



**Job Corps, Green Jobs Initiative
U.S. Forrest Service, National program**

The U.S. Forest Service Job Corps has been in existence since 1964, training young people in Natural Resource careers and helping them complete high school educations. A new Green Jobs initiative within the Corps has been developing over the last two years. The Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers are actively involved in natural resource projects and provide support on wild-land fire suppression, local, regional and national emergency response and a variety of community service projects. The Forest Service operates 22 Job Corps Centers across the country. It offers forest service job training to young people aged 16-24 years old. Corps members may be economically disadvantaged, have educational deficits and lack job or employability skills.

This case study is current as of April 2009. For more information, contact Larry Dawson, LDawson@fs.fed.us.

<p>Training methodology</p>	<p>The Forest Service Jobs Corps offers year-round classes in a wide variety of career technical programs. Students learn a trade and many simultaneously complete their GED or high school diploma. The training is both classroom-based and on-the-job, with each student completing a total of 360 hours of work-based learning.</p> <p>The training curriculum is provided by the Department of Labor and is developed in conjunction with employers and industry professionals. The Forest Service will be adapting the curriculum to meet the new Green Jobs Initiatives. Of about 25 possible career tracks, those in green jobs include: construction craft laborer, electrician, forestry, forest technician, landscaper, material handler, natural resources maintenance, urban forestry and wild-land firefighting.</p>
<p>Participants and how recruited</p>	<p>Participants are 16-to-24 year olds. They are often students desiring more technical oriented training in place of a traditional high school curriculum.</p>
<p>Green program from the outset?</p>	<p>The Forest Service Job Corps is integrating green skills and competencies into existing programs. They are exploring adding new green jobs training programs as career opportunities are identified.</p>

This case study is meant to give a snapshot of the program profiled here. For the most up to date information on this program, please visit their website

Length and frequency of training	Training is year round. There are no cycles. New students enter the program every other week. The length of time in the program depends on a student's academic needs and progress and which career technical training program they select. The average is 11-12 months for students completing their GED or High School Diploma and completing the technical skills training. The students can be enrolled in the program for two years if necessary to finish the program requirements.
Include on-the-job training or paid apprenticeships?	Each student is required to complete a minimum of 360 hours of work-based learning as part of their career technical training. Students are paid a stipend every two weeks as part of the Job Corps program. Some students have the opportunity for paid work-based learning employment as part of their career technical training. When students graduate they can earn readjustment bonuses for completing the education and trade components.
Funding	The Forest Service Jobs Corps is a federal government program so it is 100 percent federally funded from WIA through an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Labor.
Key relationships	<p>Employers provide work-based learning opportunities and serve on Industry Advisory Councils evaluating and assisting in keeping training current and relevant to select careers.</p> <p><u>Community colleges:</u> Some Centers have partnerships with local Community Colleges to provide education and career technical training in various fields. Students can earn college credit for some of these programs.</p> <p><u>Labor unions:</u> Many of our construction trades are taught through national agreements with union programs.</p> <p><u>Workforce development Boards and Youth committees</u> assist in cooperative training opportunities, recruitment for programs and in advisory capacities.</p>
Eligibility	There are no entry-level educational requirements for Job Corps. An applicant needs to be able to show the ability to learn through the education/career technical training programs.
Credentials	Each of our technical training programs offers a certificate/certification in the field of study based on the organization the training is affiliated with. For example: union carpentry students would be certified as pre-apprentices and be employed in union positions as apprentices upon graduation.

Placement and follow-up services

Students are provided housing, meals, recreation, transportation, clothing, medical and dental care, counseling, career skills training, leadership skills and job placement services as part of the overall Job Corps program. We track educational gains in reading and math, GED and High School Diploma completions, career technical training completions, job placement, job training match, entry wage, 6-month placement and wage, and 12 month placement and wage.