



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone
928 638-7609 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact: Shannan Marcak
Phone number: 928-638-7958
Date: May 23, 2008

Symposium and Exhibit to Commemorate 75th Anniversary of CCC at Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – On March 31, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed legislation creating the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It quickly became the most popular government program of the Great Depression. The first young CCC men arrived at the Grand Canyon on May 29, 1933. During their time at the park, they were responsible for building miles of trails and creating much of the park infrastructure that is still used by visitors today. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the CCC and to commemorate the important contribution of these young men to the Grand Canyon, the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park will be hosting a symposium, titled “*Saving Lives; Shaping the Land; Building Parks: the CCC in the Southwest, 1933-1942*”.

The symposium will be held from May 30 through June 1, 2008. Registration for the full three days is \$50. All of the indoor sessions will be held at the Shrine of the Ages auditorium, located in Grand Canyon Village – next to park headquarters. The symposium will begin with guided hikes and tours on Friday, May 30. On Saturday, May 31, there will be presentations by fifteen historians and scholars, as well as a panel of men who served in the CCC. And on Sunday, June 1, the symposium will conclude with guided hikes and walks. Visiting historians will be coming from New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado as well as Arizona. Registration for the symposium can be done on-line at www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/ccc.htm or “at the door” at the Shrine of the Ages on Friday or Saturday.

In conjunction with the symposium, the Grand Canyon Association and the NPS will also open an exhibit titled “*It Saved My Life, the CCC at Grand Canyon, 1933-1942*.” The exhibit’s grand opening is open to the public and will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, at the Kolb Studio. Exhibit goers will learn about the despair of the Great Depression, the fear of a possible ‘lost generation’ of young men, and the feeling of hope that the CCC brought to poor unemployed young men and their families. Historic photographs and artifacts, never before viewed by the public, will be on display. Attendees will learn about the many things the CCC accomplished at Grand Canyon and the positive changes the program brought to the CCC men and their families. This free exhibit will be available at the historic Kolb Studio from May 31 through October 19.

National Park Service historian John Paige stated, “The CCC advanced park development by 10-20 years during the program’s first two to three years.” Some have called the 1930s the ‘golden

years' of the National Park Service in large part due to the almost unlimited labor pool provided by the CCC. Grand Canyon National Park had as many as four 200-man companies working simultaneously. The most significant CCC accomplishments at Grand Canyon include trail building, the South Rim Community Building, the beautiful stone wall in the Village, the trans-canyon telephone line, and trail shelters.

The National Park Service invites the public to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCC by participating in the symposium, visiting the special exhibit at the Kolb Studio or attending one of the special programs about the CCC that will be available for all ages throughout the summer.

For more information and questions about the symposium and planned events, please contact Bob Audretsch, Park Naturalist, at Bob_Audretsch@nps.gov or at 928-638-7834.

For additional information about the Kolb exhibit, please contact the Grand Canyon Association at 1-800-858-2808 ext. 7026.

Information about the park and other activities can be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/grca.

-NPS-