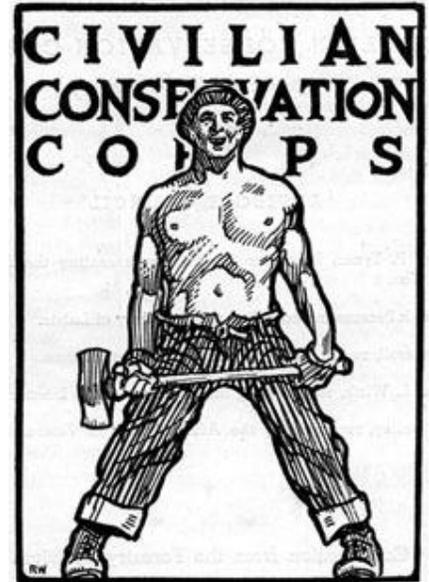


# A Brief History of CCC Camp Sacandaga

While the entire United States participated in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program, New York invested the most amounts of resources to it. This was not due to other states being less invested, but because President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (32<sup>nd</sup> President, 1933-1945) had implemented a prototype CCC program in New York during his time as its governor (1929-1932). This precursor program – the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration (TERA) – was put into effect in October 1931 and provided jobs – much like the ones that the CCC would offer – for young and unemployed men. Because of TERA, New York had the experience it needed to effectively implement a nationwide public relief program. Consequently, New York became the state with the largest amount of CCC activity: over the program's nine years, New York created 208 camps and hired a total of 220,000 men.



The first of the CCC camps in New York appeared on May 18, 1933 in Sloatsburg and Bear Mountain. Following suit, Lake Pleasant got its first camp – known as Camp S-59 or Camp 11 – on June 18, 1933 near where the Moffit Beach Campground is located today. Camp S-59 was only meant to be temporary: a fact exemplified by the its usage of tents instead of cabins. Correspondingly, it closed in November 1933 and relocated its enrollees to a more winter friendly environment slightly south of Syracuse. When the weather got nicer and the CCC considered putting a camp at Lake Speculator once again, they decided to move away from S-59's original location because it was deemed too swampy for a yearlong establishment.

In May 1934, a new camp named Camp S-90 was opened on Page Street – where Camp Sacandaga is located today – about a mile from where Camp S-59 had been located. While some of Camp S-90's buildings have been preserved, its peak years would have looked very different. Among its original structures were a gate (similar in shape and size to today's), a Flag Pole circle (which remains standing), an administration building, an officers' quarters, a forestry quarters (today's Girl's bathhouse), an infirmary, a recreation hall (which remains standing), a mess hall, a kitchen, five barracks (only one of which – Cabin 9-10 – remains standing), an educational building and library (today's dining hall and kitchen), multiple garages, a blacksmith shop, a lavatory (today's Boy's bathhouse), a pump house, an oil house, and a chlorine storage unit.

The initial intention was for Camp S-90 to house a group of 200 veterans, but the camp switched to a younger group of enrollees on October 25, 1935 because they were deemed more capable for the tasks at hand. These tasks were no different than the tasks done by other CCC camps around the nation: forest preservation, forest fire suppression, the construction of roads, parking areas, and bridges, and other such tasks. While the enrollees at Camp S-90 worked 40 hours a week, there was plenty of time for rest and leisure activities including purchasing cigarettes and soft drinks in the canteen, traversing to the movies in Gloversville on the weekends, courting young women, playing baseball, snowshoeing, and tobogganing.

Between May 24 and July 18, 1941, the camp suffered from a series of fires and, on November 1, 1941, the camp closed its doors. On February 12, 1945, the camp's buildings were transferred to the 4-H and – after the buildings considered unusable to the 4-H were sold – the 4-H camp opened with its first session in June 1945.