

Department Operations Manual (DOM)

DOM Section

15000.3 Conservation Camp Operations

The overall leadership and guidance to the camps program is provided by the Wardens of the CCC, SCC, and other Wardens whose areas of responsibility include conservation camps. The statewide program is administered through camp liaisons. The liaisons provide support services necessary for the program, develop and monitor contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department for the operation of 38 camps, and serve as the principal contact on camp program matters to other state, federal, or local government agencies, members of the legislature, special interest groups, and the general public.

Responsibilities include the regular statewide monitoring and evaluation of camp operations through the management survey process. Every other year the liaison reviews each camp to ensure it is operating in compliance with all appropriate laws, policies, procedures, and contract obligations. Camp liaisons are also responsible for implementing the statewide Camps Information Program to make the public more aware of the tax dollars saved by camp inmates through their project work, wildland fire fighting, and other emergency activities.

There are 38 camps which house, men, women and youth.

51130.1 Policy

PC 6200 and 6204 permit The Director to establish a Conservation Camp Program and to promulgate rules and regulations for the government of the Conservation Centers in the management of their affairs.

51130.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Correctional Conservation Camp Program shall be to promote the conservation of natural and human resources within the limits established by law, CCR, and the operating procedures of cooperating agencies. The Conservation Camp Program shall cooperate with other State and local agencies in a joint operation.

Inmates may be assigned to perform public conservation projects including, but not limited to, the following:

- ☐ Forest fire protection and control.
- ☐ Forest and watershed management.
- ☐ Recreational area development.
- ☐ Fish and game management.
- ☐ Soil conservation.
- ☐ Forest watershed revegetation.

51130.3 Joint Administration

The Conservation Camp Program shall be jointly administered by CDC and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF); by CDC and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LCFD); and/or with other cooperating agencies. The Director may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with public agencies for the performance of appropriate conservation projects.

51130.8 Inmate Assignment

Inmates are assigned to a camp from approved departmental lists. Selection of specific camp assignments is made on the basis of population needs and needs of the inmate, in line with departmental regulations.

The Classification Committee carefully evaluates the escape potential of inmates assigned to a camp. Inmates sometime present a different appearance when behind walls or under constant surveillance than they do in minimum custody camp surroundings. This difference often becomes apparent to the correctional camp personnel. Therefore, the correctional camp employees need to carefully study assigned inmates and return to the facility those inmates who they believe to be escape-risks. Such returned inmates should not constitute a large percentage of the camp population.

51130.12 Work Projects

Inmate work projects are planned and supervised by the cooperating agency, pursuant to PC 2780, but are approved for custodial security and safety by the Camp Commander. Work projects shall not be permitted in areas that present undue escape hazards, civilian contacts, or which cannot be subject to adequate health, safety, and security precautions.

51130.25 Community Services

Conservation Camps have always made special efforts to be good neighbors and to support local community needs. This "good neighbor policy" shall be pursued within the guidelines of the CCRs.

51130.25.1 Inmate Blood Donations

Wardens of facilities administering camps may permit the inmates to donate blood to the American Red Cross, the armed services, local blood banks, or other legitimate charitable purposes. Such drives may be permitted under the supervision of their authorized representative.

51130.25.2 Fund – Raising Campaigns

Camp inmates may participate in fund-raising campaigns in accordance with provisions of DOM 101080.

51130.25.3 Toy Repair

Inmates may donate as much of their free time as they wish, commensurate with their daily assignments, to the repair of toys for orphans or other needy children.

Materials and equipment needed to perform this service shall be from a source other than State issue. Inmates shall not supply personal material or equipment for toy repair service.

51130.25.4 Local Sports

Each camp able to provide inmate athletic competition is encouraged to engage local teams. Games shall be played on the camp recreation field only and are subject to DOM 101040.

51130.25.5 Arts and Crafts Exhibits

Camp inmates may exhibit arts and crafts work at local gatherings, fairs, and other community functions.

51130.27 Inmate Wages

To maintain uniform pay scales for inmates assigned to the Conservation Camps, the following standards have been established:

☐ The Camp Commander shall assure accuracy of inmate payrolls and establish auditing procedures to ensure inmates are paid according to their length of service, performance, and assignment.

101040.7 Conservation Camp Programs

Conservation camps shall provide recreation and physical education program opportunities for their respective inmate populations. These opportunities shall be compatible with camp operations, staffing, and the geographic location of the camp.

California Code of Regulations Title 15

3043.2. Good Conduct Credit.

(a) The award of Good Conduct Credit requires that an inmate comply with departmental regulations and local rules of the prison and perform the duties assigned on a regular and satisfactory basis.

An eligible inmate earns good conduct credits, depending on their offense as defined in section 667.5 of the penal code, they can earn one day of credit for every four days of incarceration (20%). One day of credit for every two days of incarceration (33.3%), One day of credit for every day of incarceration (50%), Two days of credit for every day of incarceration (66.6%). An inmate eligible to earn day-for-day credit (50%) who is assigned to Minimum A Custody or Minimum B Custody pursuant to section 3377.1; (B) An inmate serving a determinate sentence who is not serving a term for a violent felony as defined in subdivision (c) of section 667.5 of the Penal Code who has successfully completed the requisite physical fitness training and firefighting training to be assigned as a firefighter to a Department of Forestry and Fire Protection fire camp or as a firefighter at a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation firehouse; or An inmate serving a determinate sentence who is not serving a term for a violent felony as defined in subdivision (c) of section 667.5 of the Penal Code who is housed at a Department of Forestry and Fire Protection fire camp in a role other than firefighter.

3220.3. Conservation Camp Programs.

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Proposition 57, The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016

<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/>

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Conservation (Fire) Camps

[Conservation \(Fire\) Camps - California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#)

Inmates are paid for their work, allowing them to have some savings accrued when they are released back into the community. Because the first six months are critical to a new parolee's success, this savings can contribute to the lowering of convicts re-offending and being sent back to state prison. Most workers in camp earn \$2.67 per day. Skilled inmates (mechanics, clerks, cooks, plumbers, welders, carpenters, electricians) can earn up to \$3.56 per day. Inmate firefighters earn between \$2.90 and \$3.90 per day on regular assignments and \$1.00 per hour on emergency assignments.

MILESTONE COMPLETION CREDITS (MCC)

MCC is an existing type of credit awarded to eligible inmates (not condemned inmates, inmates serving a life sentence without possibility of parole or inmates under the three strikes law) for successful completion of approved rehabilitative or educational programs. MCC requires the mastery of understanding of specific performance measures demonstrating an understanding of course curriculum through completion of assignments, instructor evaluations and standardized testing. Inmates may have up to 12 weeks of MCC applied to reduce their sentence in a 12-month period.