

**Men of the Civilian  
Conservation Corps:  
Improving the Nation While  
Improving Themselves**

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Exhibit

Last summer at the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park in Eastern Washington, Mom and I saw a plaque describing the Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees' work on the park. Mom remembered that my great-grandpa was a CCC man. When I learned that the NHD theme was "the individual in history," and that our topic for my Social Studies class had to influence Washington State, I realized this project was a perfect opportunity to learn more about my great-grandpa's life.

My research started with secondary sources, and then progressed into primary sources more focused on each enrollee's impact on history. After emailing numerous people for information, I received a reply from Morris Grodsky, a CCC enrollee who worked in Colorado. His interview was my best primary source. *In the Shadow of the Mountain: The Spirit of the CCC* by Edwin Hill, a Washington enrollee, provided more local CCC information. The majority of my primary sources were government documents from the Special Collections of the University of Washington's Suzzallo Library. Mom and I also visited the CCC Interpretive Center at Deception Pass State Park, where I found many local pictures for my exhibit.

I chose the exhibit category because the pictures I found of enrollees working seemed crucial in portraying the importance of the individual in the CCC, as well as the importance of the CCC to these men. First, I created a sentence outline, and then developed my first draft. After cutting it down, I made a diagram of my board identifying text and picture layout. I decided on a simple color scheme, and then made my standing exhibit from three panels of black poster board joined with hinges. I cut an icon of an enrollee from a CCC advertisement in the center panel and created an arch for the painted title. After printing, I laid my text and pictures out on the board. I cut green rectangles to

lay behind certain pictures and captions, uniting different subtopics within my exhibit. I raised my thesis and an opening quote on extra poster board, and then glued everything down. After NHD Regionals, based on the judges' suggestions, I moved my exhibit from the floor to a table and propped pictures in front of it. I also took my interview with Morris Grodsky, and, with computer help from my dad, spliced parts of it together with music for a supplemental audio piece. After State, I added in a section about the small amount of opposition to the CCC and put together a booklet of my great-grandpa's CCC records.

The individual men of the CCC all impacted history in their own unique way. Some will be remembered for their efforts in reforestation, and others for their work on state and national parks. However, each enrollee had a larger importance than just improvements to the U.S. infrastructure. By stepping out from the crowd and daring to do better, they jumpstarted their own potential and changed history through what they did with the rest of their lives.