



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

August 13, 2010

Tomorrow is the annual Bring Your Parents To Work Day. We are expecting more than 250 Clean and Green students along with their parents for a day of clean-up and site maintenance work at the Frank Hodgkins Memorial Training Center near Downtown Los Angeles. Special guests of the event will include former Clean and Green corpsmembers Jasmine Brewer, recent grad-school graduate of Cal State Long Beach and Marisol Salguero, Field Deputy for Councilmember Ed P. Reyes.

The LA Conservation Corps made a kazari with a recycling theme for the 2nd Annual Tanabata Festival in Little Tokyo. The opening ceremonies are tonight at 5pm in front of the Geffen Contemporary and will feature the Consul General of Japan, Supervisor Molina and Councilmember Perry, along with other entertainment and festivities. If you can't make it tonight, you can still enjoy the Festival all weekend. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Celebrating 25 Years!

When did you participate in CG and for how long?

I participated at the inception of the program when it was called "Maple Park Project" in 1988 out of John Adams Middle School. I continued working there covering phones and assisting the staff after school. I would continue to do Alley clean ups and recycling on the weekends with my regular team.

What school did you attend and what was the highest degree you attained?

I attended "College of the Siskiyou" in Weed, California. I also attended ELAC and am very close to getting my AA degree.

Please tell us about your life now, both professionally and personally.

I work for the LAUSD as a school secretary at Lankershim ES in North Hollywood. I am a mother of two boys, and I still hold on to my goal of completing school and getting my teaching credential. My goal of becoming a teacher is something I continue to work on. Working at an Elementary School keeps me focused on that goal. I love working with kids and motivating them as I was motivated when I was their age. I have worked for the program a few times during the summer as a Team Leader and most recently as the Coordinator of the City of LA "Summer Night Lights" program.

How did the Corps help you get to where you are today?

My older brother (Frank Campero) gave me a flyer about the program, but I thought it was for troubled kids and maybe not for me. I learned later when I inquired about the program that it was not limited to any particular group. What I realized was that we were all "At risk". I learned so much about the environment and how important it is. I remember Martha Diepenbrock taking us to Theosophy Hall where we would write journals. We were given the opportunity to share our thoughts. That empowered me. To this day I still write in my journal, I read often and gained so much confidence from those exercises and it has helped me to express my self in such a great way. The Corps helped me realize that there was more than just the 10 or so blocks that surrounded me. I learned that life is about 2nd chances. I saw how lives that were once torn could be turned around and used to help those of us who were at a cross roads or in the middle of bad decisions. I learned that life is what you make of it.

Is there anything particularly memorable about the Corps that you would like to share?

It was December and Bruce Saito was asking all of us kids what we wanted for Christmas. All the other kids kept asking for bikes and sports cars. When he asked me what I wanted, I said "A Thesaurus". He stopped and asked me again, "Really, is that what you really want?" I said yes, a Thesaurus. Bruce kept asking other kids what they wanted for Christmas but a couple of weeks later, Bruce presented me with a brand new Thesaurus. It was a set of Books with synonyms and antonyms, a Dictionary, it was such a surprise. That set helped me so much with my writing and expression. I still have that set. It's dog eared and old, but I still use it and treasure it.

The Corps touched my life.

-Claudia Campero-Sarraseca, former Clean and Green participant, 1988



Young Adult Corps

This week,

- The Brownfields Job Training Program received two awards in Excellence in Reporting, presented by Myra Blakely, Deputy Director and Noemi Emeric-Ford, Regional Coordinator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Special kudos to Denise Haynes, Coordinator of the Vocational Training Program for her hard work in keeping our ACRES database up to date.
- Crews distributed trees at the Van Nuys Farmers Market on Thursday, August 12 from 9am to 2pm. Look for us again next Thursday, August 19 and again on August 26 at 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys.



Tree distribution at the Van Nuys Farmers Market

Weatherization

- Corpsmembers began the installation of LA County Parks and Recreation's first Photovoltaic Solar System this week at Obregon Park in East Los Angeles. Funding from Southern California Edison and the Rose Hills Foundation has helped the Corps to train our corpsmembers to understand and install this very challenging rack system. Professionals from PermaCity Solar have been providing technical support during the installation process. This project is easily visible from several vantage points in the park and the public are encouraged to come by and check out our innovative work!



Corpsmembers at Obregon Park

- Last week, crews completed the weatherization of another home in the community of Whiteside. Corpsmembers installed windows, window glazing, weather stripping, insulation, repaired drywalls, painted the bedroom and painted the entire exterior of the house, all within seven days! The resident who is struggling with cancer was extremely grateful and impressed with the level of professionalism that our corpsmembers displayed. Great work!



Supervisor Frank Vuoso with corpsmembers from the Weatherization program

SEA Lab

In partnership with the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP), the SEA Lab unveiled a brand-new interactive kiosk this past Wednesday, August 11. This new cutting edge technology will provide an important teaching tool to educate school children and the public about restoration of our local marine life. The full press release is attached.