

MAY 2023

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



Flatwoods Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center electrical student Jordan Rasnick graduated from the high school in the Town of Coeburn. The opportunity to contribute and give back to his community was particularly gratifying. USDA Forest Service photo by Sara Ring.

FLATWOODS STUDENTS LEARN AND SERVE



Flatwoods Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. USDA Forest Service photo.

Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC) are integral to USDA's mission of service to rural communities. Flatwoods Job Corps center, like all CCCs, supports its local communities by giving

back through work-based learning, where students learn service while learning their trade.

The Town Of Coeburn, Virginia recently approached the center asking for assistance with much-needed electrical repairs for its facilities. Eager to assist, 14 electrical students, under the supervision of Instructor Tommy Castle, reported to work in November 2022. The town provided all materials for the work.

To date, Flatwoods students have contributed 233 service hours. They have rewired 20 bridge lights, ran conduit and wire for 10 new receptacles, installed receptacles at the town depot, reconstructed the service entrance of a maintenance

shop, rewired and replaced all receptacles and lights in the maintenance shop, installed a new breaker box, and replaced six troffer lights in the Town Hall.



Flatwoods Job Corps electrical student Samuel Araya installs a new service entrance and breaker box. USDA Forest Service photo by Tommy Castle.

Paying a private contractor to perform work was beyond the town's budget. The hourly wage of a supervisor was \$35.00 and an apprentice assistant would command a wage of \$18.00 an hour. Castle spent 84 hours working and supervising the students. This equated to a savings of \$2,940. The 233 hours worked by Flatwoods students equated to a savings of \$4,194. As of April 30, 2023, the Town of Coeburn has saved \$7,134.

"The [Flatwoods] staff were very eager to assist and a crew of several students with an instructor made a plan and executed it flawlessly," states Town Manager Jimmy Williams. "I do sincerely thank each and every one from the Flatwood Job Corps for coming to our assistance in such a time of need."

On top of the contributions of the electrical students, Flatwoods plumbing students worked an additional 147 service hours As installing new plumbing to the town's Train Depot. This saved the town an additional \$3,066.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Employee Perspective:** [Cultivating our future workforce through Job Corps](#)
- **Weber Basin Job Corps:** [Weber Basin Job Corps welcomes second cohort of Advanced Emergency Dispatch student](#)



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

(l-r) High Hampton Resort Executive Chef Scott Franqueza, Pastry Chef April Franqueza, and Chef's Apprentice Jahmeek Scarborough prepare a three-course meal for Lyndon B. Johnson culinary arts students. USDA Forest Service photo by Keith Bowers.

GRADUATE RETURNS TO LBJ JOB CORPS TO ENCOURAGE ITS CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS



Jahmeek Scarborough graduated from Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center with a culinary arts certificate in September 2022. He was still a student at LBJ when he completed a 6-week apprenticeship program at the High Hampton Resort in Cashiers, North Carolina.

Immediately after graduation, Scarborough was offered the position of Executive Chef's Assistant at the resort. It was a plum position at a resort that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Set on 1,400 acres with a private lake and golf course, dining is serious business at High Hampton Resort. Evening jackets are required for dining, drinking at the tavern, or hanging out in the lodge. Scarborough did not forget about the Job Corps center where he learned the cooking skills that he is currently mastering at the resort. In December 2022, he returned to LBJ Job Corps with High Hampton Resort Executive Chef Scott Franqueza and Pastry Chef April Franqueza for a cooking demonstration for the Culinary Arts trade.

The High Hampton team prepared a three-course meal for the culinary arts students that included a Fresh Greens Salad with a Balsamic Reduction Dressing, Rainbow Trout Almondine, Sautéed Green Beans and Potatoes, and fresh Apple Pie. Throughout the meal preparation, Executive Chef Scott Franqueza provided helpful pointers and tips to his attentive audience. With meal preparation complete, the students were seated, served and encouraged to share their culinary career goals with the three professional cooks. Scarborough made sure to remind the students that his path to a career at High Hampton Resort began at LBJ Job Corps.

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 RONNIE MORGAN ANACONDA JOB CORPS CCC



Every CCC has a “go-to” person—a staff member who’s the first person you think of when faced with an unsolvable problem. After 27 years of service, Anaconda Job Corps Work Program Officer Ronnie Morgan has a reputation of being that person who gets done things done, and done right.

Morgan is generous with his counsel even though he has one of the toughest jobs on a CCC. Between outdated, ageing facilities and shoe-string budgets, Job Corps WPOs walk a tightrope that requires careful balancing. Morgan works hard to provide Anaconda students with a safe and inviting place to live, work, and learn; however he makes daily decisions on what his staff can accomplish with the limited resources at his disposal.

WPOs often resort to mending, patching, and repairing rather than tackling deferred maintenance or investing in state-of-the-art equipment on the CCCs. “I walk the campus every day and look at the work the needs to be accomplished just to maintain current conditions,” says Morgan. “It’s overwhelming. There is no such thing as a typical day in Job Corps. Every day is different. Just when you think you got it figured out Job Corps happens.”

Yet, his journey still has been amazing. “Seeing the positive changes in the lives of Job Corps students is the ultimate reward,” emphasizes Morgan. “I see students that I thought might not make it through the first week walk across the graduation stage with their heads held high. It is always amazing to get calls from former students wanting to tell their stories of where they are and how the Job Corps program put them on the right track.”



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More exciting news can be found on our [Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers'](https://www.jobcorps.gov/civilian-conservation-centers/) website!

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