



The Ram's Horn



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USDA Forest Service

Roots of Job Corps Run Deep: Civilian Conservation Corps Celebrates 80th Anniversary

By Kimberlie Bastone

The Civilian Conservation Corps, the model for the modern Job Corps program, marks its 80th anniversary this year with an impressive list of accomplishments, all-star alumni, and a legacy to be maintained.

The original CCC camps were established during the chaotic years of the Depression to bring together two abundant resources, both of which were idle: men and land. In 1933, during the "Hundred Days Congress," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created "fresh air government camps for about 3 million uniformed young men." 1

The goal was to provide young unemployed



Civilian Conservation Corps Camp No. 1473.

men with vital job experience and wages for themselves and their families.



Picture on left was taken in March 1934 of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp No. 1473 located in Bristol, TN.

From 1933-1942, CCC boys constructed and improved over 800 state and national parks, built nearly 47,000 bridges, and planted nearly three billion trees nationwide.

Today, Job Corps students like Jacob Meier continue the traditions of the original CCC. Meier is a member of the fire team, is a recent high school graduate and trade completer, and is fully prepared to enter the workforce. He does so with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Meier explained. "When you accomplish something, like the first time I dug a line and stopped a spot fire, it made me feel like I did something. I prevented this fire from damaging anything else."

"When I finished my high school diploma, I got to accomplish something that I didn't get in high school, and



that was something.

"When you complete your trade, it makes you a better person. You can now provide for yourself and have a strong tolerance for the work environment."

Meier is a prime example of a young man who has participated in a legacy wrought by the CCC enterprise, the model for Job Corps. During President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, Sargent Shriver was tasked with developing the program and shepherding it through Congress.

Meier's CCC predecessors include such notable personalities as actors Raymond Burr, Walter Matthau, and Robert Mitchum, baseball great Stan Musial, and boxer Archie Moore.

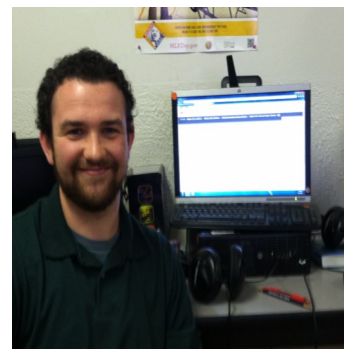
Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced a resolution in the U.S. House of

Representatives to honor the popular Great Depression era jobs initiative in April.

Grijalva said, "The CCC built some of America's greatest parks, helped clean up the environment, improved public access to the great outdoors on a monumental scale, and engaged millions of youth in conservation, education, and workforce training projects."

Today, Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers not only help cultivate and develop emerging leaders within the Forest Service, but also provide a pipeline of entry-level workers.

Each year, the Forest Service hires dozens of Job Corps graduates that have participated in forestry and conservation programs at Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers—students just like Jacob Meier.



Jacobs Meier - Jacobs Creek graduate!

Work Based Learning Assignment Changes Student's Perspective

By Kimberlie Bastone

Jacobs Creek Job Corps student Ashlee Hue has learned as much about herself personally as professionally during her work-based learning assignment at the Tennessee Career Center.

Jacobs Creek Business Instructor David Jones said, "When I first met Ashlee, she wanted to be either a CNA [Certified Nursing Assistant] or do something in culinary." Hue is formulating a different set of plans these days, including college.

The truth is Hue has a better grasp of her abilities thanks in large part to her mentor RESA Coordinator Debbie Gifford who assigned Hue with the task of running the front desk and resource room that services Bristol's job seekers. "That's where you



Left-Debbie Gifford and right-Ashlee Hue at Bristol Career Center.

learn the most," Gifford noted.

The 15-year veteran observed that Hue has learned to be a good listener and to take control of situations. "Several times it seemed very overwhelming to her. You have to get to a point where you can be kind but not 'nicey-nice' or people will take control," Gifford explained.

The challenge of assisting unemployed clients is that "They come in not knowing what they want," she added. Hue helps clients who are experiencing the stress of unemployment and not at their best.

"She does it in a kind way, and she doesn't let them see if she's frazzled," Gifford observed.

Further, Gifford added, Hue has been able to inform young job seekers about the Job Corps program. "Young people ask what Ashlee is doing here. 'Look how young she is.' Anyone, given the right structure, who wants to do it can."

Hue's experience living and working with other Job Corps students has prepared her to work with the various personalities that walk through the Career

Center's doors. "If you sit back and watch," Hue said, "some act like the kids at Job Corps."

According to Jones, it was important for Hue to have this experience. "She's from this area and she'll need those connections." To that end, Jones pushed Hue to take an aptitude assessment, and that started the ball rolling.

"Make the moment that creates your future," - Mirak Beckman

New challenges meet Hue each morning, but along the way she's met with outstanding advice from her co-workers, all of whom are at least twice her age. Hue explained, "You learn if you actually need advice, talk to someone who is way older and they will give you the best advice ever."

Jacobs Creek Students Participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day

By Lakeshia Gallaspy

Several of Jacobs Creek students participated in Ground Hog Job Shadow Day at the Cherokee National Forest -Unicoi Ranger District and Eastman Chemical Company.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day (GHJSD) is a national initiative to engage students in "real life" work settings.

"It was a great experience for our students to participate in. It gave them the opportunity to see skills that have learned in their

vocational trade applied on the job first hand," said Liaison Specialist Lakeshia Gallaspy.

The students got the opportunity to tour the facilities. They also learned about workplace ethics and the skills they will need to be successful in a career with the agencies.



JC Students talking with Alice Cohen, Recreation Manager at the Unicoi Ranger District office.



Tesfageargis Gebrehiwot and Charles Hawkins spends time at Eastman Chemical Company Commercial Driver's License Training Facility.



Jacobs Creek Job Corps CCC Wins the Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Service Award

By Kimberlie Bastone

Jacobs Creek Job Corps was presented the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Service award in Washington, D.C. Tuesday, after volunteering 5,000 community service hours to the Tri-Cities region.

The award was presented to the agency within the United States Department of Agriculture that logged the most volunteer hours in total.

Situated in the Cherokee National Forest, Jacobs Creek is one of 28 Civilian Conservation Corps operated by the United States Forest Service. Jacobs Creek mission is to provide education, social and vocational skills for eligible youth ages 16 to 24, while assisting in the conservation of the nation's public natural resources.

During one project alone, Jacobs Creek students donated 671 man hours during a three week span to help with the restoration of the Robert Preston home built in the 1780's. It is the oldest home in Bristol.



Construction Craft Laborer trade helps to restore oldest house in Bristol, VA.

According to the Center Director Walter West, such projects build skills and confidence in the students. "What it does for their pride and self-esteem is priceless.



Samuel Morman helps volunteer load truck at the American Red Cross.

They say, "Look what I've done."

Roughly 20 students assisted with such tasks as mowing the property, clearing large downed trees on the property, as well as hauling scrap metal to the Wise Recycling Center for the Bristol Historical Society.

"The things the students learn are how we feel about our community. It is very important to us that whenever the kids go into the community, they see it as "This is my community," West explained.

"My goal is that every morning we have 30 to 40 students leaving the center to go into the community and to help different organizations with their day."

"We are looking for more non-profit organizations out there to help," the Director added. "Wherever the community needs help, we do it."

It is a partnership that benefits both community and Jacobs Creek student trainees. According to West, one saved the county \$250,000. "There's

no telling how much we've saved the county," he explained.



Jacobs Creek Students volunteers for Think Pink Breast Cancer Awareness project!

"One of the things students learn is give back to the community and lets them know the community accepts our students," West noted. "What they receive, they give back."



Jacobs Creek SGA packing lunches for the American Red Cross Chili fundraiser.

Jacobs Creek Rehabs South Holston Baseball Field

By Lakeshia Gallaspy

This Spring, Jacobs Creek Heavy Equipment Operator trainees re-graded the baseball field for the South Holston Valley Middle School in Bristol, TN.

The park consisted of two fields, the senior league and the little league baseball field. According to Trade

Instructor Josh Rawson, "All the fields were overgrown and



Instructor Josh Rawson and HEO students displaying the award they received.

needed a lot of work."

During this project, the students mowed grass, pulled weeds, realigned and installed new bases. They also applied the correct field topping called "brick dust". Brick dust is used on infields because it is less dusty and easier to maintain.

"The students really had to work outside of their

scope of training because in Heavy Equipment they are trained to run equipment, and with this project it was more labor intensive. They had to use rakes, shovels, and adapt to not running a machine," said Rawson.

Because of their hard work and diligence, they received an appreciation award from the South Holston Valley Middle School.

Cement Masonry Spruce Up Center Using New Coating Technique

By Kimberlie Bastone

Cement masonry students at Jacobs Creek Job Corps are learning a new finishing



Cement student preparing the floor before epoxy!

technique that will set them apart from the field,

according to trade instructor Herbert Brabson.

"What I'd like them [students] to know about this is there are a lot of concrete applications out there," said Brabson. "You have to learn to separate yourself from everyone else. Then the sky is the limit."

Students are learning to apply a new epoxy finishing technique that is "more green friendly, helps air quality, does not hold bacteria or bug mites," Brabson explained.

The trainees are refinishing classroom floors in the academic building, much

to the delight of the teachers there.

"There are about 12 colors available. They tend to be more vibrant," Brabson added. "It is a new alternative to the traditional chemical-stained floor."

Training Technician



New flooring in Education Building.

Marge Burnette gloated over her floor. "It looks like the blue ocean. The design looks like waves. I love it!"

Teacher Steven Sweet was more practical. "It's better than carpet. There are no allergens, and it's easier to maintain."

Students can bring their skills to a subcontractor and make themselves more marketable, said Brabson who is certified in the new epoxy process.

In the job market, students can expect to treat floors with the epoxy finish in higher end homes. The cost ranges from six to eight dollars a square foot, he said.



What matters is to live in the present...

*Life is a song-sing it,
Life is a challenge-meet it.
Life is a dream-realize it,
Life is a sacrifice-face it,
Life is love-enjoy it!*

*By Miryah Beckman-Jacobs Creek
Student*

JOB CORPS
Success lasts a lifetime!

The Jacobs Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is associated with the Cherokee National Forest. The Jacobs Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation serves 220 students. The USDA Forest Service operates 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers across 18 states with a capacity of 6,200 students. For more information, visit: <http://recruiting.jobcorps.gov/en/home.aspx>.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

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