

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Job Corps Program

*Open the Door
to Your Future*



Dear Terry,

Well, I finally made it to the Job Corps center... I'm nervous about entering the Job Corps program but I'm excited about learning a trade and getting a job.

It was my first time to travel alone and I had a great time. A Job Corps staff member picked me up and on the way to the center we talked about where I'm from and how Job Corps can help me achieve my goals...



... I am at a Job Corps center located in the country, on a national wildlife refuge. When my bus entered the refuge, the first thing I saw was a deer. There's also elk, quail, wild turkey and beaver here. We don't see wildlife like that in the city.

But Job Corps isn't all fun and games. I'm taking basic education classes to earn my GED, which will improve my chances of going to college, getting a job or joining the military.

There were so many trades to study that I had a hard time picking one, but I finally chose brick masonry.

The best part about Job Corps is that I get paid while I am enrolled here, and I can get a bonus for doing good work. Another plus is that after being in the program for six months, the government will pay for my transportation home.

I feel a little homesick but I'm willing to make the effort. And when I finish I will have a high school diploma and job skills.

You should think about Job Corps, and tell all of our friends back home about it, too.

*Your friend,
Josh*



History

■ Established in 1964. Job Corps is the federal government's leading job training program, administered by the Department of Labor.

The Job Corps program is open to at-risk young people ages 16 to 24.

■ Students enrolled at the more than 110 Job Corps centers around the nation receive housing, meals, clothing, and medical and dental services at no charge.

■ Job Corps provides basic education classes so that students may earn their General Equivalency Diploma. Some centers also offer advanced vocational training. Students who need to may earn a driver's license while at Job Corps.

■ The open-ended Job Corps program is tailored to meet students' individual needs. Courses are self-paced, allowing up to two years or completion. Counselors, advisors and instructors provide an encouraging, supportive environment and help Job Corps participants design an appropriate course of study and training.

■ Job Corps centers can be found in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. They are located in both urban and rural settings. Two Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers are located on national wildlife refuges and run by the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Fish & Wildlife Service administers more than 500 national wildlife refuges across the country for the purpose of conserving and managing fish, wildlife and plant resources. Many national wildlife refuges also offer public recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and hiking.



Pay and Benefits

■ Students are paid while enrolled in Job Corps. For the first two months, they earn approximately \$50 per month. For the next four months, students receive about \$60 per month, and after six months at the center, they earn about \$80 per month. Students may receive a bonus of \$25-\$80 for good performance. A readjustment allowance helps recent Job Corps graduates to buy tools or special uniforms needed for their jobs, or help them to rent an apartment.

■ Job Corps matches students' salaries if they find a job related to their training. Seventy-five percent of each student's base pay, and any bonuses earned, is set aside in an account after the student completes seven months of paid attendance. Students receive bonuses for earning a GED, completing their trade training, getting a job placement and securing a job related to their training.



Trades and Skills

■ After completing their educational requirements, students may pursue training one of 10 to 20 businesses or trades. Job Corps offers career training in union and non-union trades such as auto repair, bricklaying, data entry, heavy equipment operation and retail sales.

■ Before entering the Job Corps program, students sign a Zero Tolerance for Violence and Drugs Policy. Cultural awareness and interpersonal relationships are also explored throughout the Job Corps program, and students take social skills training classes designed to help them manage in difficult situations on the job. Students also learn job application procedures, interviewing techniques and other skills needed to survive in the working world.



Job Corps Locations

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service operates two Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers—Mingo, which is located near the Mingo Wildlife Refuge in Puxico, Missouri and Treasure Lake, which is on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Indianahoma, Oklahoma. Students may participate in outdoor activities sponsored by the center's recreation department, or explore the refuge on their own. Hiking, camping and fishing are just a few of the activities students may enjoy. Students at these civilian conservation centers may sign up for environmental education classes as part of their study courses.

The following union and non-union trades are offered at the two locations:

Mingo Job Corps Center, Puxico, MO

Union Trades

Brick Masonry
Painting
Carpentry
Heavy Equipment and Welding

Non-union Trades

Clerical
Culinary Arts (Food Service)
Health Occupations
Building Maintenance and Automotive

Treasure Lake Job Corps Center, Indianahoma, OK

Union Trades

Brick Masonry
Cement Finishing
Plastering
Carpentry
Painting

Non-union Trades

Culinary Arts
Health Occupations
Plumbing
Electrical

For More Information

If you are 16–24 years of age and want to see if you qualify for Job Corps... or if you know someone you want to help, call 1-800-733-JOBS.

Photos: USFW

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov

www.jobcorps.org

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