

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

- Middle + High
- 45 - 60 minutes
- CCC Museum Area



OVERVIEW

Using this guide, students will see examples of structures built during the Great Depression under the Roosevelt administration. Students will examine various New Deal policies and evaluate the need of these policies for the community and the larger impact on the nation.

SAFETY + SETTING

Activities are outdoors with paved walkways/road to each stop on the tour. The museum is located under a covered patio with restrooms, water fountain, tables, and chairs.

- Do not climb on structures
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Walk in these areas

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

5.48 Describe the effects of the Great Depression on Tennessee and the impact of New Deal policies in the state

TN.51 Describe how the Great Depression and New Deal programs impacted Tennesseans, including the significance of: Civilian Conservation Corps, Tennessee Valley Authority

INTRODUCTION - CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)

Key Impacts

- Established in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of the New Deal to combat the Great Depression
- Selected young, single men (ages 18–25) for paid work improving public lands, forests, and parks

Benefits to Enrollees

- Earned \$30/month: \$25 sent home, \$5 kept for personal use
- Provided food, housing, and military-style structure.
- Offered education programs, with many completing high school
- Opportunities for leadership advancement and increased pay

Preparation for World War II

- CCC instilled discipline, physical fitness, and teamwork
- Trained men in:
 - Heavy equipment operation
 - Vehicle maintenance
 - Infrastructure construction
 - Logistics and organization
- Many enrollees became skilled, ready military recruits when the U.S. entered WWII

Impact on Tennessee

- Helped build the modern infrastructure of the state:
 - Electrification of rural areas
 - Installation of rural telephone lines
 - Construction of roads and trails
 - Training in skilled trades
- Supported natural conservation through reforestation and erosion control
- Laid the groundwork for Tennessee's long-term economic and environmental development

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TOUR

Stop #1 - Museum Patio

Lead students into a discussion of the effects of the Great Depression and FDR's response to jump start the American economy.

New Deal policies that can be found on the park include the Subsistence Homestead Act, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration.

Key Facts:

- The park is part of the Cumberland Homestead project which stemmed from the Subsistence Homestead Act.
- The park was largely built by the Civilian Conservation Corp and the Works Progress Administration.
- The museum and bathrooms are representative of the original structures.
- **Notice** the original name of Cumberland Mountain State Park
- **Notice** how meticulous the planning was for the Cumberland Homestead Community

Lead students into the museum and allow plenty of time to read the interpretative panels and observe the pictures.



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TOUR

Stop #2 - Dam

Lead students to a grassy area near the lake to view the dam and discuss the daily camp life of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Key Facts:

- The CCC was comprised of men between the ages of 18-25 who enlisted to improve public lands, forests, and parks. The men were provided 3 meals a day and a monthly paycheck of \$30.
- CCC enrollees lived in wooden barracks buildings with the camp usually consisting of a dining hall, a recreation building, offices, and school house.
- CCC workers were provided with educational opportunities such as completing their high school education and learning vocational skills like masonry, carpentry, cooking, and blacksmithing.
- Camp 3464 is the camp stationed in Crossville.
- The 7-arch dam is the largest masonry structure completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It took 3 years to complete (1935-1938). Alvin C. York was one of the project supervisors.
- It is built entirely from Crab Orchard sandstone which was quarried locally. The dam measures 319'L x 28'H.
- The dam created the 33-acre Byrd Lake.



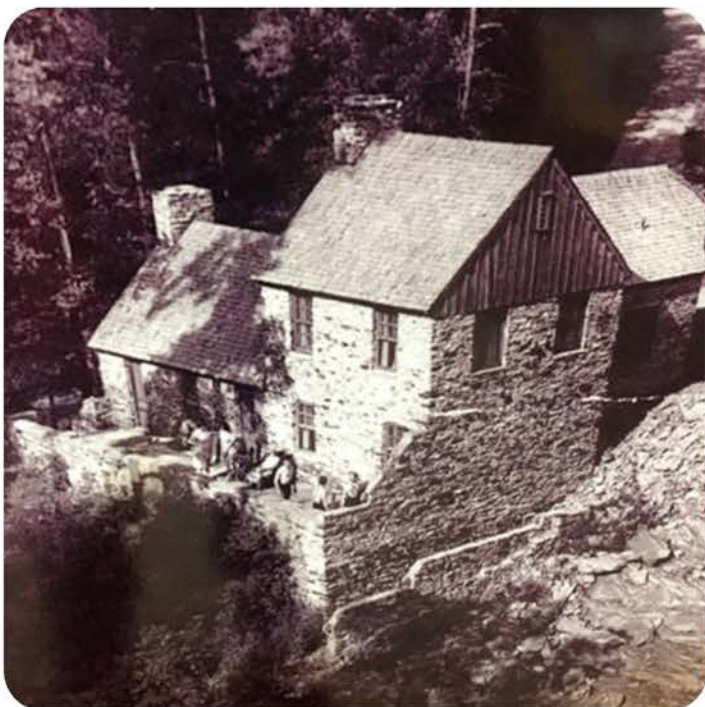
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TOUR

Stop #3 - Mill House

This structure can be viewed from the bridge or down by the structure itself. Discuss with students how low interest rates provided through the Subsistence Homestead Act affected the local community.

Key Facts:

- First structure completed on the park (1936).
- Only structure not built by the CCC or WPA. It was built by the American Friends Service Committee which was founded by Quakers in 1917. Women were accepted into this group.
- Only original structure not made of Crab Orchard sandstone.
- The Mill House was intended to be a working grist mill. However, the citizens of Cumberland County signed a petition against the grist mill stating that the government should not be in direct competition with local enterprise.



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TOUR

Discussion Questions

1. Name any specific problems with the CCC
2. How important was work ethic?
3. What did daily life look like for a CCC enrollee?
4. What types of work were performed?
5. What impact did the Subsistence Homestead Act have on Cumberland County?
6. What examples from the New Deal policies can still be seen today?
7. Would a CCC program work today? Why or why not?
8. Only 250 families in Cumberland County were accepted to receive low-interest loans from the government. How did this impact other families?

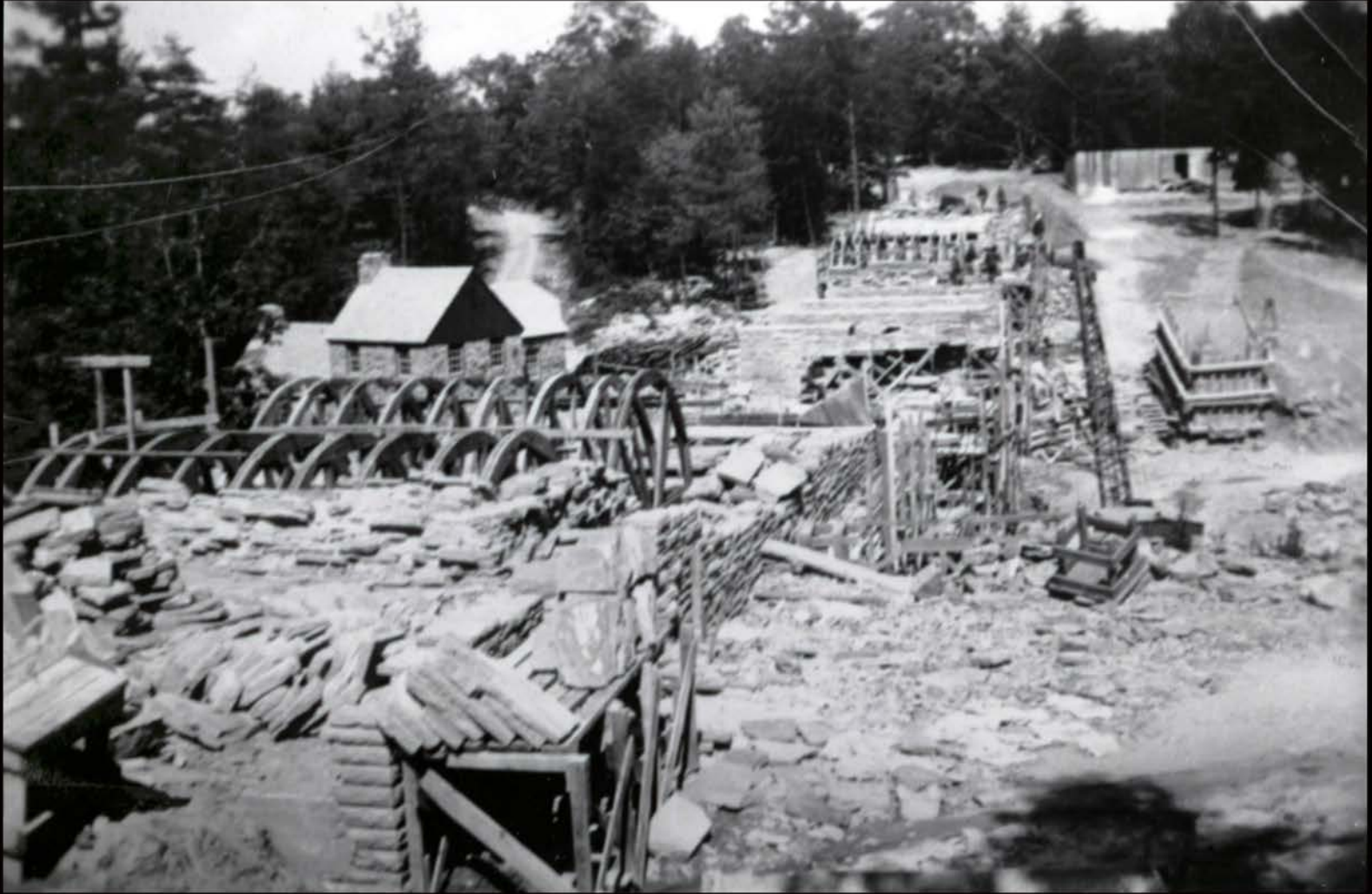
Additional Available Stops



Boat house



12 Historic Cabins

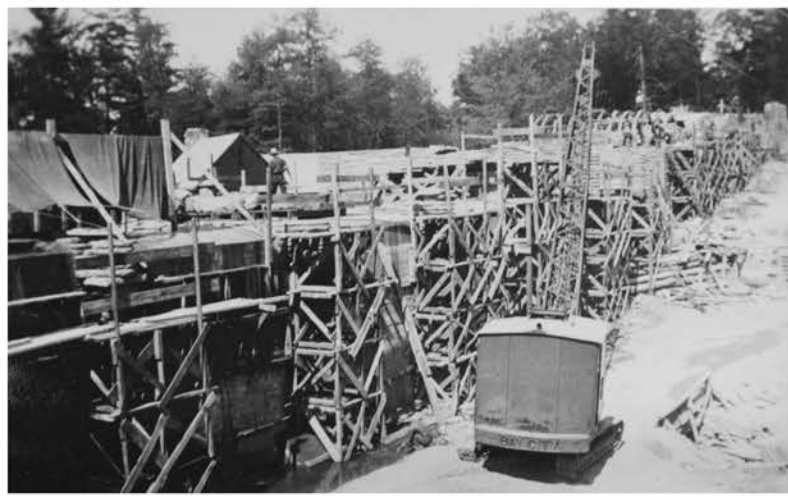


Cumberland Mountain State Park

1930s

Description: Photograph of the building of the bridge and dam across the lake in Cumberland Mountain State Park by CCC workers.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives

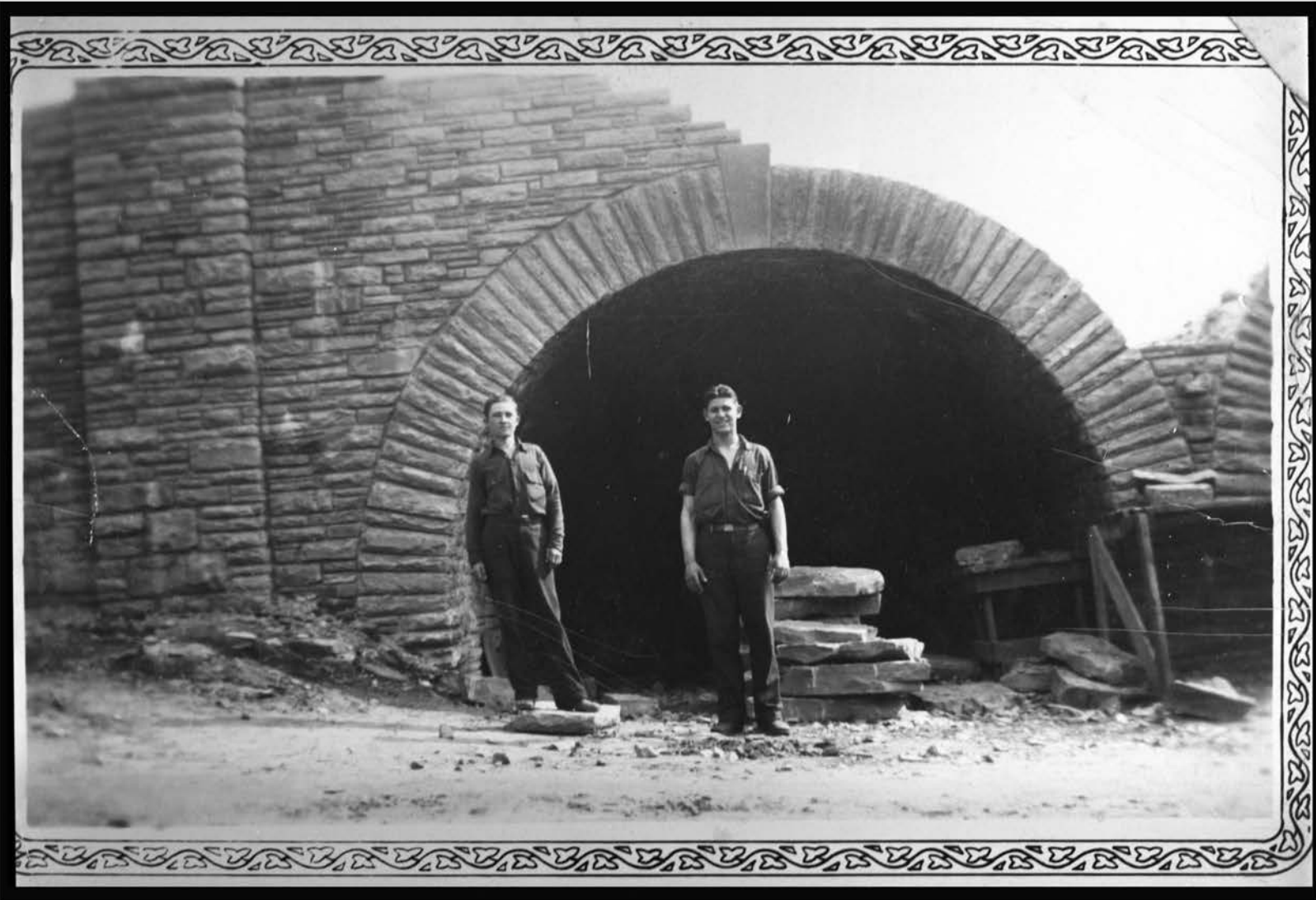


Cumberland Mountain State Park

1930s

Description: Photographs of the building of the bridge and dam across the lake in Cumberland Mountain State Park by CCC workers.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives



Cumberland Mountain State Park

1930s

Description: Photograph of the building of the bridge and dam across the lake in Cumberland Mountain State Park by CCC workers.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives



Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) boys spreading sand on the beach at the Cumberland Homesteads State Park

April 4, 1939

Description: Photograph of twelve CCC workers spreading sand with shovels near the Byrd Creek Dam in Cumberland Mountain State Park.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives



Mechanic and African American CCC workers repairing a Chevrolet truck

1935

Description: Photograph of Mechanic and African American CCC workers repairing a Chevrolet truck. "Jimmy Criddle P-10 mechanic & Negro C.C.C. boys working on Chev. truck" is written on the back of the photograph. Also written on the back of the photograph is "Automotive Instruction - J. M.; Criddle, Otto Haslbauer with Negro CCC boys."

Historical Note: African Americans and Native Americans also enrolled in the CCC but were housed in segregated camps. The CCC limited minority enrollees to percentages of total enrollment that reflected national minority populations. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the CCC.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives



African American CCC recruits thinning trees along a freeway

approximately 1938

Description: Photograph of six African American CCC recruits thinning trees and clearing brush along an unknown freeway. They are stacking trimmed branches and bushes into a flatbed truck on the road.

Historical Note: African Americans and Native Americans also enrolled in the CCC but were housed in segregated camps. The CCC limited minority enrollees to percentages of total enrollment that reflected national minority populations. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the CCC.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives



CCC Preparing a slope for seeding and planting

approximately 1938

Description: Photograph of a team of CCC workmen preparing a slope near a road for planting trees. Such projects helped prevent erosion of bare slopes.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives

LEARN MORE - CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

"High 'Cs," a song of the Civilian Conservation Corps



Description: Audio of "High 'Cs" song, composed by North Callahan

Historical Note: North Callahan was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee, on August 7, 1908. He was educated at the University of Chattanooga, Columbia University, and New York University. Callahan was an author, playwright, news correspondent, actor, and musician. He died on December 28, 2004.

Source: Tennessee Library and Archives

History of the New Deal



Description: A comprehensive online summary on key aspects of the New Deal.

Highlights: Timeline, Films, Oral Histories, Personal Stories

Source: University of California