

July 3, 2012 - SFD Supports Life Jacket Give-away to Youth

4th of July Water Resource Festival Spotlights Water Safety for Kids & Patriotism

The Aquatic & Wildlife Education Foundation presents the 2012 Independence Day Water Resource Festival, free to the public, Wednesday, July 4th at the J. Bennett Johnston Regional Visitor Center downtown Shreveport, La. (corner of Clyde Fant and Crockett Streets on the Riverfront)

The main part of this year's event starts at 1pm. Members of the Optimist Club of Bossier City, Bayou Outdoor Supercenter & the Red River Waterway Commission will be giving 700 free Coast-Guard approved life jackets for the kids. Shreveport Fire Chief Craig Mulford applauds the life-jacket giveaway saying, "Adult supervision is a must in keeping our children safe while participating in and around recreational waterways and pools. Floatation devices are to water safety as smoke alarms are to the home—they both save lives."

The National Exchange Club will dedicate a Freedom Shrine, containing 30 some liberty documents. Exchange Club President, Beth Foster along with members Billy Montgomery, Dr. Mike Allen, and Monsignor Cason La Caze will be joined by an honor guard for the Presentation of Colors.

Representatives of the Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park will bring a live bald eagle for all the kids and family to see.

Other key Water Resource Festival exhibitors along with the Aquatic & Wildlife Education Foundation include: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Shreveport Fire Department; U.S. Forest Service; Shreveport Sail & Power Squadron; Christus Sutton Children's Medical Center; City of Shreveport Environmental Affairs Department, the Multi-Cultural Center of the South, & KTBS-TV3.

Noted historian, Dr. Gary Joiner will present an oral history of the Red River. A large inflatable Smokey the Bear will be on display promoting forest safety, as well as a presentation by fisheries biologist John Murrell on fresh-water species native to the area.

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