



# MARCH 2024 THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS  
Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



Earl C. Clements Job Corps Center instructor and culinary arts students at the Job Corps Culinary Career Festival. USDA photo by Aaron LaSalle. [CLICK PLAY BUTTON TO HEAR ANACONDA JOB CORPS STUDENTS SEMA'J HAYES AND LUCIOUS SHORE REFLECT ON THEIR INTERVIEWS WITH WALT DISNEY COMPANY EXECUTIVE CHEF PAULI MILOTTE.](#)

## ANACONDA JOB CORPS CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO "THE BIG EASY"

By Alicia D. Bennett, Job Corps National Office

Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Culinary Arts students Sema'J Hayes and Lucious Shore traveled to the New Orleans Job Corps campus to attend the *Job Corps Culinary Career Festival* in early February 2024. Sponsored by the National Job Corps Association, the festival provided over 70 Job Corps students an immersive experience in the culinary industry. A panel of celebrity chefs conducted cooking demonstrations and tastings and answered students' questions on career opportunities.

Walt Disney Company Executive Chef Pauli Milotte provided an overview of Disney's internship program. He interviewed each student, and assessed their customer service and communication skills and knowledge of the culinary industry to determine their competitiveness for an internship with the Walt Disney Company.

"Customer service is #1 within the Disney Brand. You need to be able to work consistently and still assist any customer with a smile," Milotte emphasized. Students fortunate enough to score an internship will have their choice of

subsidized housing, transportation and meals at a Disney resort in Florida, California, Hawaii, or onboard a Disney Cruise Line ship and a generous salary. Job Corps students who successfully complete the program have the opportunity to score job offers from Disney at wages as high as \$36 an hour.



Above: (l-r) Anaconda Job Corps Culinary Arts student Sema'J Hayes shares a moment with Chef Jay Ducote, a blogger/influencer and winner of "Beat Bobby Flay," and runner-up on Season 11 of "Food Network Star." USDA Forest Service photo by Aaron LaSalle  
Left: "Steamboat Willie" cake in classic black and white submitted by Anaconda Job Corps Culinary Arts Students Sema'J Hayes and Lucious Shore for the Walt Disney Hiring event. USDA Forest Service photo by Aaron LaSalle.



Chef Pauli Milotte explains the benefits of a Walt Disney Company culinary internship which includes subsidized meals, housing, transportation and a generous salary. USDA Forest Service photo by Aaron LaSalle.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Gila National Forest:** [Making it work on the Gila National Forest: A Forest Service Job Corps Pilot Program](#)

**Lyndon B. Johnson on Instagram:** [Careers Begin at Job Corps](#)

**Mingo Job Corps CCC on Instagram:** [Careers Begin at Job Corps](#)





## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

Cumberland Ranger District Employee Andre Fedotowski watches as Frenchburg Job Corps Advanced Forestry student Bernice Ayala Romero uses a paint marker to identify a tree for removal for a right-of-way project on the Daniel Boone National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo by Tierra Lomabalaquihoya.

## FRENCHBURG ADVANCED FORESTRY STUDENTS GET REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

Seven Frenchburg Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Advanced Forestry students headed out to the Daniel Boone National Forest's Cumberland Ranger District to timber cruise on February 14, 2024. The students marked and cruised trees for removal to support a right-of-way. They received training on the topics forest mensuration, tree IDs, and on how to properly paint and stump mark trees according to Forest Service commercial specifications.

**“WHAT IS TIMBER CRUISING? IT'S THE PROCESS OF MEASURING TREE STANDS TO ASSESS CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS SIZE, VOLUME, AND QUALITY. GENERALLY, THE PURPOSE IS TO APPRAISE THE MONETARY VALUE OF A FOREST STAND IN PREPARATION FOR A TIMBER SALE.”**



Frenchburg Job Corps Advanced Forestry Student DaMontavious Smith uses a hypsometer/range finder. USDA Forest photo by Tierra Lomabalaquihoya.



Frenchburg Job Corps Advanced Forestry student Ayala Romero uses hypsometer/range finder. USDA Forest Service photo by Tierra Lomabalaquihoya.

The mission of the 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 BEN NIXON JACOBS CREEK JOB CORPS CCC

Working any job on a Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is challenging. But one job offer that would universally give any Job Corps employee pause is that of Administrative Officer (AO). Yet, Jacobs Creek Job Corps AO Ben Nixon takes the workload that comes his way in stride. “A typical day in the life of an Administrative Officer is chaos control, with no two days being the same,” he shared. “I start my day with anywhere between 30 to 50 outstanding tasks on my to-do list.”



Powered on by coffee, Nixon prioritizes his work into what's urgent, what's important and what's both. “I attempt to start working through the list, getting as far as I can before the next challenge pops up.”

Without his team of employees stepping up to the challenge, Nixon said his job would be impossible. “We basically do anything needed to support the mission of the program, our students, and our staff. It's probably easier to list what we don't do.”

“Tired!” is Nixon's response when asked about his state of mind. Not a surprise when you realize that he and his wife are also raising a 16-year-old son, 7-year-old daughter, and a 6-year-old son. “I'm always striving to change for the better; continuing to grow as a person, father, husband, and supervisor.” Nixon does set aside time for his two extravagances—board games and disc golf. “I have over 200 games in my collection and every spare moment I can squeeze in is spent on the disc golf course.” Wanting to share his love of disc golf with Job Corps students, Nixon even built a 9-hole course on the Jacobs Creek campus.



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

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