



Trapper Creek Chronicles



Page 2

March 2025

USDA Forest Service

Hamilton Downtown Association calls Trapper for Help

Robin Pruitt, the outgoing Executive Director of Hamilton Downtown Association asked if Trapper Creek Job Corps could help with the tree lights and banners on Main Street. The banner and tree lights span out over five streets. The Electrical trade students were more than happy to answer the call for assistance. In November and January, students and CTT staff went to work pulling old strands and putting up new lights on the trees along the streets. The students also put up and took down the holiday banners.



Bitterroot Winter Special Olympics

On March 3rd through the 5th Trapper Creek Job Corps Forestry Conservation & Firefighting trade assisted with the 42nd annual Bitterroot Special Olympics. Around 15 trade students assisted with setting up at the Lost Trail Ski Lodge. Over 70 athletes participated in this years Olympics. On Tuesday night, Trapper Creek Job Corps Culinary Arts students prepared a wonderful roast turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli salad, dinner roll, and fresh baked cookies. The Special Olympians had the dinner and a dance that night. On Wednesday, the Forestry students assisted the athletes to their events.

Randy Hodgson, the event director said that the Special Olympics could not be possible without the assistance of the Job Corps students and staff. The Job Corps has provided an invaluable service to the Bitterroot Winter Special for over 40 years! Besides the support they give the Special Olympians, they provide invaluable lifelong training in leadership, communication, and responsibility to the students. We are not sure where we could find the support, we get from Trapper Creek Job Corps.





Trapper Creek Chronicles



Page 1

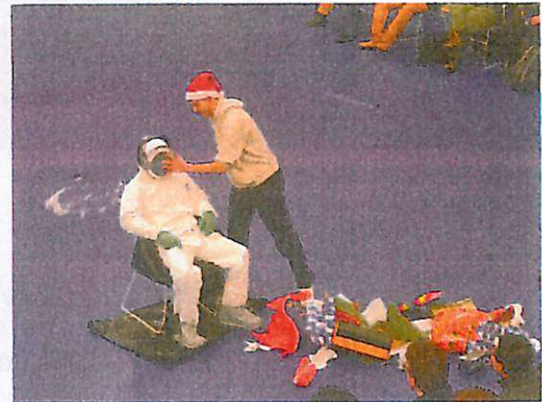
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Monday Muster's Gift of Safety

On Monday, December 16th, days before our students went home for Christmas break, our Safety Manager, Christine Heiland and the student safety committee, put together a fun little competition amongst the four dorms. Two students were chosen to represent their dorm for the competition. One student was tasked to open wrapped Christmas presents. Inside these presents were PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) safety gear. The other student had to properly don the gear to ensure full protection from hazards. Staff were present to time each group. As the four groups frantically rushed to complete the competition, the final gift was a whip cream hazard to the face! Students who correctly wore the safety gear properly were less exposed to this surprise ending.

This was all in good fun in the name of safety. The event was well received across the center and the highlight of the year. Students later approached Center Director, Sal Ochoa saying that this was the best Morning Muster we had all year!



Assisting Ravalli County Council on Aging

Every two months Trapper Creek Job Corps students assist Council on Aging with boxing of food commodities which is distributed to people in the community aged 60+. The Commodities Supplementary Food Program is one way the Council on Aging strives to meet the basic needs of our community seniors. These basic food items are used to help reduce the cost of groceries and provide access to nutritious meal options.

Cathy Orr, the Executive Director at Council on Aging says we could not do this program without the assistance of Trapper Creek Job Corps. The need for volunteers in the community is in short supply. We can always count on Trapper. The students always interact well with the seniors that we serve.





Contact: Jeremiah Ingersoll, National Director; Jeremiah.ingersoll@usda.gov; 541-231-2253
Forest Service CCC information prepared for the state of Montana

PREPARING YOUTH FOR FIREFIGHTING, CONSTRUCTION, INDUSTRY, AND MILITARY CAREERS

The USDA Forest Service operates 24 Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) across 15 states in partnership with the Department of Labor. DOL provides policy and operational funding, while the Forest Service remains the trusted partner in building the American workforce and training students for careers in wildland firefighting, the construction and manufacturing industries, and military service.

All Anaconda and Trapper Creek graduates enter the workforce with:

- One or more industry recognized credentials.
- High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Training and experience in leadership and employability skills.

98% are employed at graduation in firefighting, military, manufacturing, and industry, with an average starting salary more than 281% of federal minimum wage.



SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVING AMERICA

The CCCs equip students with essential skills for wildland firefighting, construction, private sector careers, manufacturing, and military service. Each CCC produces skilled entry level employees who support wildfire risk reduction and rural development. Every student, regardless of trade, can gain valuable experience and resiliency in wildland firefighting.

FY24 STUDENT HOURS WORKED	All CCCs	MT CCCs
Firefighting & support	418,955	69,646
Forest Service support	187,274	30,554
Community rural development	39,909	6,876
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	646,139	107,076

FOREST SERVICE CCCs' STUDENTS COME FROM ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The USDA Forest Service's CCCs are embedded in rural communities and can train up to 3,800 youth at any one time. By statute, students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and graduate the program as taxpayers. The Job Corps program provides career and technical training, allowing graduates to fill critical labor shortages as apprentices in firefighting and conservation, industry, construction, and in the Armed Forces.

Anaconda and Trapper Creek is meeting employer demands in preparing graduates to enter apprenticeships in:

- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association
- International Masonry Institute
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Wildland Firefighter Apprentice Program

90% of these employers would hire these graduates again due to their demonstrated work ethic, commitment, and technical and interpersonal skills.

FOREST SERVICE CCCs PAY BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Students are trained in discipline, hard work, and accountability through work-based learning in trades and essential services. Centers play a crucial role in rural communities, offering a path to impactful and rewarding careers that provide a strong return on investment for American taxpayers.

FY24 ROI	All CCCs	MT CCCs
Value of student work	\$21,639,196	\$3,585,975
Job Corps participation on average:		
• Increased employment by 12% • Increased earnings at employment by 17% • Decreased public benefit dependence by 15%		

ANACONDA CCC	TRADES	TOTAL FY 2024 STUDENT HOURS: 44,131
1384 Foster Creek Rd. Anaconda, MT 406-563-8700	♦ Culinary Arts ♦ Welding ♦ Advanced Welding ♦ Bricklaying ♦ Carpentry ♦ Heavy Equipment Operations ♦ Heavy Equipment Mechanic ♦ Painting	Fire..... 24,326 Forest Service 16,468 Rural Development..... 3,337
CAPACITY: 170 Students		
NOTES		VALUE OF STUDENT WORK: \$1,477,947

TRAPPER CREEK CCC	TRADES	TOTAL FY 2024 STUDENT HOURS: 62,945
5139 W Fork Rd. Darby, MT 406-821-3286	♦ Facilities Maintenance ♦ Electrical ♦ Forestry Conservation ♦ Advanced Fire Management ♦ Culinary Arts ♦ Welding ♦ Carpentry ♦ Painting ♦ Cement Masonry	Fire..... 45,320 Forest Service 14,086 Rural Development..... 3,539
CAPACITY: 215 Students		
NOTES		VALUE OF STUDENT WORK: \$2,108,028

Forest Service Civilian Conservation Centers

