

THE
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS
AND
COLORED YOUTH



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS
Office of the Director
Washington, D. C.
1939

WHAT THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) IS DOING FOR COLORED
YOUTH

Approximately:

- 200,000 colored youth have served in the Corps since President Roosevelt and the Congress initiated the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Regular habits of work, training, discipline, fresh air and three well prepared and ample meals a day have combined to improve the health and morale of all enrollees. The gain in weight has ranged from seven to fifteen pounds for each boy.
- 30,000 young colored men and war veterans, one tenth of the total CCC enrollment, are actively participating in the Civilian Conservation Corps. They are engaged on work projects throughout the country, and the Virgin Islands.
- \$700,000 a month for the past year has been allotted by colored CCC boys to their parents and dependents back home.
- 90,000 books have been supplied through the War Department and the Office of Education for colored camp libraries. Current magazines, daily and weekly newspapers are made available in camp recreation halls.
- 12,000 colored CCC enrollees in the past five years have completed courses in first-aid through cooperation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Red Cross.
- 2,000 colored project assistants, leaders and assistant leaders are on duty at CCC camps.
- 600 colored cooks are steadily employed in CCC Mess Halls.
- 900 classes in Negro history were conducted in the camps during the past five years. National Negro Health exhibits have been shown for five consecutive years in cooperation with the U. S. Health Service.
- 800 colored boys have gained business training in the capacity of store clerks and managers of the Post-Exchanges in CCC camps.
- 400 colored typists are assigned to CCC headquarters of the commanding officers, camp superintendents and educational advisers.
- 147 colored college graduates are serving CCC camps as educational advisers.

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CCC AND COLORED YOUTH

Approximately:

- 1,200 part-time, experienced teachers are actively engaged in instruction of these colored enrollees at CCC camps.
- 25 colored medical reserve officers and chaplains of the U. S. Reserve Corps are on active duty in the nation's CCC camps.
- 106 colored CCC camps are located in forests, parks, recreational areas, fish and game reservations, and on drainage and mosquito control projects.
- 48 colored CCC companies are engaged on soil conservation projects.
- 2 colored commanding officers with the rank of Captain in the U. S. Reserve Corps are on active duty with the CCC; one at Gettysburg National Park, Pennsylvania, and the other at Fishers Landing, New York. Four other line officers are on active duty at these two camps.
- 4 colored engineers and six colored technical foremen have served Pennsylvania camps for more than two years.
- 1 colored historian who received his Ph.D degree from Columbia University is included in the camp personnel at Gettysburg.
- 1 colored CCC company is at work at Zanesville, Ohio on one of the largest tree nurseries in the U. S.
- 3 colored companies have made possible during the past five years the restoration of the battlefields at Yorktown, Virginia in the Colonial National Park.
- 1 colored company in Ohio, near the Taylorville Dam carries on in the renowned Miami Conservancy District, a flood control project started after the 1913 Dayton flood.
- 1 colored company has been engaged on the unique historical project at Williamsburg and Jamestown, Virginia.
- 1 colored company is located on the TVA site in Tennessee.
- 11,000 colored enrollees have been taught to read and write. More than 90 per cent of the colored CCC enrollees regularly attend CCC classes from elementary to college level which are conducted in each camp's education building which is well equipped and especially constructed for vocational instruction. Howard University, Wilberforce University, Tuskegee Institute, Hampton Institute, Florida A. & M. College at Tallahassee, Tennessee A. & I. State College and a number of other Negro colleges have granted scholarships and fellowships to CCC enrollees.

INDUSTRY AIDED

The textile and food industries and the railroads have received orders for more than \$33,000,000 worth of supplies needed to run colored CCC camps.

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- \$15,000,000 has been obligated for clothing worn by colored enrollees, including shirts, underwear, trousers, socks, denim jumpers, shoes, caps, raincoats and overcoats.
- \$16,000,000 has been expended for food served colored boys and men at camp during the past five years.
- \$1,500,000 has been received by railroads for transportation of colored CCC enrollees to camp and back home again.
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COLORED MEN AND BOY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CCC

The Civilian Conservation Corps was established by President Roosevelt and the Congress on April 5, 1933. On the same day Robert Fechner was named Director.

The purpose of Civilian Conservation Corps work is to relieve acute conditions of distress and unemployment in the United States and to provide for the restoration of the country's natural resources along with the advancement of an orderly program of useful public works.

Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees are selected on a state-quota basis by the Labor Department from unemployed and needy young men. Veterans are selected by the Veterans' Bureau, and make up ten per cent of the total enrollment.

From the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps, colored youths have shared in the program. At the peak strength of the CCC, reached in August 1935, there were 506,000 young men and war veterans enrolled. Of this number, approximately 50,000 were colored.

Mindful of the health of these young men, medical officers from the U. S. Army Reserve Corps have been assigned to look after their physical well being. Fourteen colored medical officers are now on active duty at

CCC camps throughout the country. Each company is provided with a first-aid building, company hospital, or dispensary with a medical officer in charge. Orderlies are appointed from among the enrollees.

The Office of Education has acted in an advisory capacity to the War Department in working out an educational and recreational program. Each company has an educational adviser who develops a program suited to the individual needs of each camp. College graduates are appointed to fill these positions. Eleven thousand colored enrollees who were illiterate have been taught to read and write in classes offered by the CCC camps. There are today 147 colored men serving the CCC camps as educational advisers. Most of the educational work is carried on at camp. Arrangements are often made, however, for enrollees to take additional school work in public school evening classes in nearby cities. The camp educational programs offer instruction in carpentry, shorthand, typing, forestry, auto mechanics, landscaping and numerous other vocational subjects. While attendance at classes is voluntary, approximately ninety per cent of the colored enrollees attend. Classes in first-aid, safety, morale, guidance, leadership and hygiene have been well attended. While at work, CCC enrollees are given practical instruction on the job by the project superintendent and the technical staff.

Baseball and soft ball diamonds, tennis courts and basket ball courts have been laid out to provide recreational facilities at the camps. Some of the camps have produced championship teams in baseball and other sports. Current movies, health education films, lectures on geography, conservation, history and other topics, and plays are included in the camp educational and entertainment program. Trips to nearby museums and other points of interest are frequently scheduled.

Six colored chaplains of the U. S. Army Reserve Corps direct the religious activities in a number of the colored camps. They are aided by ministers from nearby communities.

Through the experience and training received in the CCC, boys learn how to live together and work together amicably. Experience and training afforded by the CCC has helped many boys to secure employment. The specialized knowledge gained by filling such positions as mess sergeant, company clerk, assistant educational adviser, leaders, project assistants, store clerk and manager, foreman and first-aid men has proved valuable to these enrollees in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

NOTE: A list of the different types of instructions received by colored CCC youths, as others, is herewith attached.

TYPES OF JOBS AND COURSES TAUGHT AT THE CCC CAMPS

Approximately 5,000 different courses in 116 different subjects are being given in Forest Service camps each month. In all camps, including National Park Service camps, probably 11,500 courses in 150 different subjects are being taught.

Jobs and subjects in which enrollees received training under supervision of the CCC technical agencies:

Abney Hand Level	Game Census	Seeding
Accounting	Gardening	Seed Collection
Agriculture	Gas Engines	Sign Making
Animal Husbandry	Grader Operation	Sign Painting
Auto Mechanics	Guide Service	Slide Rule
Bit and Tool Grinding	Guard Training	Sodding
Blacksmithing	Gully Control	Soil Conservation
Blueprint Reading	Horticulture	Spring Development
Bridge Construction	Insect Control	Steel Structure
Building Construction	Irrigation	Stock Driveway
Bulldozer Operation	Jack Hammer Operation	Stone Cutting
Care of Tools	Landscaping	Stream Improvement
Carpentry	Logging	Surveying
Clearing, Roadside & Trail	Log Scaling	Telephone Line Constr.
Clerking, office	Mapping or Map making	Telephone Lineman
Compressor Operation	Masonry	Telephone Maintenance
Concrete Construction	Mathematics	Terracing
Conservation, general	Metal Work	Timber Cruising
Cooking and Baking	Mill Operation	Timber Stand Improvement
Creosoting	Mining	Tool Storage
Crusher Operation	Mosquito Control	Tower Construction
Culvert Construction	Nursery Work	Tractor Operation
Dam Construction (Small dams)	Office Management	Traffic Census
Diesel Engines	Painting, general	Trail Maintenance
Disease Control. (Plant & tree)	Park Administration	Tree Felling
Drafting	Photography	Tree Identification
Drainage	Pipe Line Construction	Tree Planting
Dragline operation	Plane Table work	Tree Surgery
Drilling, Hand	Plant Eradication	Truck Driving
Driving Laws	Plumbing	Truck Trail Construction
Electrical Wiring	Pond Development	Typing
Engineering	Poultry Production	Use of Tools
Equipment Maintenance	Pump Operation	Warehouse Keeping
Erosion Control	Quarrying	Water Hold Construction
Explosives	Range Improvement	Welding
Farm Woodlot Management	Razing Buildings	Well Drilling & Improvement
Farm Management	Recreational Development	Wildlife Management
Fence Construction	Reforestation	Woodlot Management
Fire Break Construction	Riprapping	Wood Working
Fire Prevention	Roadside Cleanup	Woodcraft
Fish Planting & Culture	Roadside Erosion Control	
Foreman and Leader Training	Rodent Control	
Forestry, general	Saw Filing	

