



Our Moment

Jerry Ingersoll, Acting National Director, Job Corps National Office



I'm so very proud to serve with you in these difficult times. The CCCs are the top Job Corps program in the nation. You are amazingly resilient. You not only recovered from last year's challenges, but emerged stronger, more connected, and bound tighter to the Forest Service.

As I talk with center directors, I hear again and again stories of centers

near the bottom of the rankings just a few years ago who brought their performance up, to the point that now most of the CCCs are in the top 50 in OMS. That doesn't happen by accident. I credit your commitment, centered on an authentic purpose—you know your work has meaning.

For over three months, you've been teaching, training, and supporting students from far away. Many of them are working full-time and/or lack access to digital technology. That's not easy, for you or for them. It's not the program they signed up for. It's required long, sometimes frustrating hours on the part of center staff and National Training Contractors. As you care for students, you're also preparing for their return by addressing deferred maintenance and redesigning facilities for social distancing. You're doing a lot. Thank you.

Until a vaccine is distributed, this pandemic will fundamentally change center culture and there will be constraints in how we engage. Through it all, we must anchor to the students. It's not unusual for students to enter Job Corps scarred by injustice or damaged by a culture of low expectations. You help them achieve a new life filled with purpose and opportunities.

This program exists for the students. We cannot provide them all of our best care this way. We need them back, and they need us. While the pandemic lasts, bringing students back on center safely will require us to operate differently. Your individual actions are essential to a safe reopening and a sustainable program that will ensure that our centers can remain open and serve the students well.

Phased readmission of students will be measured, deliberate, and require planning, attention to detail, and close adherence to guidance from the Department of Labor, the Forest Service, and local health officials to minimize the risk to staff and students. Centers will admit students on different schedules depending on local situations.

The Department of Labor is still developing final guidance on re-opening. The first cohorts aren't likely to be admitted on center until August or September. Anaconda, Pine Ridge, and Boxelder have submitted re-opening plans to DOL, but the actual order of re-opening will depend on developments over the coming weeks. So, we must also continue to serve students as best we can through distance learning.

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Whether over the internet or in person, our mission remains to train and educate America's youth – to care for the students as we care for the land. The extraordinary impact you have on the students' lives is a reason to stay in the game, no matter the challenges.

You may feel different emotions in response to the daily wave of coronavirus news. You may be concerned about your and your family's health, facing childcare issues, struggling economically, or feeling overwhelmed by forces beyond any of our control. I feel that way myself some days. Care for each other, offer each other grace, remember that your work matters, and do what you can. I'm honored to serve with you.

Angell Job Corps graduate Kenneth Trapero finds his calling as a wildland firefighter



Angell Job Corps graduate Kenneth Trapero, far left, on assignment with the Prairie City Ranger District fire crew on July 27, 2019. Photo by Forest Service staff.

Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center graduate Kenneth Trapero is making steady progress in his career as a wildland firefighter. He enrolled in Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center on November 29, 2016, to study automotive maintenance but it was not long before he found his true passion as a wildland firefighter.

After observing Trapero's work on the fireline, an Assistant Fire Management Officer suggested that he pursue a career with the Forest Service and apply to the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program. Although initially resistant to a career in fire, Trapero applied and was accepted. He graduated from Job Corps on April 20, 2018 and being working on the Prairie City Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest on April 30, 2018.

Trapero's had a quiet season working on a Type 6 Engine 642 in 2018. In 2019, he joined a crew in Prairie City, worked longer hours, and was able to save some money. As an apprentice, Trapero traveled to California to take leadership courses like L-280 and L-380. "I've met some amazing people in California," says Trapero. I count on those friendships and they will last a lifetime."

Working as a firefighter, Trapero has had a chance to do a fair amount of travel. In addition to seeing Oregon and Washington, he traveled out of the lower 48 states to Alaska. "It wasn't just one fire, it was the Chalkyitsik Complex above the Arctic Circle," says Trapero. "It's an experience I will remember for the rest of my life."

Trapero is now working on a Type 4 Engine on the Prairie City Ranger District on the Malheur National District. Looking forward to 2021, he plans to apply to the Redmond Hotshots as a Firefighter Type 1 Trainee.

Forest Service Job Corps staff stay busy with center renovations while awaiting students return *(continued on page 3)*



(Before) Blackwell Job Corps Cook Supervisor Sherry Renkas, Drivers Education Instructor Dave Renkas, Cook Brad McLaughlin, Maintenance Worker Lloyd Terry, and Maintenance Worker Robert Garner stayed busy remodeling the cafeteria by painting, updating the soundboards and replacing the salad bar. Photo by Forest Service staff.



(After) With the assistance of staff across center, Blackwell Job Corps Cook Supervisor Sherry Renkas, Drivers Education Instructor Dave Renkas, Cook Brad McLaughlin, Maintenance Worker Lloyd Terry, and Maintenance Worker Robert Garner remodeled the cafeteria to give it a bright, modern vibe. Photo by Forest Service staff.

Forest Service Job Corps staff stay busy with center renovations while awaiting students return



(Before) LBJ Job Corps' Career Technical Training and Residential Living staff removed all the furniture in Washington Hall to allow contractors to remove carpet and install wide plank vinyl flooring in all 32 rooms and the common areas. They also cleared Kennedy Hall for contractors to install new carpet. Photo by Forest Service staff.



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Great Onyx Job Corps urban forestry program thin a walnut production stand at Campbellsville University

The Great Onyx Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Urban Forestry program helped Campbellsville University meet its Hoffman House management plan objectives by thinning a walnut production stand. The thinning and removal of damaged trees remediated safety issues and made the site easier to maintain. The Hoffman House is used as a retreat location, researcher lodging, and as demonstration site for the university's Environmental Science program. Environmental Science Program Coordinator Richard Kessler gave a big shout out to all the students for making the improvements. Great Onyx Job Corps Center has the capacity to serve 127 students. As of May 31, 2020, ranked 14 out of 117 Job Corps Centers nationwide.



Great Onyx Job Corps Urban Forestry student adjusts his climbing harness. Photo by Forest Service staff.



Great Onyx Job Corps Urban Forestry student puts on his climbing harness. Photo by Forest Service staff.



Great Onyx Job Corps Urban Forestry students ascend a walnut tree to begin the thinning process at Hoffman House on the Campbellsville University campus. Photo by Forest Service staff.

Don't wait for the next Courier newsletter for CCC news. Visit the Forest Service Job Corps WWW page! The Forest Service Job Corps home page is hosted under "Working with Us" on the U.S. Forest Service WWW. Bookmark the link below to learn about and keep up-to-date on the exciting projects Civilian Conservation Center students and staff are working on.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/forest-service-job-corps>

What Can Civilian Conservations Centers Do For Your National Forests and Grasslands?

Sample Work Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers	
National Forest Systems	
Recreation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail construction, trail maintenance Recreation site improvements: painting (signs, picnic tables), facilities maintenance, construction, brush removal, mowing, trailhead maintenance) Installation of picnic tables, fire rings Kiosk construction and installation 	
Forestry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, timber marking Stream maintenance -gabion installations Nursery work -tree lifting and packing, seedling planting Cone collection 	
Wildlife/Fisheries/Hydrology/Soils	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Inserts for Red Cockaded Woodpecker Boundary marking of Red Cockaded Woodpecker area Snag/grouse drumming log creation Mid-story removal Gabion installations Infestation surveys 	
Engineering	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpentry, painting Heavy equipment repair and maintenance, auto Maintenance Electrical, plumbing, welding Brick and concrete masonry Fashion stone foundations for forest portal signs Stream inventory Boundary/landline location, marking, inspection and maintenance Road Maintenance - sawing and chipping for site clearance on FS roads Greening of Job Corps Centers, research stations, and district offices 	
Administrative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front desk operator /services Data input, clerical, computer installation (Job Corps IT Team), record keeping 	
State and Private Forestry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire suppression, rehabilitation, mop-up, catering Prescribed fire 	
Research	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection Inventory 	

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER MISSION

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) are associated with national forests or grasslands and are operated by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. CCCs provide youth, ages 16 to 24, with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, GEDs, and certification in traditional vocational trades, including carpentry, welding, heavy equipment operations, and natural resources trades such as forestry, firefighting, and urban forestry.

CCCs strengthen rural and urban economies by providing youth with the skills and work experience to obtain and keep a living wage job. They are a rare alignment of solutions to the challenges of youth unemployment and the urgent need to protect our nation's natural resources. CCCs harness the enormous potential of young people, helping them fulfill their potential while changing their lives, the lives of their families and, through civic engagement, their communities. Civilian Conservation Centers embody the Forest Service mission, "To care for the land and serve people."



**1964 – 2019
CONSERVING
AMERICA'S
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR OVER 50 YEARS**



USDA Forest Service operates 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) with a capacity to house, educate, and train 3,800 enrollees. To subscribe to the Courier, send your e-mail address to: alicia.d.bennett@usda.gov

Forest Service Job Corps WWW:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/forest-service-job-corps>

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