



THE GRIT

John Muir Charter School Pomona CCC

California Conservation Corps—Pomona Satellite

By: Robert Walker



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Every California Conservation Corps former and current employee had a birthday Thursday, November 3, 2011; it was the anniversary of the CCC—35 years of hard work low pay miserable conditions and more. The day consisted of guest speakers, cake and cookies, and a lot of young men and women

working hard and enjoying it. The project site is located in the city of El Monte, behind the

Madrid middle school. The site is filled with debris and a lot of wood to be chipped. The specific project is part of the Emerald Dream plan which is a 17 mile loop of parkways and greenways that connect 10 cities and over 500,000 residents along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. The vision is nothing short of amazing and in fact very touching. The dream was originally intended to promote good health and promote green according to Claire Robinson. Captain Reed of Pomona (my crew) had the honor of being one of the first CCC crews to work on this specific project and I feel that we have made a HUGE impact on this bit of land.

When we first arrived, there were trees, weeds and a ridiculous amount of trash. Each day felt like we never accomplished anything but as referred to pictures before and after I realized that it was just an overwhelming project and a few days didn't seem to be a big deal. However yesterday was an eye opener, with so many people

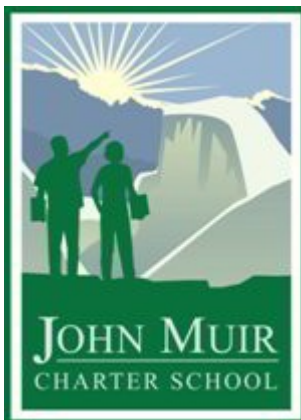


working and with the amount of workers on site the project soon became a beautiful site, with much more work to be done, the work done has certainly become evi-

dent and it has made the site that much more beautiful and meaningful. There were 115 Corps members with each crew having a specific task to complete, such as Crew 1 of Pomona was assigned to planting trees, while crew 3 of Pomona was set to chip wood that another crew was to bring and unload on site. Every corps member had a job, and each job was as important as the next. What I enjoyed about the day was everyone was working toward the same goal, which is to clean up an abandoned area and recycle it into a useable and beautiful area for the public and children of the school and even teachers and staff to enjoy.

RJ Guess**John Muir Charter School****Executive Director****By: Robert Walker****JMCS/CCC GRIT**

The Grit recently had the opportunity to speak with the Executive Director of John Muir Charter School; RJ Guess. It was a great honor to speak with RJ, he is extremely passionate when it comes to schooling and that's hard to come by these days. He has dedicated over ten years of his career life to John Muir Charter School, bettering young men and women's lives' through education and this includes myself as well. A typical work day for RJ consists of getting up at 5am -exercise for an hour and by 6 A.M. he is at his desk answering emails and on the phone with various agencies, school sites, client agency staff and John Muir Charter School (JMCS) personnel. If he's lucky - a really fun day consists of him personally visiting school sites and speaking with JMCS students and staff. Speaking with RJ I learned that running a school system isn't easy at all especially having over 120 people working directly under you. It takes a special kind of person to operate it and bring out its full potential. RJ has a focused vision and goals for JMCS's future; he feels JMCS should be a different type of school, another option for young adults to think about, instead of a school of "last resort". RJ would like the school's population to grow and help meet different adult's schedules so they can obtain a high school diploma and move forward with their lives. RJ has a lot of hobbies that might seem a bit familiar to the CCC, he really enjoys hiking trails and exploring the great outdoors. RJ also enjoys reading and fishing. I would like to personally thank RJ Guess and my teacher John Berge for doing what they do every day. JMCS has helped me in so many different ways, I am on the brink of graduating high school, a feat I thought I would never complete and I even picked up a few new skills like writing for The Grit; I have even become somewhat of a mentor for other students and new corps members as well. The school has brought out the best in me for the life ahead of me, and I appreciate and thank every single teacher out there for building students up and preparing them for the future.



RJ snow hiking in South Tahoe

John Muir Charter School is a non-profit public-benefit corporation with a charter granted in 1998 by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools.

Muir exclusively serves participants in the programs of the:

California Conservation Corps

Local Conservation Corps

YouthBuild

Job Corps

WIA (Workforce Investment Act) programs

Participants in these local, state and federal programs have the opportunity to expand their education while doing exciting and valuable service work for the community.

If the program participants do not yet have their high school diplomas, they are required by law to attend high school while in the program. John Muir Charter School provides that high school education in a unique program, suited to participants who have not flourished in a traditional high school setting. John Muir is an integral component of the program, providing small classes and a family-like atmosphere that teaches life, job and leadership skills in a hands-on way that leads to success. Participants bring the strong work ethic forged in the field into the Muir classroom, where they work with credentialed teachers on coursework tailored to their individual needs. Muir uses state-of-the-art computer assessments that provide detailed academic diagnostics on each student, to encourage individual success.



By: Robert Walker

Safety Corner

Winter Chill



With summer finally starting to fade away, we can now look forward to the next season ahead, winter. Winter can have as many pros and cons as summer, but personally I feel summer is a bit more difficult to handle when it comes to outside employment rather than winter. Rain and gloomy days don't really pursue the extreme dangers that summer can cause like heat exhaustion, dehydration, heat stroke etc but winter still has its hazards that us as employees need to be aware of and can turn to preventive measures. It's been cold this past month, but the recent weeks have started to really drop in temperature, so instead of wearing that short sleeve wear a long sleeve it will work as a sweatshirt and that way you won't have to lug around a jacket while you are working. Stay hydrated, even though it isn't hot, it's still wise to stay hydrated and even eat a breakfast in the morning as it gives you energy to be active at work. Also eating warm foods or even drinking hot liquids can help warm up the body, hot chocolate would be ideal or hot teas in the morning but still try to steer away from caffeine contained liquids as they can still cause you do be dehydrated yes even in this type of weather. Another product to stay away from is tobacco. I am well informed on how many of the Corps members use this type of product, however this is an issue that needs to be controlled at least in my opinion but that's neither here or there. The main issue with tobacco in the cold can constrict blood vessels, and can cause a lot of cold related injuries which we do not want of course. During this cold season, let's work smart and prevent injuries, wear gloves and beanies on the way to work, bring all of your PPE including your rain gear, and especially traffic vests as you never know when you will need them. Accidents don't just happen, they are caused, try to keep this in mind while the new season approaches.

To the right, we have one CCC worker that has a jacket, hot coco and a ready to work appearance, while the other seems cold and unprepared for the early work day. Which one are you?



Thanks to Jeremiah Reher for the art work.

CCC Boring? I think not!

By: Robert Walker



Many Corps members vent about how “boring” and or the CCC is like any other place of employment. I feel they are close minded. When school had a break The Grit took one too. During our break, I was watching the history channel with my father and he suggested this would make a great article of interest to the Corps members and all you other “Gritians” out there. I find the history that accompanies John Dillinger and his gang to be interesting and thrilling. To know that he was one of the most cunning and intelligent bank robbers the U.S has ever seen even to this day is hard to believe, considering how much technology and society has grown and changed. Take heed on this man’s life. Working for the CCC or any job can be boring and uneventful, but instead of thinking and worrying about the now, let’s try to work and build for tomorrow and learn from peoples past mistakes experiences. Doing this can lead to great success in life and even obtaining things you want if you just put in some effort and hard work.

Did you know?

During the 1930’s, a federal agency similar to the California Conservation Corps existed, but under another name: The “Civilian Conservation Corps”. Originally the idea of the Civilian Conservation Corps was to employ unmarried men with jobs, while also performing unskilled/skilled labor to benefit the environment. During this time, there were many criminals under police radar but one criminal in particular took the spot light, John Dillinger. Dillinger was part of an American mob gang that focused on robberies, banks to be precise. April 1934 John Dillinger and his gang needed a place to hide out to rest and plan their next move. One of them suggested a lodge called “Little Bohemia”. During their stay the owner of the lodge Emil Wanatka discovered who Dillinger and his gang were and was afraid for his family’s life, so he decided to write a letter to a man he knew at the U.S Attorneys office in Chicago. After a lot of effort and life threatening sacrifices Wanatka’s attorney friend got hold of the letter, and a special force of police officials were assembled. Early on a particular morning, federal agents snuck onto the property to capture the gang of criminals. During this time, they saw a vehicle leaving the lodge area and an agent shot down and killed two Civilian Conservation Corps members that were purely innocent of any crime. During these early times, the authorities were not as advanced in experience and skills thus causing this to happen. Despite the authorities having the element of surprise the whole gang still got away. Dillinger attended a motion picture at the Biograph Theater with two female companions. Authorities were notified of his presence but were instructed not to open fire in a crowded theatre. They devised a plan, once Dillinger exited the theatre a disguised agent lit a cigar which signaled other agents to act. Agents opened fire killing Dillinger. He was pronounced dead at Alexian Brothers Hospital on July 22 1934.

VIRUS 101

JMCS/CCC GRIT**By: James Allen**

What is a computer virus? A computer virus is an unwanted computer program that can disguise and duplicate itself and spread from one computer to another. Computer viruses spread in different ways, such as visiting a certain web site and downloading something, or spreading from computer to computer in an executable code that are both connected to the same infected network, and can also be carried on a removable disc. There are all kinds of different computer viruses that affect your computer differently and that can also affect your privacy. Computer viruses known as Worms or Trojan horses are infamous for harming a computers system data or performance. What this means is that by harming your system data certain common programs you use every day on your computer, such as your computers control panel. Your control panel will be disabled until the virus is ineffective, and the only way to make a virus ineffective is by removing the virus itself completely from your computer. This may sound like an easy task, but since Worms and Trojan Horses are known for disguising and duplicating themselves amongst the files on your computer, it makes it very difficult. Another name for a computer virus that you may have heard is Malware. Malware includes computer viruses, spyware, adware, root kits, and of course Worms and Trojan horses. Even though adware and spyware have no duplicating abilities, they can still do you and your computer a lot of harm. Spyware collects information of a user without them even knowing it. Adware displays advertisements related to the information it finds by spying on a user. Spyware and adware are not considered viruses, but they are still categorized as malicious software because of their capabilities. A computer virus duplicates itself by being programmed to execute code and write to memory. Because of this, many viruses copy themselves to executable files that are apart of important programs. If a user decides to launch a program that's infected without realizing it, the virus code will be executed at the same time. When it comes to viruses being executed they can be grouped into two different types. The first type is referred to as Nonresident viruses. Nonresident viruses instantly search for other programs and hosts to infect. After being infected, the virus then transfers control to the new host or program that it infected. Another thing about Nonresident viruses is that it finds only new executable files to infect, then duplicates itself. The second type is referred to as Resident viruses. Resident viruses don't search for other hosts or programs when they are launched. A Resident virus loads itself into memory while executing and then transfers control to the host program. The virus will always be active in the background and will infect new hosts when those files are accessed by other programs or the operating system itself. Resident viruses have a duplication program similar to the one used by Nonresident viruses. However, Resident viruses infect differently than Nonresident viruses. Resident viruses load the duplication program into memory on execution and makes sure it is launched every time the operating system performs a certain command. The first rule to prevent viruses from infecting your computer is to only visit web sites that you know are safe. The second rule is to have decent anti-virus software to prevent viruses, by scanning through all of your files, making sure your computer stays clean. Rule number three is to make sure you keep up with your computers updates. Keeping up on your updates is important because if you don't it could make you more vulnerable to get viruses. The fourth rule is to keep an eye on your computers performance. If you notice any significant changes such as your computer slowing down unusually, chances are you most likely caught a virus. If you follow these four basic rules, you should find that your computer will stay clean and healthy. How to get rid of computer viruses? Throughout my work and research, I've found that as soon as you catch a legitimate virus, the only way to remove that virus completely, is to reformat your computer. This is a process in which you delete everything from your computer, and then it will automatically reinstall new system files that are free of viruses. This process will take up to at least three or four hours for a basic user, but for an advanced user it will take only an hour or two. In order to do this you will most definitely need your reformat disc for your computer in your disc drive. Now, restart your computer and on the load up screen hit F12 twice to go to the boot menu. Once you are at the boot menu, scroll down with the arrows on your keyboard until you reach CD-Rom, then press enter and it will load the reformat disc. Once the disc is done loading up, just follow the directions through the process. After that you'll have a clean and fresh computer!

Once Upon a Blue Hat

JMCS/CCC **GRIT**

My name is Robert Walker, and I am a safety specialist for the California Conservation Corps for the Pomona Satellite and lead article writer for The Grit. When I first met Josh he was quite shy and kept to himself. The first couple of months he changed drastically, he started talking more and becoming more friendly and outgoing with fellow co workers and staff. After a short 9 months, Josh has been on countless spikes, volunteer events, and various regular projects and has impressed every sponsor that he has worked for. Thus far as a fellow co worker I am quite impressed with the work he has put in and the goals he has completed to bettering his future. He never leaves anyone around with a frown on their face, he enjoys making jokes and lifting people up and he has become quite the encourager. He has great enthusiasm and work ethic, and I know he will go far in this program and in life.

By: Robert Walker



My name is Joshua Miller. I was born on October 5th, 1992 in the snowy streets of Youngstown Ohio. I am the eldest boy of five kids. I have three sisters and one brother. The reason I work hard and achieve everything that comes my way is because of my mother. She worked hard her whole life to support my family and I would like to give her that satisfaction back. My passion throughout high school and college has been football. I played football ever since I was young, but began playing seriously when I was in high school. The game brings out the best in me because it makes me competitive and it's a tool to let my anger out. The game helps me relax and stay focused on what matters most. With the California Conservation Corps Program I've had the opportunity to learn what it is like to be a fire fighter. Being a fighter is one of my goals in life. The program has helped me gain the knowledge I need about the job. The program also helps me understand the challenges a fire fighter has to go through while being on the job. With the help of the program and the people working there I've had the chance to overcome most of the challenges. Having being able to be exposed to the challenges a fire fighter goes through it makes me stronger and makes me want to be the best that I can at the job. One of the toughest challenges while being on a spike was to have to carry pipes for about four miles. The challenge was one that I found difficult and had never been exposed to before. With team work and my ability to stay strong during the challenge we all did our job the correct way and the spike was a success. Ultimately, my goal is to become a fire fighter for the National Forest. It will be an honor to one day work for them and have the pride to say I helped people. It would make my mother, and sisters proud to see become what I've set my mind to. I would also be happy to be able to once again support and help my family.

By: Joshua Miller