



Meet the Forest Service Civilian Conservation Centers Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards

As we look to the future

Jerry Ingersoll, National Director, Job Corps National Office



As a program, we have conquered many challenges this past year, and face more in the weeks and months ahead. These include bringing our centers up to full capacity while building and maintaining a strong, positive center culture.

Every student comes from a unique culture, complete with assumptions about how the world works — some positive and other that are less desirable. Job Corps staff also bring our own patterns of social assumptions when we step on-center. One aspect of culture is a pattern of behaviors. Your behavior will be modeled by returning students and new enrollees.

Prior to the pandemic, you ensured your center culture was vibrant, nurturing, respectful, inclusive, and free of violence and drugs. Students were instrumental in the enforcement of that culture. When I step on a CCC, I feel this sense of culture and belonging.

However, pre-pandemic our student population was relatively stable. As virtual students transition to campus, we can expect an influx of new students who are not grounded in our culture of high expectations. We must quickly return to full OBS in PY21. And we must sustain and rebuild the center culture that makes the CCCs so successful while we do.

You have been highly successful in stopping the spread of the coronavirus on Forest Service centers. That reflects your commitment to safety and the pro-active steps taken by students and staff to be vaccinated. CCCs have some of the highest vaccination rates of all Job Corps centers.

It's summertime. With life returning to normal as COVID case counts drop and vaccination levels rise nation-



wide, it may be tempting to take safety protocols more lightly, but we must remain vigilant. A COVID outbreak now would be a frustrating setback after all of your hard work. Please continue to follow the masking and social distancing requirements in our re-opening plans submitted to DOL.

Thank you for being the people that you are and for everything you do for our students. As the country reopens, I will visit more of you and more of the CCCs. Now that they and I have been vaccinated, I'll also take time to see my extended family again. I hope you do too. Take time to take care of yourself.

With Independence Day around the corner, I want to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July. Beyond the fireworks, parades and cookouts, Independence Day represents our ongoing struggle for freedom and the responsibilities of citizenship that come with it.

As civil servants on the front-line, you play a critical role in providing a safe, equitable, and inclusive work environment for all staff and students. You took your jobs because of your commitment to make a difference in the lives of youth, your communities, and our country. Thank you for your service.

Harpers Ferry Job Corps graduate Collin Hackenberg accepts career appointment



Harpers Ferry Job Corps Office Automation Clerk Collin Hackenberg. USDA Forest Service photo.

Collin Hackenberg, a native of Sebastian, Florida, has come full circle. After graduating from Harpers Ferry Job Corps' Advanced IT program with certifications in CompTIA A+ and Microsoft Technology Associate OS Fundamentals, he is now employed on-center as an Office Automation Clerk.

Before accepting his career appointment, he was employed as a contractor on-center after graduating in September 2020, during which time he demonstrated he could be a valuable asset as an employer.

Hackenberg came to Harpers in October 2018 after graduating from Pine Knot Job Corps where he obtained his Certiport IC3 certification. Hackenberg's ultimate goal is to develop his computer skills that allow him to move up the career ladder into higher-level IT positions. In the meantime, he is grateful for his transition into federal employment at part of the program where it all started.

"Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed – else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

Blackwell students burn bright at Hardwood Bombing and Gunnery Range RX exercises



(L-R) Blackwell Job Corps RX module at the Hardwood Bombing and Gunnery Range in Wisconsin where they worked on a prescribed burn. Jerrod Crowley, Jeremy Erickson (Assistant Fire Management Officer), Andrei Heisinger, and Alexis Christiansen on March 11, 2021. USDA Forest Service photo.



(L-R) Blackwell Job Corps students Alexis Christiansen, Andrei Heisinger, and Jerrod Crowley work on a prescribed burn near an abandoned helicopter at the Hardwood Bombing and Gunnery Range in Wisconsin on March 11, 2021. USDA Forest Service photo.

Flatwoods Job Corps celebrates its first graduate of 2021



Flatwoods Job Corps graduate Alex Crowley. USDA Forest Service photo by Jarred Collins

Growing up in Richmond, Virginia, Alex Crowley was not finding success as a high school student. A native of Russia who moved to the U.S. at the age of seven, With his mother's assistance, he researched alternative educational opportunities and Job Corps seemed a good fit for his interests and talents.

Crowley enrolled in Flatwoods Job Corps Center's carpentry trade. During his stay at Flatwoods, Crowley also earned his red card and deployed to two wildland fire incidents.

Now back in Richmond after earning is diploma and completing the carpentry trade, Alex now works as a framer. His ultimate goal is to join the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. . His advice to Job Corps students is "Stay patient."

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

– Nelson Mandela

Job Corps and HistoriCorps partner to preserve historic buildings on national forests

HistoriCorps and Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC) are working together to restore and repair recreation sites and historic buildings. This partnership will provide opportunities for young people to learn valuable trade skills while supporting efforts to rebuild and maintain recreation infrastructure and grow the next generation of stewards.

Over three weeks in April, Angell and Wolf Creek Job Corps students in the carpentry, bricklaying, masonry and facilities maintenance trades completed work at the [Longbow Organization Camp](#), constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, on the [Willamette National Forest](#).

Longbow was the first of four projects slated for 2021. Carpentry, facilities maintenance, and painting students from Boxelder and Pine Ridge CCCs are currently on-site at the Teepee Work Center on the [Black Hills National Forest](#). [KNBN NewsCenter1](#) recently caught up with those students learn more about their efforts to save history and the Job Corps program.

Angell and Wolf Creek Job Corps students will enlist their preservation skills at the [Santiam Ski Lodge](#) on the [Willamette National Forest](#) beginning in July and the [Independent Order of Odd Fellows \(IOOF\) Cabins](#) on the [Deschutes National Forest](#) beginning in August.



Job Corps students use logging tongs and elbow grease to carry timber to the Longbow Organization Camp on the Willamette National Forest, on April 26, 2021. USDA Forest Service photo by Susan Mann.

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

Sample Work on National Forest Systems

Recreation

- Trail construction, trail maintenance
- Recreation site improvements: painting, sign production and installation, facilities maintenance, brush removal, mowing, trailhead maintenance, hazard tree removal
- Production and installation of picnic tables, fire rings
- Kiosk construction and installation

Forestry

- Pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, timber marking
- Stream maintenance -gabion installations
- Nursery work -tree lifting and packing, seedling planting
- Cone collection

Fire and Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Firefighters, camp-crews, expanded dispatch recorders, prescribed fire modules, mobile kitchens, single resources, fire cache, supply technicians, time keepers, IMT 3 support trailer, logistics support modules

Wildlife/Fisheries/Hydrology/Soils

- Install inserts and boundary marking for Red Cockaded Woodpecker
- Bird box construction and installation
- Snag/grouse drumming log creation
- Mid-story removal
- Fish inventories and invasive species removal
- Infestation surveys

Engineering

- Carpentry, roof replacement, and facilities maintenance
- 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
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Greening of Job Corps Centers, research stations, and district offices

Administrative

- Front desk operator /services
- Data input, clerical, computer installation (Job Corps IT Team), record keeping
- HRM support in entry level staffing positions

Research

- Data collection
- Inventory



JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER MISSION

Job Corps, the nation's largest youth training program, provides opportunity youth, ages 16 to 24, with essential academic, career, and life skills training to become employable, independent, and placed in meaningful jobs, further education, or the military.

Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC), operated by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor and located in urban and rural America, offer unique opportunities in conservation skills training, work experience on public lands, opportunities to serve local communities, wildland fire training, and natural disaster response. CCCs provide youth with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, GEDs, and certification in traditional vocational trades.

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."

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

Check out the 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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