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BRA Lake Granbury Office wins international award for life jacket giveaway

Granbury, Texas (April 12, 2024) – The Brazos River Authority Lake Granbury Office won an International Boating and Water Safety Summit Communication Award on April 11, 2024.

Lake Granbury's annual Water Safety Awareness Day event won in the Giveaway Category for communication excellence in boating and water safety public outreach due to the event's efforts to make free life jackets available to children in the Hood County community. The International Boating and Water Safety Summit, presented by the National Safe Boating Council in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, is a global event dedicated to education, awareness, and networking for the advancement of boating and water safety.

The Brazos River Authority is humbled and profoundly honored to receive this international award. Award recipients have been recognized in the following categories: Community Impact, Digital, Giveaways, Print, PSAs, Public Relations, and Research.

"This recognition on a global scale is a testament to the tireless efforts of our entire team and a powerful validation of our team's unwavering commitment to water safety and water safety awareness," said Michael McClendon, upper basin regional manager. "While receiving this award reinforces our commitment to developing innovative water safety education initiatives, the most profound gratification lies in the knowledge that each life jacket distributed represents a potential life saved."

The BRA has hosted this four-hour event at Lake Granbury for several years, focusing on getting new and properly fitted personal floatation devices to those in the community. Last year, the BRA purchased more than 150 life jackets to give away at the event, ranging in size from infant to young adult. Cooks Children's Medical Center also provided more than 100 life jackets for the event through their Center for Community Health's Water Safety Club.

Financial restraints shouldn't be a barrier to accessing this life-saving device. Ensuring that children have easy access to life jackets is paramount when it comes to their safety in and around water bodies, whether it be lakes, rivers, or pools.

Getting just one life jacket in the hands of someone in need is enough of a goal, but getting hundreds has a substantially bigger impact.

"We were impressed with the quality of entries received this year and the new campaigns reaching boaters around the nation," said Peg Phillips, NSBC executive director, in a news release. "From local outreach events to national news coverage, and from compelling stories to social media, this year's recipients are making great strides in their communities."

This is the second award BRA's Lake Granbury office has received during the IBWSS for the Water Safety Awareness Day event. The first was awarded for the event's life jacket giveaway in 2019.

The BRA couldn't make the annual Water Safety Awareness Day such a success without the support of all the community organizations, sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who participates.

The next Water Safety Awareness Day event is scheduled for *Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Rough Creek Park, 2209 South Morgan St. in Granbury.*

For additional information on the IBWSS awards, go to <https://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/2024-ibwss-communication-awards-honor-leaders-in-boating-and-water-safety-outreach/>

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties, extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The BRA built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the BRA contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates a potable water treatment system, the East Williamson County Regional Water System, for the City of Taylor.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean Rivers Program, the BRA samples and tests water from more than 100 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.