

**In the beginning...  
(Summer 2016)**

- Noticed that Innovative ideas from the field were not being utilized, lowering moral and damaging the efficiency of the Tulsa District.
- In June 2016, a plan was devised by Jason Knight and Kent Dunlap to create an Innovations Team to aid in capturing these Innovative ideas, boost morale, and put Tulsa District ahead of the technology curve.
- A call for Innovators was put out in August 2016, thirteen field personnel responded.
- On October 19, 2016 the first Innovations Summit was held in the Tulsa District Office

**Season 1  
(FY 2016-2017)  
Highlights**

- Team was Invited to speak in main session at National NRM Park Ranger Workshop in Spring 2017. Lots of exposure from HQ and all Districts and Divisions.
- HQ referred two USACE HQ IT Specialists to see if they could be a resource for us.
- Innovations Newsletter goes out to the District 6 times a year, and 20 other Districts + HQ by request!

**Team Member Development**

All Innovations Team members are required to present at Summits and workshops, work effectively in sub teams, present to and work with our partners, and attend a National Conference as they develop as Innovative Team Members and Team Leaders.



**Season 2  
(FY 2017-2018)  
Highlights**

- Created Partnership with Southwestern Oklahoma State University School of Business and Technology. Innovations Team would present Innovations, and Capstone students sign up to create the Innovation for college credit.
- Piloted Innovations: RETS Starter, USACE Jr. Ranger App, and Self Service Campgrounds.

**Season 3  
(FY 2018-2019)  
Highlights**

- Summer of 2018, call goes out Nationally to see if other Districts want to join team.
- Team Officially becomes a Multi-District Team when Mobile, Portland, Savannah, and Fort Worth Districts answer the call.
- Pilot 7 Innovation prototypes over the summer.
- Two more District join the team; Pittsburgh and Little Rock.
- Innovations Lab temporarily set up at Pat Mayse Lake for Team.
- RLAT requests quarterly presentations to prevent duplication of efforts.



**Mission Statement**

“Planning and developing technology for Park Rangers/Field Staff and enhancing the recreational experience for the visiting public.”



**Tulsa – Fort Worth – Portland – Mobile  
Savannah – Pittsburgh – Little Rock**

**National Spotlight:**

Conferences where we are requested annually to attend, teach, and present:

- Public Lands Alliance
- Partner Outdoors
- NAI Interptech



- 2019 USACE Innovations Summit, @ ERDC

**Season 3 Multi-District Team Photo**



**Team National Award Winners**

- 2018 – **Shawna Polen** wins National Hiram Chittenden Award for Interpretation for her USACE Jr. Ranger App.
- 2019 – **Sarah Noel** wins Innovation of the Year Award with her USACE Bid Assist Innovation

**Team Innovations to-date:**

- RETS Starter
- USACE Jr. Ranger App
- Self Service Campgrounds
- Automated Fee Machines
- Credit Cards for Boat Shows
- Park Ranger Mobile App
- USACE Bid Assist
- USACE Hunting App
- VERS QA/QC Tool
- Electronic Citations

**Current Team Members:**

- Jason Knight (Team Lead)
- Abby Jones (Co-Team Lead)
- Jake Ellison – Hugo Lake
- James Vincent – Lake Texoma
- Shawna Polen – Canton Lake
- Eric Pearson – Eufaula Lake
- Chris Gilliland – Fort Gibson Lake
- Sarah Noel – Lake Texoma
- Garrett Schock – Pat Mayse Lake
- Cathy Hendrix – Tenkiller Lake
- Paul Thomas – Fort Worth District
- Courtney Heuring – Fort Worth District
- Brad Arldt – Fort Worth District
- Ben Williams – Mobile District
- Josh Davis – Mobile District
- Brittany White – Savannah District
- Sara Emrick – Portland District

Self Service:  
“New Way to Pay”



**Try out our Innovations!  
Scan QR Codes with your  
Smartphone**



USACE  
Hunting App

**PARTNERS**

***To date: spent \$0 on Innovations through partnering and In-house talent.***



- Purchased \$500 worth of plastic badges for USACE Jr. Ranger App.
- Continues to help the team with long ranger partnerships.
- Webhosts our Innovations and Apps.
- Nearly \$250,000 in free IT Work to date, around \$150,000 annually going forward. (Fall & Spring)
- Hosts our 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop annually on Campus, picks up all costs.

