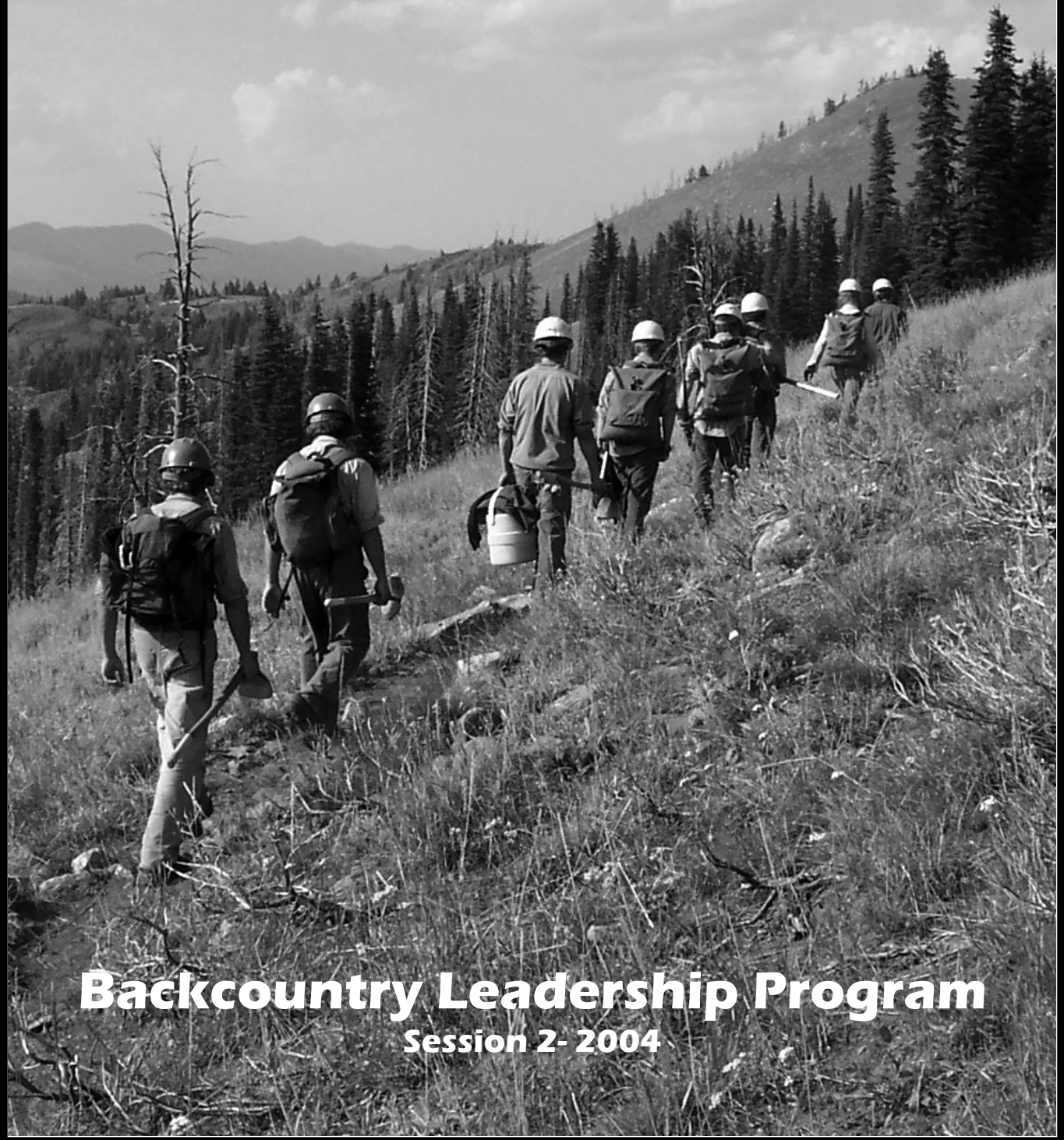




# *Crew Journal*



**Backcountry Leadership Program**  
Session 2- 2004



Well, it's that time of year here at NYC, with the final tool count completed and the vans neatly tucked into their winter parking spaces, its time to sit back, reflect on the season and start re-counting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids. This journal is a small reflection of your crew's experiences this year; footnotes, scribbled at the end of a long day by hands aching from swinging a tool. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done a safety circle at 5:30 AM, done the pushup-challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for you they are a small key to unlocking memories that will stay with you for a lifetime. And I'm not just referring to memories of smelly vans, blistered feet, and poison oak rashes. Sure that's all part of the gig; but it's the shared hardships that bring people together and forge memories of good friends, great achievements, and incredible places.

Thank you for taking on the adventure of NYC this season. With your commitment, courage and hard work NYC crews have left a lasting legacy. While you were slogging through the woods, huddling around the fire, seeking any type of moisture available, sharpening pulaskis, or finishing the last remnants of a too-large meal; up to twenty-one other crews were doing the same things across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California. The work completed by NYC crews went farther than ever before, pleased a record number of project sponsors, helped out the natural areas and communities in the Northwest, and, most importantly, . . . showed the general public that teens are responsible enough to complete a hard job with style!

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J and some good friends in your bump line. Make it happen!

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ojerio'.

Ryan Ojerio  
Program Manager



**National Forest: Payette**  
**Ranger District: Krassle**  
**Project Name: Bismark Trail**

Week 1: July 26th, 2004

Monday: Today was pretty hellish. We were packed up and continuing our hike in by 8. All sore from the 10 miles with heavy packs on Sunday. I was stumbling along pretty early, ready for even the toughest 5 miles. Turns out it was 8, and hard enough that I had to stop and rest twice in the 100 yards before camp and that was a fair representation of the last few miles. It is awesome now, though, because work seems like the easiest thing in the world, even if we could no one would quit and have to hike out. Anna C.

Tuesday: Well, well, well. Day number 1 on the job. A little rusty with the tool but it is coming back quick. Our project is clearing about a mile of trail. There are some big trees that had to go. Falling trees is fun: “crack!” (safety first), “smash”. OK that is all for now. Dinner is ready now, woo hoo!! Richard Y.

Wednesday: Our goal is to come up with many positive new NYC/BLP records as a crew and

individually. So far we're doing a great job. Finish a trail before our big re-route is on the go. Getting up at 6:00 am and starting safety circle @ 6:30-45 am. So far this is going very well. Trying our best to avoid the circle of death at dinner is good so far. To make breakfast, lunch, and dinner better than before. Each day so far were doing a good job (I think) Trying to get to know our names, ourselves more and more every second of every day of the entire session. So far spirits are high and getting higher, and a pleasure to be out this great crew to learn leadership. Sorin H.

Thursday: We learned a lot of things this week. Some things were important, like how not to get trees stuck when you cut them, and other things. Like smokeless fires and interesting facts (about) our fellow crew members. As usual, fart and poop conversations were frequent and were found humorous by all. Our spirit is all still high and we are all excited about our upcoming projects. Leif C.

Friday: Leif wants me to title this "slam dancing in the fingerling forest", but we kinda did some other stuff too. We started the reroute today, and produced some nice trail. We pushed over trees today with one hand and then we spent the rest of the day moving them out of sight from the trail. Ben discovered that he is motivated by shouting. After work we sat around for hours in amazement and wonder at the prospect of doing nothing with our time. Hence, most of us did nothing. So many adjustments have taken place this week and there are still more to come. To fill in our free time, we ate and ate and ate, and then we ended the day with a personal history from Nathan and a sunset/full moon hike for some of us. Once in a blue moon... and here we are!

**National Forest: Payette**  
**Ranger District: Krassle**  
**Project Name: Bismark Trail**

Week 2: August 2nd, 2004

Monday: Saturday got off to a slow start – we ate tasty pancakes concocted by our crew leader all morning. Most crew members chose to spend the day half-conscious, until we grudgingly assembled for some afternoon team-building. In the evening we consumed an excellent dinner and heard a personal history before retrieving. On Sunday we took a hike to our future project site with our rover Brian. In the afternoon and (in the) evening we leisurely did our chores, and finished off with Ben's fascinating personal history. Madeline W.

Tuesday: For our project this week in Idaho, we are cutting the new trail. We are also going to be clearing the old trail that we are rerouting our new trail to. The reason that we are rerouting the trail is so that people walk on the trail, rather than destroy the forest by wandering around. Nathan C.

Wednesday: This week our crew will attempt to have fun while working hard, doing 15 000 feet a day, and bonding better as a crew. But our main goal for this week is not spilling out any sweet bread. This goal is especially important to me, because I am clumsy. Plans for accom-

plishing this main goal include gravity seminars, SEEDs on pot balancing, and private lessons on walking gracefully with dutchies, not spilling any sweet bread is the key, because of our crew doesn't have sweet bread made by Anna, we will not bond as well, we will not work as well and we will definitely not have fun.      Jani R.

Thursday: Today is Wednesday, otherwise known as a "hump day", "the peak of the week", or just another day of work. After a hearty dinner last night, we all are here at Seafoam – Catt-a-Pooers headquarters were ready to rock'n'roll! So we woke up, good start, get on the clock a whole 4 minutes early! Work starts great, lunch is good. The highlight of the day was finding a super-secret, hidden trail! So, as soon as the weekend gets here, off we go exploring, to find where it goes. Maybe it will lead to a little lake, full of ice-cold water and (with) a big rope swing! That would be really cool. Well, back to work. The job for the day was to brush the next reroute. And, boy, oh boy we needed some brushing, but, being the BLP crew (that) we are, it was no sweat. We worked so hard we drank all our water. At the last break, Brian had some M&M's for a treat, so that helped a lot and tasted really good. Well, that's about it.

Richard Y.

Friday: I think our crew came together, and we inspired each other to push ourselves further this week. I felt like we'd recovered from the hike and began to really dig into our projects. Completing two reroutes was awesome... I am hoping we can carry the rhythm we got digging trail into our maintenance and brushing next week.

We definitely got to know each other well enough to get pissed off. At the same time, there are still no real conflicts, and the whole crew seems mellow enough to let the little problems slide. I like these people more and more, as we get to know each other, and that made the week pass pretty painlessly.

This is one point in 6 weeks where I am still homesick, but I am realizing people and work rock, and I'll miss all this when I am in front country. So, it's been a full week, and we're all looking forward to busting out our last reroutes and moving camp next week. I am looking forward to deserts, too.      Peace, Anna C.

**National Forest: Payette**  
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Week 3: August 9th, 2004

Monday: Our crew did many things this week that were simple. We got up @ a comfortable time, and enjoyed breakfast that our crew leaders had made. We played many games together that were a great fun!! We got to relax more. Someone shared their P.H. and we had a lot of great dinner!

Sunday we got up at 10 am and ate whatever breakfast we could find, as we try to finish this week's extra food. We did a SEED on outdoors, had a great lunch, and a great hike to a wonderful sight of mountains and more. We got back and started our chores for dinner. Everything is great and laughter is everywhere. Sorin H.

Tuesday: This week is a continuation of our mega project of trail rehab and re-routing. Every

day finds us progressively close to our next campsite @ Ramey junction. We have worked our way well over the rise of Silver Mountain, and we are currently in a rapid descent, which leads us out of the burn and back into the living forest. The re-route is well bushed, and tomorrow we cut the trail in high spirits. Brian W.

Wednesday: Today we built our third trail re-route. Ben got a sliver in his eye and started wailing like a stuck pig. Madeline reached her fingers into the white depth of Ben's eye and retrieved this sliver of wood. And suddenly the warm glow of the sun shined on us all. Then it kept shining and shining, and we all got really hot. Today was also the day that the accumulation of our stench waffled about and threatened to knock us out of our boots – not to mention attracting more monstrous, flesh – eating flies. Richard and Jani were co-leaders of the afternoon, and they did superbly.

P.S. Ben says that in all actuality he was very brave, but maybe you should talk to Mad(eline) about that. Aviva S.

Thursday: Yeeeeooooorrr!!! Ha-ha!! Welcome aboard Mateys!

It's too late now; you're along for the ride. This here is the bruised-back lady, and we're sailing along at a clipping pace. Watch your feet now – we are on the poop deck, hee – hee! We are brushing along through downed trees and puny attempts at standing conifers. That's right – our boat is on land... of trees in the ocean. In any case, they stand no chance! As we approach the midway point in our journey, spirits are high and the work beats the crap out of previous trail before us. Leif C.

Friday: I dub this week, the week of the elongated hike. 2 miles to work, even longer back. We started on our 4<sup>th</sup> re-route this week and probably the one [we] enjoyed the most.

There were yeti yells and putrid smells,  
But all was well,  
As far as I could tell.  
There was a leader of the day,  
To my dismay,  
But all turned out all right.  
The logs did drop,  
And we emptied yellow-tops,  
As we sang our merry tunes,  
And all was well, as I could tell,  
On our 4<sup>th</sup> re-route of doom. Benny G.

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Week 4: August 16th, 2004

Sunday: This Saturday was spent in the camp, leaping, doing, sewing and killing time until the packers get here. Friday we hiked up to our current camp and worked for five hours. In the five hours we built 1,400 feet of new trail. Today, on Sunday, five of us, including Molly, hiked to Club Meadows. Then we played Enemy Protector and Mafia for a while. It is raining now, which is fun, and we are cooking the last of our food.       Jani R.

Sunday continued: The packers come tomorrow (we hoped, with our resupply, which we desperately need, and our mail, which we really, really want!) Jani R.

Monday: Today the job of journal is bestowed onto me. Also, I get to be the L.O.D. for the day. And it was sure a different day for us with the moral high all weekend for the packer to bring food/mail. But, as Sunday came to an end, no packers had come. Monday is here, [we] all wake up with hope....       Richard Y.

Tuesday - ...that the packers would arrive. But on the morning check-in, the info was heard that the packers were going to be here tomorrow. That did not help make Monday go by faster. Molly and Brian made the call to go back to camp and bump camp on our own with a 2 mile both ways hike ahead of us we got going Found some rice, white sauce and flat bread to eat. Dinner is getting ready, and people are really hungry!! The crew is really looking forward to the packers coming!!       Richard Y.

Tuesday: Today I was leader of the day with Sorin... it was crazy because we had 2 tortillas each for the whole day, and it was pretty wet. Still, it was a funny day, and probably my communication with Sorin (or the lack of it) was the weakest point in our day and [in our] productivity. By the end of the day we'd split into 2 groups: one on brushing, and one for water structures, and we were all goofy as hell... then our contact came trucking up, and when Richard asked how her hike was going, etc, she said 'Aren't you hungry?' in response. Ha Ha!       Anyway, it will be heaven when the packers show tonight and we get to eat.       Anna C.

Thursday: Today Brian and Aviva were leaders of the day. Brian made up a fun new rule. Every time someone said the word 'nice', they were to turn around in circles eight times. The approved alternative was "rock-tastic". The SCA crew came through, and they joined us for lunch. Though their degree of hardcore-ness was put into question by some BLP-ers, they were nice kids, and they filtered some water for us. As of chore-time, the thunder is rolling, some crew members are trying to create a bear hang, and we are all waiting to eat a massive pot of rice.       Madeline W.

Friday: Today our crew's challenges and accomplishments were many. First of all, the packers were 3 days late, so we had to stretch out the food we had to last us for 3 days. We also hiked to our last camp to get the rest of the food and move the rest of our camp. That was both a challenge and an accomplishment. Another challenge we had was trying to conserve our energy but

also trying to work. The packers came Tuesday night, so we had food to eat. Wednesday we built 2 new re-routes. Our accomplishments and challenges were many, but our crew persevered.

Nathan C.

**National Forest: Payette**  
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Week 5: August 23rd, 2004

Monday: Today we finished our last re-route☺. But now the endless brushing begins. We finished about 28 check domes and water bars also. Our all it was a good day of work, and we busted out for 8.5 hours today. Lord Gorelock (Ben G.)

Tuesday: Last night was bitter cold, but luckily we got lots of sleep – only to wake up to more cold and wet and dark this morning. This is definitely the coldest day we’ve had so far. We’ve been working from Club Meadows back to our camp at Ramey Junction – lots of drainage and more brushing, but probably the last cross-cutting for a while. Now we are doing chores, hoping for warm food, dry clothes and lots of sleep. All is well.

Aviva S.

Wednesday: This week is the week of trail perfection. The weather sucks. So far it’s just been gray and rainy for the past couple of days. Many folks believe that fall has beset the Frank Church. Not much can get our spirits down, as dreams of pizza and ice cream float in all of our minds. We’re all anxious to return to society, but we’re still pooping along. Leif C. – poop-a-lot!

Thursday: This has been a week of learning patience and fortitude. Finishing sections of the trail takes meticulous dedication and a keen eye, coupled with settled mind. We learned how to re-evaluate our past work in order to make it better and something to be proud of. We learned how to produce large amounts of progressive additions to already solid trail in adverse conditions. We came full circle as a crew over this week. Brian W.

Friday: Some of the challenges that our crew faced this week weren’t all that many. One of them though was the snow and rain. In the morning all this week it was either overcast, raining or snowing. It was very hard to get out of our sleeping bags. We also had to deal with wet feet and wet boots. Our accomplishments this week were many. We finished our last re-route and the rest of the trail. For the rest of our time out here we are going to be doing quality control, check dams and water bars. Overall, it was a good week.

Nathan C.

**National Forest: Payette**  
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Week 6: August 30th, 2004

Monday: We all came out of our solos in a new state of mind and probably happier and more ourselves. It was hard for me to come back to people's raucousness, but we bumped out our camp and got a decent amount of work done today. So maybe missing the crew while we were alone outweighed being confused by them after we came together again. It's pretty crazy – knowing we're almost at the end of our time out here. For me at least, stressing about the hike out makes the last days of work harder and lets the sweet things about BLP matter more. We came back to our last camp at Bismark Springs today, and the minute we came over the ridge, all the awesome mountains and clouds spread out across the horizon. After 3 weeks of rain and camping in the trees, this place is ten times more amazing. Anyway, planning to "go out with a bang", as a more PMA'd members of our crew put it. Looking forward to dinner! Anna C.

Tuesday: Hello again! Today is/was the second to last day at work. We awoke to the camp that feels like home. Bismark is a very cool place. The view here is to kill for. I know I am going to miss it a lot, once back in "the real world". The work day went great!

We did more touch up work and built drainage. The moral in camp is somber, some people can't wait to see people/things they missed while out, but knowing our time together is going fast. We got good news on the raid that the packers will be here tomorrow!! YaYaYay! The hike out is going to rock! I can't wait to get some hard miles under my feet! Well, that's all for now.

"NYC-clear"                      Richard Y.

Wednesday: Our goals this week for our crew were to finish the rest of our project. Our other goal was to make the hike out in 1 day. Both of these goals were reached. We finished our project and did some Q C to make sure we got everything. We also did a rockatastic job on the hike. Overall, we did an excellent job this week.                      Nathan C.

Thursday: With Jani as our last LOD we packed up the van in Big Creek and waved goodbye to our super contact Ryan. Our first store stop was Yellow Pine and its sweet paved road, but we were all too van sick to eat much. The rest of the day was filled with roses-hot springs, grocery store, phone calls, pizza, and ICE CREAM. Our entry into society is dizzying.                      Aviva S.

Friday: On Friday we awoke to a great breakfast consisting of eggs and French toast. Brian Scott woke us up waving an old man mask. We went to McCall for the last time. Then we drove for nine-something hours. It was a long day. Ben G.

***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

*... First hike and first day told to step up. Then being LOD the next day (also most rewarding).  
Brian W.*

*Being LOD on the hike and killing myself but feeling like I really led people and carried my weight.      Leif C.*

*Hike in/Loading/Cooking;  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> hike day – Madeline W.*

*The first hike – Ben G.*

*Hike out. – Jani*

*The hike in – Aviva*

*... When the snow came – Nathan C.*

*The hike with a killer pack (2 days). - Anna*

*The hike and the rest from there was all downhill (NOT!) Sorin C. H.*

***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

*-Time with people  
-Sunrises/Sunsets  
-Nightmares      Brian W.*

*Enemy/Protector, Eating, Pooping with a good view. Leif C.*

*Love, love and love. Love, Mad*

*The Ridge, sunsets, the wolves. Ben G.  
Sunrise with my crew, mafia, and the days when I wasn't LOD. Jani*

*Sunrise at hike to work, watching shooting stars and eating good food. Aviva S.*

*Gift giving, the hike in/out, meeting new friends. Nathan C.*

*Good food, laughing @ the campfire, working hard.      Anna C.*

- The views*
- My solo*
- Actually, dinner      Sorin H.*

***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

*People. Brian W.*

*Safety circle and the dances. Leif C.*

*The fun we had as a crew, and laughing till it hurt!*

*The LOVE – Mad W.*

*Sharpening pulaskis – Ben G.*

*The shared laughter – Jani R.*

*The good times we had – Nathan C.*

*The penguin dance – Aviva S.*

*Bismark springs, views and quirky folks. – Anna C.*

*The little accomplishments of each individual and how happy and proud they felt. – Sorin H.*

***From Now On I Will Always...***

*Find time to connect with others – Brian W.*

*Respect people for who they are, not for what I think. Leif C.*

*Go into a group with an open mind. – Richard Y.*

*Stick up for myself 'cause I am Rad! – Mad W.*

*Watch my mouth – Ben G.*

*Not be afraid – Jani*

*Speak my mind! – Aviva S.*

*Have a good time - Nathan C.*

*Be sure of my outlook and value my friends and family! Anna C.*

*Be honest with myself – Sorin H.*

*At NYC I Learned...*

*How much I am like others. – Brian W.*

*Everyone's got a story; you just need to listen... Leif C.*

*Respect is the best gift to give. You guys rock! Mad*

*To keep my mouth shut. – Ben G.*

*Short hair is awesome. Jani R.*

*We are the raddest crew! – Aviva S.*

*That our crew is rock-tastic. – Nathan C.*

*How to 'fall' a tree, how to think for myself. – Anna C.*

*-There is a leader within us all*

*-One can make a difference*

*-PMA all the way*

*Sorin H.*