAPINA
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Michael Lapina
Chief Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Rangers Know Best
Park Rangers always try to look out for your safety. If a Ranger gives you swimming or boating safety tips, make sure you follow their advice.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



NIC EVANS
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Nic Evans
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Swim With a Friend
Swimming alone is no fun. Be safe and use the Buddy System!

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



SCOTT DEMORE
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Scott Demore
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Reach or Throw, Don't Go
If someone is having trouble swimming and needs help, think before you act. Try to reach out to them with a stick or throw something like a life jacket. Save a victim, don't be one.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



PERRY WRIGHT
Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007

Ranger Cards Provided by:



Perry Wright
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

Use Common Sense
If it looks dangerous, don't do it! Never over estimate your ability by trying to swim too far. Don't jump off rocks or cliffs into the water.

To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-899-9818 Fax: (937)965-4191



PAUL WHITMER

Lake Sidney Lanier's 50th Anniversary 1957-2007



Ranger Cards Provided by:



Paul Whitmer

Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers

**Personal Watercraft (PWC)
Are Not Toys**

The majority of our water-related injuries result from improper or negligent PWC use. Remember: a PWC is a vessel and must follow all regulations pertaining to vessel operation.

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To Order Your Custom Cards Call: 1-800-999-3618 Fax: (907)999-4291