



# Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation

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## ***Another CCC beginning: Civilian Conservation Corps Member Appreciation Day for the State of Virginia – March 31, 2006***

In Virginia, every March 31 will now be recognized as Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Member Appreciation Day. The Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation, Edinburg, VA, requested this day of recognition and it unanimously passed the General Assembly. Senate Joint Resolution 85 emphasizes the vast legacy of the CCC and its continuing contribution to Virginia communities.

Seventy-three years ago on March 31, 1933, Roosevelt signed the New Deal legislation that created the CCC and ultimately employed millions of unmarried young men renewing America's natural resources. From 1933 – 1942, these young conservationist built the infrastructure of the modern outdoor recreational system and developed the tenants of modern conservation.

Virginia still receives great benefit from this early conservation program. Camp Roosevelt, located in George Washington National Forest, Shenandoah County, VA, was the first camp established in the nation on April 17, 1933. Countless other landmarks stand as a tribute to the labor of 107,000 CCC Virginia enrollees. Today citizens enjoy the pleasures of the outdoor recreational system and the beauty of Virginia's mountains, rivers, and forests all of which were positively influenced by the CCC program. Some of the most recognizable CCC built landmarks are the first six Virginia state parks, Shenandoah National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Prince William Forest Park, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest recreational system, and numerous other facets of the recreational and wildlife system. CCC history also extends to the less visible but equally important phases of the natural resource management. Virginia's fish hatcheries were built, streams stocked, erosion controlled, forest fires were fought, woodland disease was battled, and millions of trees were planted. Renewal and construction took place in wildlife reserves, national historic parks, and military installations.

To help bring attention to the importance of the CCC program, an elementary level educational package has been developed. It introduces Virginia's CCC history and can be used by educators, scout and 4-H leaders and conservation specialists. These packages were placed in the local Shenandoah County Virginia School system. For those in other areas, package contents can be viewed and downloaded from the website [www.ccclegacy.org](http://www.ccclegacy.org).

Participation in the CCC awareness effort is a simple process: listen, record or write down what you hear, and share the information so others have access to the material. Elder citizens from your family, neighbors, civic organizations, and churches hold the key to community history.

To become a part of the CCC legacy awareness movement, please call Joan Sharpe, Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation at 540-984-8735 or email [ccc@ccclegacy.org](mailto:ccc@ccclegacy.org).

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