

Hey listeners, Joe Donahoe back here again with another FWS podcast and today we are here with...

Chelsea Corcoran Quadt from the National Conservation Training Center.

Joe Donahoe: Chelsea Corcoran Quadt, Wow, that's a mouthful.

Chelsea Corcoran: Yes, it is.

Joe Donahoe: Well, today we are here at the site of the 2010 National Scout Jamboree on the grounds of Fort, AP Hill, Virginia, and explain to the listeners what we are doing,

Chelsea Corcoran: Well, the jamboree has been absolutely amazing. We have had over 50,000 scouts come through and right now we are at the career center, where we are trying to promote careers within the Fish and Wildlife Service, and really get those folks that are interested in natural resource careers and transitioning them into permanent jobs.

Joe Donahoe: Great. Now not only is it important to get these scouts involved, but youth all over the nation. And what kind of initiatives have the fish and wildlife and the DOI started to get these youth in? Because we all know that people retire when they get older, and we need to refill those positions, so what are we doing now to ensure that we still have positions filled later?

Chelsea Corcoran: Well right now we have two initiatives going. Secretary Salazar first of all has created a program named youth in the Great Outdoors. And we have another initiative called connecting people with nature. First of all that connecting people with nature starts at that young age, getting kids connected, having, an appreciation for nature, going outside, getting kids in nature. Once they have that connection and that appreciation then we transition them into careers, and right now with the baby boomers getting ready to retire we are going to need a lot more entry positions to be filled.

Joe Donahoe: Right, ok and I know that the Service has two that I know of at least, and I'm involved in one of them, we have the SCEP and STEP program, and can you explain those two programs

Chelsea Corcoran: Definitely. I actually was a STEP and it stands for Student Temporary Employment Program, and what that does is that it gets kids in, it gives them summer experiences, they get a competitive salary. However the STEP does not guarantee permanent placement. The SCEP program stands for Student Career Experience Program, and what that program really does is it focuses on what their major is. Once they graduate, they can get into a permanent job at any field station or with any Fish and Wildlife office throughout the country.

Joe Donahoe: All right, so not only is it fun to work for the Service but it also has its benefits as well.

Chelsea Corcoran: Definitely. It's amazing, I started off as intern starting with my freshmen year of college and now I've gone through six seasons and finally got my permanent job here at NCTC, and it's really been amazing.

Joe Donahoe: Wow that's impressive, well hopefully we can get some of these scouts that are here interested in the service and maybe see them later down the road at one of our refuges.

Chelsea Corcoran: Yeah, most definitely

Joe Donahoe: All right, thank you so much. Well you have heard it here. This is Joe Donahoe at the National Scout Jamboree on the grounds of Fort, AP Hill, Virginia.