

"WE CAN TAKE IT"

Long Days—Hard Work with Pride and Purpose

Hungry to Work

Life at a CCC camp began at 6:00 with Reveille—hard and dirty work followed on every day but Sunday.



Although the CCC Boys came to camp ready to sweat, they were often hungry and undernourished. Hearty meals put 11 pounds on the average enrollee in the first 2 months.



The dining hall is ready for hungry men!



Life-long friendships were born at CCC camps.

"If I had not lived it, I could not believe that the people of the 1930s were so destitute. I wake up some nights horrified at the remembrance."

Edmond B. Cherry, Jr. spent his Birch Creek days as a physician's assistant, rock picker, surveyor, and telephone lineman. He was also a proud member of an elite firefighting unit, but was shocked when told that he was too small to go out on the front lines.

He complained to the Camp Superintendent who agreed to send him out the next day. Edmond carried 158 pounds of food and water to the crew, even though he only weighed 145. He was never again denied the opportunity to fight fires.

(Excerpts from Climbing the Mountain, Volume Three, "I Was A Roosevelt Tree Soldier—A Saga of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)" Edmond B. Cherry, Jr., 1998)

The University of Birch Creek

Camp life was not just about work. CCC instructors taught new trades, empowering men to enter the workforce skilled and confident. The University of Birch Creek training ranged from auto mechanics to aeronautics, with practical experience in home construction, bulldozer operation, and even toy making. Across the country, 40,000 previously illiterate enrollees learned to read.



Running a jackhammer and peeling logs were just two of the skills taught at Birch Creek.

Efficiency & Discipline Ruled

Although the CCC men were civilians, a military-style routine built personal discipline and group cohesiveness. This regimen made for a smooth transition to—and success during—the World War II years.

"I was scared and worried before I joined the corps. The CCC taught me responsibility and gave me confidence. Never again did I worry about how I would survive."

- Arthur Hunevan



"The boys of the CCC became the men of 'The Greatest Generation.'"



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Caring for the Land and Serving People

