



SEPTEMBER 2021

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



Led by Crew Boss Salvador Benabe, a Supervisory Forestry Technician at Flatwoods Job Corps on the GWJ NF, Puerto Rico Crew 21 work on the Woods Creek Fire, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, in August 2021. Each day prior to heading to the fire line the crew prays for strength and protection. USDA Forest Service photo by Reinaldo Cruz.

THE VALUE OF INTERDEPENDENCY



Jerry Ingersoll, National Director, Washington, D.C.

Across the agency, in the face of unprecedented wildland fires, employees have anchored to our core values of service and interdependence to provide support and respond to this national emergency. Job Corps has been at the forefront of these efforts. Our Job Corps students, graduates and staff are visible in fire camps across the country. Despite supply challenges, Job Corps mobile kitchens are serving firefighters

fresh healthy meals, our expanded dispatch recorders are bolstering the ranks of interagency dispatch centers, our fire crews are working tirelessly on the fire line, and our camp crews are in such demand that most requests go unfilled.

For Job Corps, being a leader in these efforts is an honor, but it does not come without sacrifice. CCCs are being pulled in multiple directions. You are concentrating on your primary task of the safe re-opening of your centers while also

continuing to train and educate the students currently in your care. However, the energy and efforts that you are investing to support national forests and grasslands will be returned many times over in a manner that will directly benefit Job Corps students.

“...THE ENERGY AND EFFORTS THAT YOU ARE INVESTING TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS WILL BE RETURNED MANY TIMES OVER IN A MANNER THAT WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT JOB CORPS STUDENTS.”

— JERRY INGERSOLL

Daily, I hear expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the work that students and staff accomplish on the ground. You are actively engaged across the full range of Forest Service project work—conserving resources, maintaining facilities, treating fuels, and fighting wildfire. The new Advanced Trades in Forestry and Wildland Firefighting at Oconaluftee, Collbran, and Trapper Creek are up and running and will soon provide graduates who are well-qualified to compete for career jobs with the Forest Service.

A few years have passed since the Forest Service embarked on a new vision to integrate the Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC) into every aspect of managing and protecting the nation's public lands. This vision is clearly bearing fruit. The CCCs have returned to our mandate “to conserve, develop and manage public natural resources and recreational areas and develop community projects in the public interest.”

We continue to live in tumultuous times. Recent world events—the upheaval in Afghanistan, the re-emergence of COVID, and natural disasters at home and abroad—affect each of us in different ways. Feelings of being overwhelmed by forces beyond our control are not unnatural, even by the most resilient. Remember to take yourselves. Continue to care for your students and colleagues and offer grace to both friends and strangers alike. Our work matters and we must continue to do what we can. Thank you for your service.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Celebrating:** National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15).
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [Sharepoint](#) Site.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE



Anaconda Job Corps Heavy Equipment Operations students demolish a storage building on the Porcupine Ranger Station in July 2021. USDA Forest Service photo.

ANACONDA JOB CORPS IMPROVES THE BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST'S BOTTOM LINE

National forests and grasslands face a perennial challenge of tight budgets. A valuable resource they use to stretch project dollars are the 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers. Job Corps Centers willingly step up to provide cost-effective methods to complete essential project work that national forests and grasslands don't have the necessary resources or manpower to complete.

Last July, Anaconda Job Corps Heavy Equipment Operations students Tim Melton and Major Tekle, accompanied by instructors Kevin Kelly and Doyle Noud, traveled to the Porcupine and Burgess Ranger Stations on the Bighorn National Forest to complete the demolition of a storage building and dilapidated crew quarters. Their labor and equipment saved the Bighorn \$10,000.



The Heavy Equipment Operations team finished demolition a day early and accomplished it in a manner that concrete and crew quarters' wall panels could be salvaged and repurposed. Work-based learning projects like this one aid not only the agency but provide valuable job training skills development and work environment lessons for Job Corps students.

Anaconda Job Corps Heavy Equipment Operations. USDA Forest Service photo.

The mission of the 24 Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers is to train eligible youth ages 16 to 24 with educational, social, and vocational skills while assisting in the conservation of the nation's public natural resources.

MEET MARIAH HICKS WEBER BASIN JOB CORPS



Mariah Hicks graduated from Weber Basin Job Corps 26 years ago. She went on to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves, work for American Express, and earn an associate degree in Business

Administration. She came full circle when she returned to Weber Basin in 2019 where she's worked in Residential Living, CPP, and now Student Records.

Job Corps was created to provide underserved youth opportunity—to obtain an education, training, and develop their own capabilities. Hick's presence on-center is a reminder that Job Corps works. It's not often that center staff get to witness the generational success of one of their graduates. They can not only experience Hick's success, but also the successes of her three children. Thirteen-year-old Amaya is in the eighth grade. She is enrolled in U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Civil Air Patrol. Amaya has completed three solo flights of single engine airplanes and is planning a career as an Air Force engineer or pilot. Nine-year old Ebony is in the fourth grade and loves, dancing, art, and the company of cats. Eight-year-old Nathan, Jr. is in the third grade, active in pee wee football, and loves basketball and track.

Hicks, enjoys relaxing with her family in Utah's great outdoors. "I love the breeze, looking at the mountain region that the center rests on, and taking road trips with my family to get a new perspective on what is 'out there,'" says Hicks.



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- #jobcorpsfire

More exciting news can be found on our [Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers!](#) website!

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