

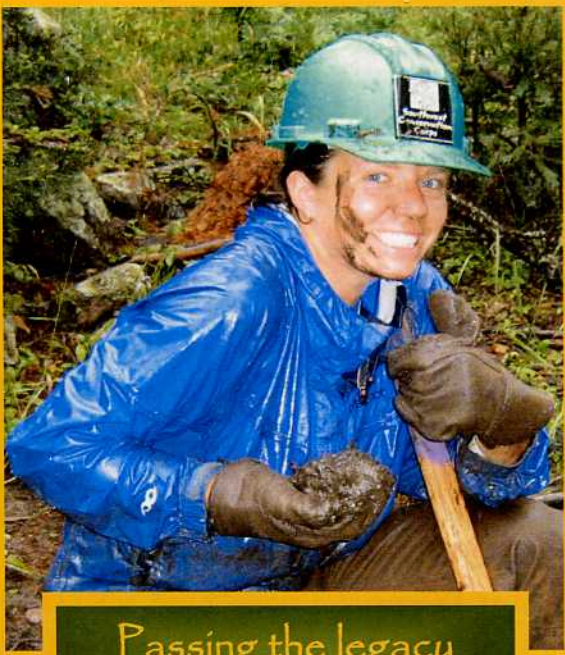
The Civilian Conservation Corps



A Good Idea
In the 1930s

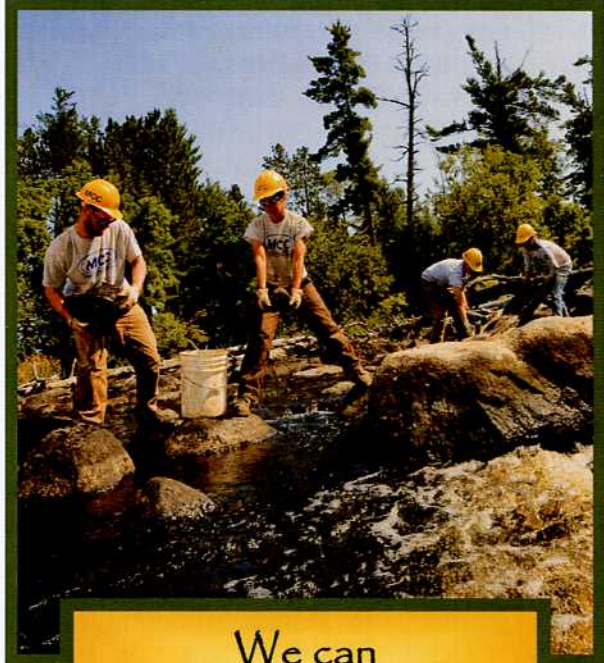
Conservation Corps-

a good idea today!



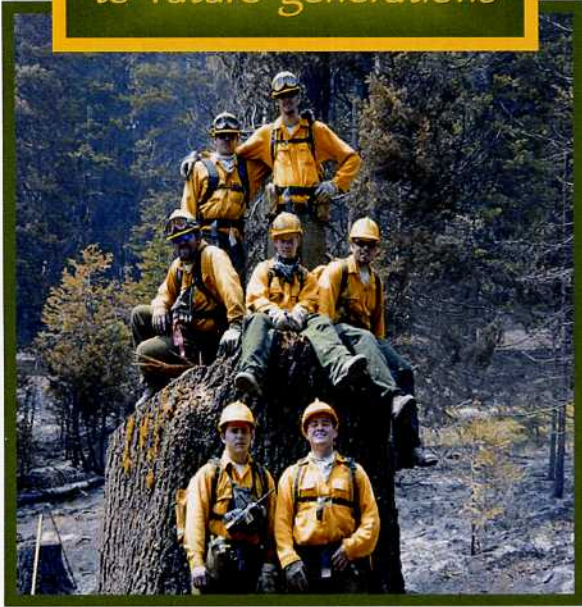
Southwest Conservation Corps

Passing the legacy
to future generations



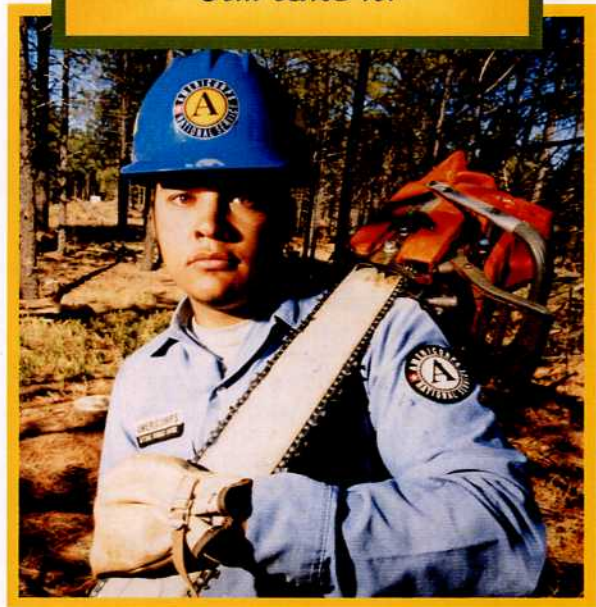
Minnesota Conservation Corps

We can
still take it!



USFS Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

Protecting the environment



Coconino Rural Environment Corps

while changing lives

The CCC 1933-1942 - the Legacy Begins

The landslide election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 was a cry for help from desperate people. People wanted an end to the rampant unemployment and economic chaos that had gripped the country for three years. On March 9, 1933, immediately after his inauguration, FDR proposed to recruit thousands of unemployed young men, enroll them in a peacetime army to combat destruction and erosion of our natural resources. By the time the program ended, more than three million young Americans had engaged in the most popular experiment of the New Deal.

Never before had there been an agency like the CCC. It was administered by an advisory council from the departments of War, Labor, Agriculture, and Interior – an experiment in top-level management designed to prevent red tape from strangling the newborn agency. It worked. Within months, the program was firmly in place and receiving nearly universal approval and praise. This young, inexperienced \$30-a-month labor battalion met and exceeded all expectations.

By late 1935, there were more than 2,650 camps in all states and most U.S. territories. In nine and one-half years, CCCers erected 3,470 fire towers, built 97,000 miles of fire roads, devoted 4,235 man-days to fighting fires, and planted more than three billion trees. They spent 7,153,000 man-days on other related conservation activities, including range protec-

tion for the Grazing Service, wildlife habitat protection, stream improvement, fish restocking, and small dam construction.

The CCC, recognized as the single greatest conservation program in American history, served as a catalyst for the tenets of modern conservation. We still enjoy their legacy of natural resource treasures that dot the American landscape.

Today's Conservation Corps - the Legacy Continues

Today, more than 140 corps, direct descendants of the Civilian Conservation Corps, operate in communities across 44 states and the District of Columbia. Launched in California in 1976, corps engage primarily youth and young adults (ages 16-25) in full-time conservation, community service, training, and education activities. Many corpsmembers are looking for a second chance to succeed in life. Guided by adult leaders, who serve as mentors and role models, as well as technical trainers and supervisors, crews of 8-12 corps members carry out a wide range of conservation, urban infrastructure improvement, and human service projects.

A 1997 Abt Associates/Brandeis University study found that corps generate a positive return on investment and the youth involved are positively affected by their experience. In short, corps are versatile, cost effective programs that allow young people to accomplish important conservation, community restoration, and human service projects, while also developing employment and citizenship skills.

Unlike the original CCC, today's corps are

Corps Building Ame

state and local programs that have matured without dedicated federal funds. As a result, corps have become entrepreneurial organizations, skilled at accessing resources. In 2008, corps budgets totaled \$406 million nationwide – 27% derived from “sponsored projects” or fee-for-service revenue, with the balance from variety of federal, state, county, and municipal appropriations, and foundation and corporate grants.

Today, corps annually enroll more than 29,000 young men and women who provide their communities with more than 21 million hours of service in year-round and summer programs and mobilize 227,000 community volunteers.

Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy

The Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy is an incorporated, non-profit membership group organized in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is dedicated to research, preservation, and education to promote a better understanding of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its continuing contribution to American life and culture.

For over 30 years, veterans of the CCC program have been staunch advocates for the modern corps concept. Their commitment and energy have forged a path that has taken them across our nation advocating for youth employment programs. Their conviction that the CCC experience positively influenced their lives has led them to believe today's corps experience can still provide valuable life opportunities.

Having evolved in part from the National CCC

Alumni Association, CCC Legacy bolsters the visibility of the people and projects from both the Civilian Conservation Corps and modern Conservation Corps programs. Today's corps experience are a living legacy of the CCC that continues to give back to youth, families, communities, and our nation.



CCC Legacy membership is open to everyone. Join the many corps alumni, natural resource agency staff, alumni family members, and interested citizens, and become a member. Support the CCC Workers Statue Project to have a statue in every state; development of educational and interpretive programs; preservation and restoration of CCC built structures; preservation of participants' stories; the completion of the CCC Interpretive Center in Edinburg, VA; and, the continued use of Conservation Corps programs to build a strong America.

CCC Legacy
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For information on today's Corps and to locate a Corps near you, contact:



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