



# News Release

US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Kansas City District

601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896

Contact: Tom O'Hara  
Phone: (816) 389-3486

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## **Agencies team up to encourage kids to use flotation devices on area U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes**

**BLUE SPRINGS, Mo.** - Members of the media will get an up-close look at a program in which U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Park Rangers and Missouri Water Patrol officers present T-shirts to children "caught" wearing personal flotation devices at 10 a.m., Friday, July 14.

The media availability will be held at Blue Springs Lake Marina, 1700 Northeast Bowlin Road, Blue Springs, Mo.

USACE Rangers will give away the shirts at Blue Springs, Longview and Smithville lakes, beginning July 15. Water Patrol officers plan to distribute the shirts at those lakes, as well as on the Missouri River and in patrol areas near St. Joseph. The T-shirts will be distributed while supplies last. The shirts have been paid for by a cooperative effort among the Corps, Water Patrol, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, the Clay County Parks Department and several private contributors.

The goal of the program is to encourage all children to use personal flotation devices while enjoying their time on the water. Missouri law requires life vests for children less than age 7.

National statistics show that nearly 700 people lost their lives while boating last year.

Nine out of 10 of those were not wearing a life jacket, and half of all the accidents involved alcohol.

For more information, contact the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Blue Springs Lake Marina is located on the north side of Blue Springs Lake. From Kansas City, take Interstate 70 eastbound to Missouri 291 South via Exit 15A. Take the Bowlin Road Exit off of 291 Highway and turn Left. The road will end at Blue Springs Marina.