

JUNE 2024

# THE COURIER

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



(l-r) Fort Simcoe Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Earth Day volunteers Brain Neri, Elon Cripps, and Isaiah Neri. USDA Forest Service photo by Jeff Barton.

## FORT SIMCOE JOB CORPS CCC CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Americans have been celebrating Earth Day since April 22, 1970. Continuing this tradition, Fort Simcoe Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) students and staff celebrated this year by beautifying their campus, learning the impetus behind Earth Day, the history surrounding the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and details on the laws and regulations that have been enacted by congress to protect our natural world.

Fort Simcoe Job Corps CCC is located in Yakima, Washington and agriculture is critical to the Yakima Valley economy. Local growers, who ship their produce across the country, draw water for their crops from the Yakima River. Concerned and curious Fort Simcoe students asked questions about chemicals being dumped into the river, knowing that the river feeds the surrounding apple, cherries, grapes and Hops fields. “How would a contaminated river affect the food we eat?” If these chemicals are killing insects, how are they affecting us as human beings?” As a group, they concluded, “If we are living so closely with chemicals—eating and drinking them, taking them into our bodies—we had better be socially conscience to stop this from happening.”

Throughout the day, staff overheard students repeating the Earth Day motto: “If we do a little every day, we can make a great difference for the future.” The young conservationists

understood their efforts were just a small part of the bigger equation--that it starts with them and they are eager to do

“HOW WOULD A CONTAMINATED RIVER AFFECT THE FOOD WE EAT? IF THESE CHEMICALS ARE KILLING INSECTS, HOW ARE THEY AFFECTING US AS HUMAN BEINGS?”

– FORT SIMCOE JOB CORPS STUDENTS

their part. As one student exclaimed, “What we do today will affect the next generation.”

Fort Simcoe staff were proud of the energy and positive attitude their students exhibited. They identified students who went the extra mile and presented each one with a \$10 gift certificate as a surprise. Staff reflected that it felt good to acknowledge individuals who worked hard without any expectation of a reward.



(l-r) Fort Simcoe Job Corps Earth Day volunteers Phyo Kyaw and Orion Waldron. USDA Forest Service photo by Jeff Barton.



Fort Simcoe Job Corps Earth Day volunteers picked up garbage and cleared overgrown brush and weeds along a fence line. USDA Forest Service photo by Jeff Barton.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Job Corps CCC Fire Program: [Women spark interest in fire](#)
- Timber Lake Job Corps CCC: [Second chances and clean water](#)
- Cass Job Corps CCC: [Nothing is permanent except change](#)



## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

Cass Job Corps students with Arkansas governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. (l-r) Devon Graham, Marcus Garcia, Dustin Tuck, Jasmine Billingsway, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, students Reggie Freeman, Piper Turney, Chris Tucker, Seth Utterback, Newt McCoy, Jacob Winnie, Jasean Parks, Isiah Annis, Tanner Walker, Joshua Burdette and Judah Burroughs. USDA Forest Service photo by Venorris Webb.

## EMERGING CASS JOB CORPS CCC STUDENT LEADERS VISIT THE STATE CAPITOL

On April 24, 2024, emerging student leaders from across the state of Arkansas headed to Little Rock, including those from Cass Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC). It was an exciting day for the Cass students. They took the opportunity for a meet and greet with Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who was inaugurated on January 10, 2023. Sanders is Arkansas' first woman governor and currently the youngest governor in the country.

Arkansas State Representative Jay Richardson led the students-- Student Government Association and other emerging student leaders on-center--on an exclusive tour of the capitol. Richardson challenged each student to use their voice for change and emphasized the importance of inclusion, equality, and community service work. The young leaders also had a unique opportunity to visit the state of Arkansas Treasury vault.



(l-r) Cass Job Corps student leaders Devon Graham, Piper Turney, Tanner Walker and Chris Turner hold \$600,000 money bundles in the state of Arkansas Treasury vault. USDA Forest Service photo by Venorris Webb.

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 BRADLEY D. BERRY SCHENCK JOB CORPS CCC

Schenck Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Recreation Assistant Bradley D. Berry is a native of Pisgah, North Carolina and in 2012 a friend talked him into applying for a recreation assistant position at Schenck. His duties are diverse. Along with planning and managing a dynamic recreation program that includes activities like white water rafting, tubing and Zip lining, he is responsible for transporting leisure employment and work-based learning students. For Berry, the joy he sees on the students' faces as they participate in Schenck's recreation program is a visual "thank you" that expresses students' appreciation for the care and energy he and his co-workers put into the program.



Berry and his wife Wendy have four kids—two in college, one in high school, and one who recently graduated from college. Successfully navigating them to adulthood has helped him work through issues with Job Corps students. Center leisure

activities contribute to the values and social skills that students develop on-center. An example Berry recounted is, when on an excursion to a skating rink, a Schenck student stole the shoes of a student from a neighboring center. Berry happens to coach Schenck's basketball team. "My players decided they needed to make a wrong into a right," he said. "They stepped up and raised enough money to purchase a new pair of shoes." The team drove the two hours to the neighboring Corps center. "Her [the student] reaction was priceless. She apparently only had one pair of shoes to begin with." Berry still beams with pride at how his students' personal ownership of a wrong they witnessed made an enormous difference in another person's life.



## STAY IN THE KNOW!

Follow our hashtags!

- #forestservicejobcorps
- #jobcorpsfire

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.