

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME: The Civilian Conservation Corps

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Individual Website
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I chose the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as my topic because my great-grandfather was in the CCC, and I thought the CCC was very interesting. The CCC helped America escape the Great Depression in the 1930s. It was a program for young men, just a little older than me, who were paid to work on the environment and our National Parks. I have seen many signs in parks when camping and hiking that say a trail, building or road was built by the CCC. I really enjoyed researching and learning about the program.

I started my research first by searching online using topics like “CCC,” “Great Depression,” and “FDR.” I quickly learned there were many books on the CCC, and the presidential library for President Roosevelt had many sources in it. Also, many government websites and archives had images, books, and even movies. I was able to order some print books, and other sources I could read online. I also bought a PBS series on the 1930s to watch. When I looked at these sources, they mentioned other sources. So, I researched those too. When I found information I wanted to use in my website, I cited and annotated the sources in a program called Noodletools. I then put important information on notecards in Noodletools to later add to my website. I made an outline of my topic and put all my quotes in categories on my outline. This helped me a lot so I knew where to put the quotes on my website pages.

I chose to make a website for my NHD topic because I like to use computers and creating my own website would be a lot of fun. My sister did an NHD website last year which made me want to do a website even more. I created my project using information I gathered. I then retyped some of the information in my own words on my website and

the rest I added as quotes. I tried to include interesting pictures and images. I also used a picture of my great-grandfather when he was in the CCC.

My topic relates very well to the NHD theme “Breaking Barriers in History.” When the CCC was created, the U.S. was dealing with a large barrier - its worst depression. The CCC helped America get back on its feet. There were many specific barriers the CCC broke for the young men enrolled in the program. During the Great Depression, young men did not have a chance at a great future. High unemployment led to poverty, hunger, poor health, and lack of education for many of them. The CCC broke these barriers by helping young men receive a good education and skills, money for themselves and to help their families, health care, and needed food. Without this relief program and several others created by President Roosevelt, these barriers might have caused the future of the US to look a lot different than it does today.