

Virginia Civilian Conservation Corps Members Appreciation Day

March 31, 2006

1933 was a year marked by economic depression, 25% unemployment, soup lines, drought, dust bowls and general moral decay. As America slipped into some of its darkest times, newly elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was determined to put men to work.

On March 21, President Roosevelt sent a message to the 73rd Congress: *"I propose to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects. More important, however, than material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work."* Roosevelt acted quickly. Through a vigilant and creative effort the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, War, Labor and the Judge Advocate General crafted legislation that would change the face of natural resource conservation methods to this day.

Ten days later on March 31, 1933, FDR signed the Emergency Conservation Work legislation that created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Long thought to be the most successful of the New Deal programs, its leaves us a legacy that created the infrastructure of our nation's outdoor recreational system and the very tenants of modern conservation that are still used today.

On April 17, 1933, Camp Roosevelt, first CCC camp in the nation, was established in Ft. Valley. This beginning of Roosevelt's New Deal program marked the advent of the conservation of natural resources in Shenandoah County. The Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation was proud to request March 31 as a special day so Virginia can join other states across America who celebrate and appreciate the men and work of the CCC.

Many children in Shenandoah County have ancestors who were in the CCC. The work of the CCC is still visible for the current generation to enjoy. Our community would be very different without the CCC program and "Roosevelt's Tree Army."

Package Contents:

Teachers:	Students:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civilian Conservation Corps 1933 – 1942: The beginning of the CCC• Camp Roosevelt – Home Away from Home• Classroom Poster for CCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What Does Not Belong• Complete the pattern• Maze: The CCC Boys need to get to the fire• Three coloring sheets<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ People were hungry○ Everyone needed a job○ The New Deal is working• Crossword puzzle – Life as a CCC Boy• Word find – What do you find in the forest• Why should we remember the CCC?

This project has been produced through the cooperation of the

Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation • Kulynych Family Foundation—Wilkesboro, NC • Shenandoah County Library • USDA FS Lee District Office • Virginia Department of Forestry

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