



NOVEMBER 2024

THE COURIER

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



Blackwell Job Corps Carpentry and Construction Craft Laborer students and staff stand proudly in front of the newly re-roofed New Zoo and Adventure Park exploration-education building. USDA Forest Service photo by Cody Gordon.

BLACKWELL JOB CORPS MAKES NEEDED UPGRADES TO NEW ZOO & ADVENTURE PARK

The Civilian Conservation Centers steadfastly provide support to construct local community infrastructure projects that otherwise would not have been completed due to lack of funds.

Inflation and rising labor costs are squeezing the budgets of non-profits, just as they impact the budgets of everyday American households, particularly those in rural America. At the same time, they may also see a decrease in donations from individuals and corporations.

Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center's (CCC) recent contributions to the New Zoo and Adventure Park is an excellent illustration. Working ten-hour days over a period of three weeks, Blackwell carpentry and construction craft laborer students reroofed the exploration-education building at the New Zoo & Adventure Park in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

"Through their hands-on training and commitment, Job Corps Union Carpentry students not only build structures but also build stronger, more resilient communities," stated Blackwell Job Corps Union Carpentry Instructor Doug Demeny.

Demonstrating a strong community spirit, Job Corps students eagerly step up to support such community efforts. "Helping the community is something Blackwell Job Corps does pretty often. Whenever we're able to help someone out and work, chances are we'll most likely be there," said

"ALTHOUGH WE ARE A DEPARTMENT OF BROWN COUNTY, WE RECEIVE NO FUNDING FROM THE TAX LEVY AND RELY HEAVILY ON PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THIS ONE TO ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR FACILITY. THE LABOR YOUR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS PROVIDED TO RE-ROOF THE HISTORIC BARTH BUILDING NOT ONLY ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE TO USE THE BUILDING FOR REVENUE GENERATING PROGRAMS, BUT ALSO VASTLY IMPROVES THE AESTHETICS OF THE NEWLY CREATED DISCOVERY ZONE. . ."

— CARMEN MURACH, ZOO DIRECTOR, NEW ZOO ADVENTURE PARK

carpentry student Corbin Johnson. "I actually enjoyed doing this. Waking up early morning, working as soon as we stepped out of the truck and learning about roofing."

Brown County executive officials gathered to express their appreciation to the students and staff on the last day of the project. A local carpentry union also sponsored a cookout to celebrate the occasion. The students finished up the day by exploring the zoo and ziplining.



Blackwell's final day at the New Zoo and Adventure Park was marked by a celebration where Brown County executive officials expressed their appreciation to Blackwell students and staff, followed by students exploring the zoo and ziplining. USDA Forest Service photo by Cody Gordon.

HIGHLIGHTS

Job Corps Mobile Kitchen: [Cooking up collaboration](#)

Anaconda Job Corps: [Job Corps crew help keep all-risks incident caches operationally ready](#)

Inside the Forest Service Jerry Ingersoll Leadership Message: [Job Corps offers solution to workforce challenges](#)

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

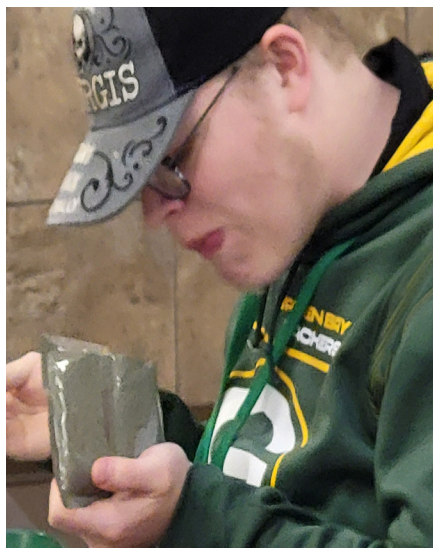


A Meal Ready-to-Eat appears to bring back fond memories of his military service to Boxelder Job Corps Residential Manager Josh Gade, retired Air Force 96-16. USDA Forest Service photo by Bonnie Fuller.

BOXELDER JOB CORPS STUDENTS GET A "TASTE" OF MILITARY SERVICE

Boxelder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center has a tradition of prioritizing experiential learning. In celebration of Veteran's Day on November 14, 2024, staff decided to introduce students to one of the less celebrated realities of military service—Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE)—designed to provide you body all the necessary nutrients and calories, but not necessarily haute cuisine.

Boxelder Center Director Bonnie Fuller invited Veterans from across the center for lunch to share their experiences while serving their country—including eating MREs. Several students shared that they had heard of MREs but had never eaten one. Others took photos of the crackers, jelly, and peanut butter in the MREs to share with parents who currently or have served in the military. Boxelder Job Corps thanks all Veteran's for their service—with special appreciation going to the six who shared their experience with the students.



Boxelder welding student Steven Brown examines the content of a Meals Ready-to-Eat during a Veteran's Day celebration. USDA Forest Service photo by Bonnie Fuller.



(l-r) Corbin Herman, retired Army 88-92 and Chad Bentz, retired Navy chat about their military service while eating a Meals Ready-to-Eat to celebrate Veteran's Day. USDA Forest Service photo by Bonnie Fuller.

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 TROY DAVIDSON WOLF CREEK JOB CORPS CENTER



After a 24-year career working at Wolf Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, Recreation Specialist Troy Davidson still exhibits an unbridled enthusiasm for his career. Prior to joining the staff as the TEAP Specialist in 2000, Davidson worked for the U.S. Navy,

Pacific Command, working in family advocacy as an Internationally Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. He was scouted by a Job Corps staffer who felt his skills aligned perfectly with Wolf Creek's TEAP Specialist position.

"Now I'm hooked," stated Davidson. "I've SEEN the magic happen. Once you know, you can NEVER not know! . . . I believe this program extends the lives of our BEAUTIFUL youth, regardless of their completion rates. I GET to 'do the work and leave the results to God.'"

Davidson is undeterred by the day-to-day challenges of working at a Job Corps center. Sisyphus, a king in Greek mythology, is the historical figure he identifies with most. "Sisyphus' eternal labor underscores the importance of embracing the present moment and finding joy in the process, regardless of the outcome," he shared.

Davidson stated that the sacrifice and discipline he honed during his Naval career serving on a fast-attack submarine set the stage for his career at Wolf Creek Job Corps. The camaraderie and teamwork he experienced then has been replicated with Wolf Creek staff. "On a daily basis, I get to be on a team that coaches and motivates young adults towards THEIR personal bests," he said. "I set the bar high... and they KEEP coming back!"



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