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# News Release

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*Allatoona Lake Gears up for Summer Safety*

## **Project Office Announces Water Safety Programs**

**Mobile, Ala.** – To coincide with National Safe Boating Month the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Allatoona Lake Project is expanding one water safety program and unveiling another.

The successful Life Jacket Loaner Program, currently located at Old Highway 41 #1 Day Use Area in Bartow County, is adding new locations in Cherokee County -- Payne Campground Boat Ramp and Sweetwater Day Use Area. The program provides families with a safe option when a life jacket is left at home or doesn't fit properly.

“We would like to thank our partner, Safe Kids Cherokee County. for their generous donation of life jackets for the program,” said, Park Ranger Ginger Bjornson, project water safety manager. “They provided life jackets in various sizes through a grant received from the WellStar Foundation.”

The loaner program's objectives are to teach boaters and swimmers the importance of wearing a life jacket that it is the right size. The goals are to keep visitors safe on the water and to save lives.

The new water safety Ranger Trading Card Program for children has started. Much like baseball cards, the program involves trading cards of Allatoona Lake park rangers. Each card contains a water safety message on the back. Children under the age of 15 can collect the 13

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### **2/2/2/2 Allatoona Lake Water Safety Programs**

Ranger Cards, but must be able to answer a water safety question correctly to collect a card from a ranger.

“The children who collect the cards will have a chance to win prizes such as Frisbees, soccer balls, life jackets and Sea World beach towels after they collect five, seven, nine or all thirteen cards,” said, Bjornson. The Ranger Card Program is expected to run through Sept. 7.

“Safe Kids Cherokee County was instrumental in the startup of this program” said, Ranger Chris Purvis, project public awareness coordinator. “Through a water safety partnership, Safe Kids were able to provide funding and lifejackets for the program using water safety grants received from the United Way and Wal-Mart. This is a great community effort to promote water safety.”

For more information concerning water safety programs, please call the Operations Project Management Office at Allatoona Lake at (678) 721-6700.