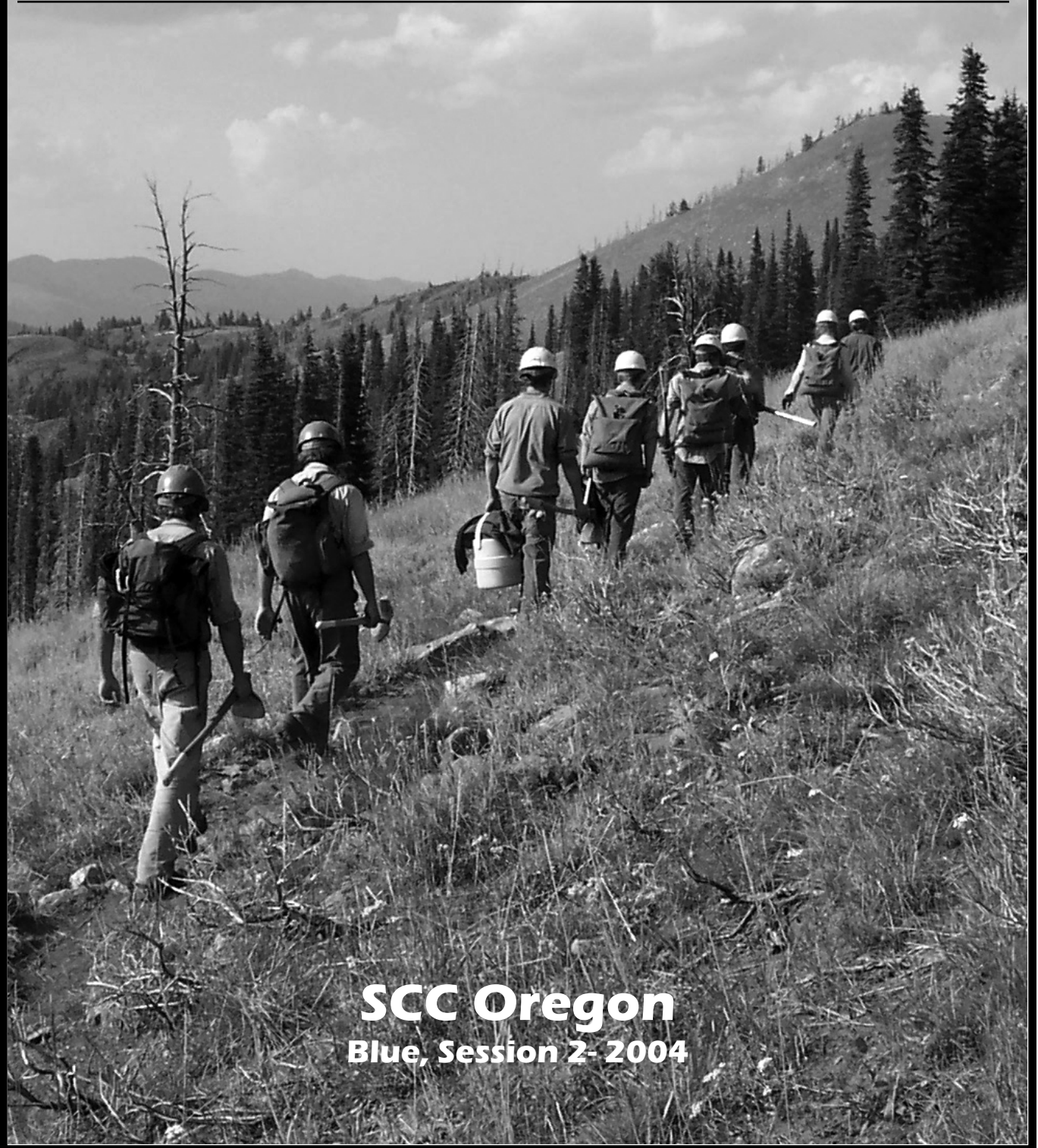




Crew Journal



SCC Oregon
Blue, 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 recounting 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 an all 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,

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua NF

Ranger District: Diamond Lake RD

Project Name- Diamond Lake Slash

Week 1: Date: July 25th

Monday: Saturday we were dropped off at 10 am. Parents stayed for a few hours then said their goodbyes and left. We were separated into groups three times. The group had ten people in them. We went to four stations three times that day. On Sunday we got up at 6 AM then had breakfast. After breakfast we packed our stuff and we were separated into our crew. Then we packed the trailer and left. Beth S.

Tuesday: The Blue Crew's project for this week is to create slash piles so the firemen can buck them this winter to keep the forest healthy and to prevent a wildfire. We also try to get as much duff into the slash piles so that the fire does not spread from slash pile to slash pile. We also cut the dead branches of the trees so that the fire from the slash piles does not catch the trees on fire which could result in a wildfire. Josh AKA Bubba

Wednesday: Our crew is awesome, blue and hardworking! I believe one of our main goals would be to of course finish our project. Nobody likes to leave work left over for other people, that's no fun! I think that we would also like to do a quality job. Nobody likes a sloppy forest, eh? All in all I think our uber-great crew will do a stupendous job! Rory M.

Thursday: Today we made slash piles. Again. This time we made them lower than before as punishment for working too hard earlier. Marta got mad at us for being sloppy, but it was okay because we got to beat the snot out of some sticks. Crewmember Geoff Simmons got speared in the neck with a stick, but survived. Geoff S.

Friday: This week our crew had to go down a steep hill. Also try to find ways to make slash piles less boring. That was some of the challenges. Waking up at 5 in the morning was a big one, too. Our biggest accomplishment was getting the job done on time. Another accomplishment for the boys in our crew was getting the tent up even if the girls had to help. I'm glad that I had the fun with my crew doing slash piles. Nathaniel R.

Week One

We are the BLUE CREW

At the end of week one.

We worked hard and thorough,

We got the job done.

We earned some money,

A few blisters and cuts

Cheryl and Marta really

Worked our butts.

Today we mingle with fellow crews

We'll relax and play and kick off our shoes.

We're headed out to Diamond Lake

To lavish ourselves in a much-needed break!

Blue Crew!

One solid group.

A diverse crew

We work together

A good ole few.

We've got Cheryl, one buff babe.

Marta for a moment we've got it made

Anna from Brooklyn with her mouthy ways

Asha, short of stature, but kick your butt she may

Rory, the comedian, to bring a good laugh.

Tuck the mandolin player who's taken many a path

Ivaly, the fiery redhead, quietly she sits

Geoff, the Irish man who's not Irish a bit.

Josh, the sportstar who is always out to play

Beth with some talents she has kept at bay

Nathaniel, the spunkmeister with a lot of PMA

Then there's me, but I'm not sure what to say.

So yeah, this is us. We do what we do

Who are we?

We're the mighty BLUE CREW!

Cary R.

National Forest: Fremont NF
Ranger District: Paisley RD
Project Name- National Recreation Trail

Week 2: Date: July 1st

Monday: This weekend we were at Diamond Lake with the other crews. We pretty much stayed in our group. We would socialize with the other people sometimes. Geoff played his guitar and played requests for people. We also played cards. We split in different groups and went to different places in the Diamond Lake area. We were in the places for a few hours. On Sunday we broke camp and went on our different ways. Beth S.

Tuesday: We are Fremont National forest where the weather never seems to stay the same. Awesome views. Our project consists of building trails for those certain hardcore hikers and horseback riders. It's tedious work which is brining all of us to the body-building physique of a professional athlete. We rain sweat and laugh deliriously. We are the Blue Crew! Cary R.

Wednesday: I'm not exactly sure what everyone's goals are, but I think we all want to work harder, but still have energy, push ourselves, figure out how to work without our backs hurting, eat tasty food, get to know each other better, sleep deep, dig high quality trail, be nice to each other, and hop into the van on Friday all in one piece, ready for some showers.

OK, here comes the space filler. My goals are also: to not rip my pants anymore, not bust the tea bag in my water bottle, not end up talking with an Irish or Canadian accent, get a bunch of sage to burn when we're not in a level 3 fire hazard zone, and kill a bunch of mosquitoes. Tuck

Thursday: Our crew learned how to build the trails and use new tools. We also learned that we can push ourselves to the limit. We learned about the plants. All in all we learned that we can do much anything if we push ourselves and just try our best at everything. Asha

Friday: In endless fields of sagebrush and unpredictable weather, the blue crew kicked off our first week of trail building and reconstruction with mixed feelings of excitement and perhaps some anxiety for those of us who had never done this before. Throughout the week and especially on the first day we were pushed hard by our crewleader and ourselves, and for some of us this was very challenging. We accomplished a lot and learned a lot as well, and have the aching backs and legs to prove it. We had the satisfaction of walking back to the van every day over the thousands of feet of trail we'd built ourselves, and looking over towering cliffs at an awe-inspiring view. From cheerleading safety circles to pushups in the middle of the night, our crew had a pretty good week. Ivaly S.

National Forest: Willamette National Forest
Ranger District – Sweet Home RD
Project Name- Chimney Peak Trail

Week 3: Date: August 8th

Monday: This weekend was parent weekend. Some parents attended. We met up with all of them around 4 or 5 pm, but before we went on rec trips to a few local areas. When the parents arrived, hello's were established, as well as a lot of catching up. WE then had a big dinner, followed shortly by cake and ice-cream provided by Tuck and I. Yumm! After a while, we said good-bye's and went to sleep!

Carey R.

Tuesday: Blue crew is stationed 2 miles into backcountry at a Hunter's camp ground. Our project consists of doing trail clean up and building water drains, so as to save the trails from flooding. We split our crew into 2 groups of six, so as to work more efficiently. I believe we did well in the sense that we all kept going. Than is on e for-sure thing we can endure!

Cary R.

Wednesday: Today we divided into two groups. Cheryl took 4 people and they began an 8 hour long trek up mountains and down, at least 7 miles in search of the mighty logs with a tent pole in one hand and grip heist in the other, and quite few other things as well, I'm told. When they finally encountered the logs, there was not enough grip hoist yellow strap things to reach around them. So the logs were left unhoisted.

In the meantime, Marta and her trusty, patient band of trail diggers powered through the trail with only one hope: to see the shining bright faces of their crewmates once again. Tuck V.

Thursday: What I thought our crew learned was how hard it is to back pack at NYC. We all overcame even when the crew couldn't always keep tools, garbage or even the pair of shoes tied. We also learned that the camp site can be found easier on a map than on a trail. Another thing I thought we learned was team work, because there were a lot of times when we had to do a lot of stuff that involved team work. Nathaniel R.

Friday: Oh, my. There aren't enough words to describe the eventful week that we all survived. Let's see, wow! What was the most challenging? Backpacking uphill with 40 or more lbs on each person's back, crossing a marshy jungle every morning and evening, hiking for over 8 miles to see a log that is impossible to hoist for the lack of proper gear or eating cold bagels with tuna for dinner? Each person felt the difficulties of the past week. Some lost their heads, some – their hopes, some= - their strength and some – even their pants, but we all worked diligently to overcome the hard moments. Without team work, without communication, and without supporting each other along the way, this project would not be a success. Hard work, however, has its advantages as well. Each night we had the pleasure of going to bed beneath the sky filled with luminous stars, we enjoyed the cheesecake the morning of Ivy's birthday and finally we all sensed that glorious feeling that so few people tend to experience – that feeling of accomplishment. Anna M.

National Forest – Willamette NF
Ranger District – Sweet Home RD
Project Name- Chimney Peak Trail

Week 4: Date: Aug. 15th

Monday: This weekend the crew went to a lake to spend some time and swim, along with a store stop. On Sunday we lost a crew member, it was hard for everyone. But before we lost her worked for a few hours and spent some time at another lake. We said our goodbyes and went back to the camp that we call home for the week. Then we ate dinner and went to bed. The weekend was now over the end. Beth S.

Tuesday: The Blue Crew's project for this week is to reconstruct one side of the swamp trail that was previously worked on by the NYC crews years ago. There is a lot of Bear grass which is very difficult to remove, root and all. Each day we have a new leader of the day. This person has many responsibilities, such as working with everyone and making sure that the chores are done and everybody is in the van by certain time. At the work site the leader has to balance the time and make sure everyone is on task. This weekend a few people decided to cut their hair. Some people were against it. Cary made Jell-O, it was cool. Everybody liked it yesterday. The boys had to clean their tent, it was fun. Dinner was awesome: tonight we had burritos with tofu burgers in them, it was good. All our day today was a good day. Josh I.

Wednesday: Today... Was Wednesday, and I just used improper grammar. We yet again worked on the Swamp Creek Trail! The name is ironic, I have yet to see a real swamp with alligators and platypuses and stuff. Maybe we can build our own swamp here. We still wouldn't have alligators and platypuses and stuff, this makes me sad. Anyway, we worked really hard today, backs were sore and sticks were left splintered in the wake of NYC's fury. I think our goal for the week should be to build a swamp! Maybe we could capture a platypus! Getting an alligator would be a toughie, however. I guess I could settle for a few lizards, but I'd still be unhappy. When I was lopping today, I accidentally cut my finger, mistaking it for a tree branch! "Silly Me!" I said, "I am bleeding profusely!" I next exclaimed. (Note: this bad grammar was indeed purposeful). However, I quickly managed to repair the damage to my finger with my tongue, before anybody noticed. And now I have a boo-boo on my finger that's bothering me (hmm... suspicious!) so I must stop writing. Bye-bye! Rory M.

Thursday: Today we maintained trail. It was good. The sun was hot. My back hurt. My back still hurts. We spent most of the day on the segment we skipped yesterday. Most people look like beavers to me. Last night at SEED we learned that drugs are a bad thing. We kicked up a bunch of dust and our boogers were large and black. Jason Warhol once knew someone who got beat up by a beaver. I got punched once and cried. Nick Salava came today, and Cheryl and he spent the WHOLE day together doing some stuff with a bridge. Nick proceeded to give us cereal, and we love him. And cereal. Cary had a talk. We fixed a drainage dip. I think we all worked hard and did a lot today and this week. Geoff S.

Friday: This week we had the luxury of a campsite right next to the road, instead of a camp only accessible by 20 of bushwhack. As much as we liked the challenge of backcountry, the working stove and shorter hikes were a welcome change. Our project was straightforward trail recon-

struction.

However, our crew faced some other challenges this week. Our first challenge, on Saturday, was Asha's leaving. We'll miss that brave little gal a lot. Apart from the sadness of a crew member leaving, we now have to cover her hours. This week, because of the over weekend, we were able to work on Sunday but next week we will be pulling 9 hour days.

Other challenges included a general slipping of manners and respect, as patience started to get stretched thin and our hard-working bodies started to hurt more. We talked about it, and now it's all at the open, so I hope we'll be able to come together for a good last week.

On the good side, our work and chores went very efficiently, so we had a lot of free time. Resulting in 5 people getting somewhat dramatic haircuts... Tuck V.

National Forest – Winema NF
Ranger District – Chemult RD
Project Name- Scott Creek CG.

Week 5: Date: Aug. 22nd

Monday: Our project this week is... unusual. We should be set to the soundtrack of that newish movie, Holes, adapted from a worthy piece of literature by Louis Sachar. I suspect none of us will ever look at a post the same way again. We are discovering the wonder and majesty of posthole diggers, or PHD's, or practically helpless devices. We are digging holes and sanding tables. Basically, we are giving Scott Creek CG a full makeover. At break, we walk 25 feet to camp, sit down at the tables and rummage through the coolers for things to eat. Can you say, "Weird project"? Tuck V.

Tuesday: Ah, what a good project we have for this week. What is better than digging holes... in the ground, lopping stuff... on a cross-country trail, sanding... half-broken picnic tables and building stairs down to a stream (yes, that's right – stairs... stream). Why do we do this, you ask? Maybe it is because campgrounds, much like people, need boundaries. Maybe it's because streams, much like apartment buildings, need stairs, or maybe we are just told to do so. Hmm... Anna M.

Wednesday: Today is the slowest day of the week, work wise, but it was fun. It all started when we switched hats. I was Geoff, and Josh was Anna, and they were us. Boss lady and Rory were each other, and then Tuck and Cary were each other. The circle team was really funny, it was Elmo. Half of us sounded like we were going through puberty. I was God, and Josh was talking about how he fated a gine. Boss lady is by the fire, sharpening a sparker, and the day was really fun. I am sad to say that the week is half [way] over and that it will be the last one for the summer SCC OR-2 crews. I'm random and I work hard.
Nathaniel R.

Thursday: The crew learned how to prepare camp site, make a stick or a pole stick out of the ground. We then learned how to do things backwards. A few of them learned how to burn food, and then how to not burn food. The week has yet to be over, and the crew has yet to learn more, but in time we will do so. We as well learned that 4 boxes of noodles is more than enough to feed the crew, and this will not be repeated in the future. I hope that at least the blue crew of 2004 will not make the mistake again. I don't think it is possible in the few days we have left. As long as we learn from our mistakes, there should not be a problem.
Beth O.

Friday: This week was pretty mellow and slow. We worked on an apparently unusual NYC job, which consisted of digging holes, shoving poles in them, pulling up fire pits and rolling rocks. Then we went back to the trail maintenance, which is where the hard part came into play. This trail maintenance was easier on the body, but most definitely not on our minds, for they were left to boredom. Our greatest accomplishment(s) was mainly just making it through the week with mostly light hearts and goodwill towards our crewmembers. We had a lot of laughs this week, which in the end has done us all some good. Ahhh! Goodbye, HAZEL happy hands, no more aching feet and HANDS! Cary R.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Trekking through Middle Santiam with hoisting gear at Salava-speed. Geoff S.

The whole week in the Santiam kinda felt like a long day. Tuck V.

... Was our fist day of work in the backcountry. Nathaniel R.

... The day Geoff, Ivaly, Anna, Cheryl and I hiked pointlessly for 7 1/2 miles or so. Cary R.

Hiking several miles only to find a massive log that couldn't be hoisted due to lack of proper gear. Anna M.

The first day! People are scary and I didn't was to be there.
Rory M.

My birthday in the middle of the week – it was an emotional day in a challenging week.
Ivaly S.

My most challenging day was the day I got stung in the eye. Beth St.

The most challenging day for me was during week three. Hiking in it was difficult because I have never hiked and it was challenging to do so with 40 or more pounds on my back.
Joshua I.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Demolishing a rotten log wit two girls and three Pulaskies, scouting Chimney Peak, finding a shanty and grip-hoisting a log on the Swamp-Peak trail.
Geoff S.

Cooking out over the winter rim of sunrise, having a trail-shredding contest with Geoff and Josh, giving Cheryl a Mohawk. Tuck V.

Using the cross cut, getting a Mohawk and doing the NYC Olympics. Nathaniel R.

Getting to know everyone the first two weeks, watching the sunrise over an enormous desert at Winter Rim, today – the end of the beginning of the rest of our lives. Cary R.

The relief of coming back from the backcountry, going on Pulaski rampage, and getting rid of the massive log, watching Geoff walk around with ripped pants. Anna M.

Doing slash piles Ninja –style, hiking into backcountry with Salava; knowing my crew! Rory M.

Chopping an entire log with Pulaski and removing it from the trail; hiking about 10 miles with Geoff, Anna, Cary and Cheryl and drinking tea every night. Ivaly S.

During the 4th week the leader spoke to me and said that I was doing a good job and [should be] pushing myself more at work and in camp. Beth St.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

That big, bright shooting star during the Aug. 12 meteor shower. Tuck V.

The friends I made who shared this adventure with me. Geoff S.

Seeing everyone who had a hard week down at the camp site. Nathaniel R.

The feelings I encountered: friendship, accomplishment, strength, pain, love anger and NO regrets. Cary R.

Sleeping under the stars and waking up in the middle of the night to find a luminous moon staring at you. Anna M.

Meeting all these crazy people here, and doing odd things with odd people. Rory M.

Tuck Vitells. Ivaly S.

I will always remember the crew and the wonderful time we shared. Beth St.

All the fun and hard work that the outdoors instilled in me. Josh I.

From Now On I Will Always...

Realize my own mental and physical potential. Geoff S.

Suspiciously evaluate the quality of trails, and do more push-ups. Tuck V.

To always push myself more than I think I can. Nathaniel R.

Disregard my first impressions of people, as well as remember to push my limits. Cary R.

Brush my teeth in the evening. Anna M.

Look at people who are car camping, and feel sorry for them, because it is kind of lame, and NYC owns them! Rory M.

Have an argumented appreciation for trails, slash piles and camp sites. Ivaly S.

From now on I will always be more confident in myself and in making friends. Beth St.

I will always push my physical and mental limitations and I will always remember everything I learned at Northwest Youth Corps.

Josh I.

At NYC I Learned...

To push myself more than my body tells me to; to realize the forte's of others, and to cook a mean tofu. Geoff S.

How to pronounce Russian middle names and how to never underestimate people. Tuck V.

To push myself, work in a fast- paced environment; leadership – Nathaniel R.

To work harder for the better of the team; instead of just for myself, and how to be more patient. Anyone can change that, it is just a matter of taking the chance! Cary R.

Patience is a virtue; people underestimate the extent to which they can push themselves; talent can be found in the strangest places. Anna M.

To realize meaning of things that I normally wouldn't spend time looking into.

Rory M.

...that I am stronger than I often think. Ivaly S.

At NYC I learned how to be a leader and a team player. Beth St.

AT NYC I learned how to tie knots and do other important things, such as iodizing; how to build a fence. Josh I.

