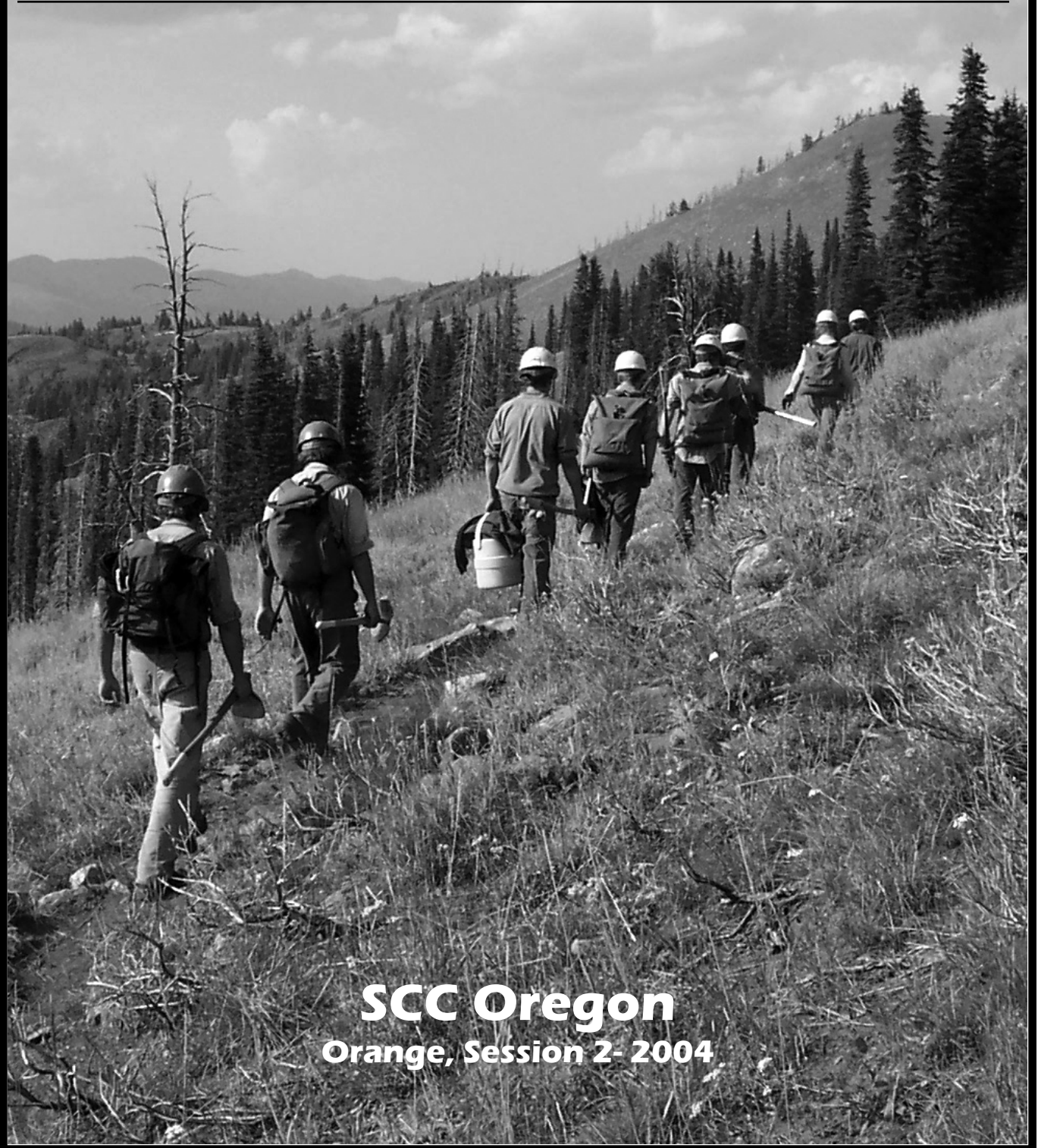




# Crew Journal



**SCC Oregon**  
**Orange, 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: Winema  
Ranger District: Chemult  
Project Name- Maidu Lake Trail**

Week 1: Date: July 25<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Today, I and my crew hiked up a mountain and it was about 2.5 miles. Today my crew and I dug 4 trenches and cleaned up the trenches. The other people are doing chores. And I am stuck writing this. Did I mention that we had to get up at 5:40 am but I had to get up at 5:25 am so I could make breakfast. There is another name for trenches, it is dips. The think I learned today was that I learned the meaning of good/hard labor. Anthony S.

Tuesday: Our project is trail keeping and fixing ditches. We hiked the same mountain as yesterday. We finished drainage dips. Jason, Nick and I chopped a tree down after the rest of the crew went to camp. I think it was worth staying to chop for fun. Dinner tonight is turkey soup and potatoes. I got to make breakfast. Jay L.

Wednesday: Today was slow at first but as the morning went on, this smoothed out. We started the last touchups and last minute jobs. This day was hump day so everyone was working hard and cleaning. We all had sadness in us, because a crewmember left today, Anthony. Our meals today were cream cheese with bread, lunch was meat sandwiches, and dinner is lots of meat.

We started on a new trail, much closer to our campground. Everyone here is having a great time and enjoying each other. Today was great! Santosh

Thursday: I personally believe that our crew learned to work cooperatively together and communicate to one another. Another thing we learned how to efficiently use our tools provided for us to do our daily tasks. Also we learned how to do some of our tasks and most of us have mastered quite a few of them. Audie R.

Friday: This week was great, even though we lost a crewmember. The work was easier for some than others, but we all did our best. Waking up early to work eight hours has taken some getting used to, mostly hiking to the work site. Orange crew seems to be growing stronger every day. Today we got to wash our laundry and take showers. It feels great to be clean and relaxing at the first weekend site. No telling what tomorrow will bring.

**National Forest: Fremont NF**  
**Ranger District: Paisley RD**  
**Project Name- Cache Cabin Trail**

Week 2: Date: Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Today is the first day of week two. It came as a surprise when two crewmembers got fired this morning. They will be missed, but rules are rules. Orange crew is down to eight members, but we'll make it. We're having macaroni and cheese for dinner with tomatoes. I think we're all looking forward to putting in a full days' work tomorrow in the Fremont Nat'l. Forest. OC!  
Jesse

Monday: This weekend our crew did many things. We got our replacement and I think he will be a strong worker. Justin and Brandon left as well. They were fired for disrespect. We arrived first, despite being 1 hour late. Thus, we cooked dinner on Friday. Our crew split up for the rec trips, but we all came back with good stories. Everyone got to sleep in on Saturday. We drove on Sunday. Hunter C.

Tuesday: This week we are maintaining a trail built by an NYC crew ten years ago. When we have completed said assignment, we will be building a new trail of our own.

Nick came to visit our humble home and joined us for dinner. Unfortunately, he was the only person who could concentrate on his food, because everyone else was staring at his out-of-control white-fro the entire time. Collin

Wednesday: Our main goal for the week is to complete the trail that we are creating. This could present a problem, because as yet our trail has no definite ending.

Other goals of our crew include:

- to make it (Hunter)
- finish trail (Jay)
- to prevent feet from suffocation from stink (Matt)
- not going insane (Santosh)

Note: We got to sleep in an extra half hour this morning. Collin

Thursday: The most significant thing I believe we learned this week was how to construct a new trail. We brushed off Campbell Rim trail and dug a whole 1/3 mile of topline while prying out massive rocks that would bar a relaxing trail. Other things our crew learned this week were:

- how to save someone if injured (Jaydog)
- how to make topline (Audog)
- learned his ABC's (hint hint) (Hunt dog)
- elevation can make you feel goofy (Wesdog)

And me? Well . . . Santosh taught me the ways of fine lasagna creation. Mattdog

Friday: The single most daunting challenge for orange crew was the repeated error of missing essential components of the shotgun bag. Tuesday and Thursday we learned the painful way of not having enough fuel to power us through our laborious endeavors. Our accomplishment, besides constructing a new and eye-pleasing trail, was lasting through our dullness and occasional hilarity that resulted from lack of cookies and gorp. Another minor challenge was the new 9 hour schedule but the extra compensation helped lift our burden. Matt

**National Forest: Willamette NF**  
**Ranger District: Middlefork RD**  
**Project Name- Sawtooth Trail**

Week 3: Date: Aug 5<sup>th</sup>.

Monday: At first tool count, Santosh and Hunter were playing their own world with catapult and alligators and enemy races. Jay

Tuesday: Today I made breakfast. We walked about 2 miles. Then we started work! It was trail maintenance. After that and tool count Nick materialized. He helped bust out trail! It was flowed. Lunch was tasty. I helped with it! Elyse got a migraine and took a break. We stopped early. Hunter C.

Wednesday: Shawn made breakfast this morning. We had cream cheese and cheesecake. We start safe circle at 5:30. The hike was fast and clean. We worked like crazy until tool counts. The lunch and we had PJ. We started the hike back about 4:00. We did all that we needed to do. Today was our first day with our newest crew worker. He had a great time. Dinner was all kinds of stuff mixed into one. Sean

Wednesday: Indigo Lake. Rock-slides at night. No mosquitoes. Hump-of-de-hump day. We're a full crew again, 10 strong. Lots of hiking miles, lots of work miles. Miles to go still . . . Come what may! Fooo! Bazooka Jane

Thursday: Jay made breakfast this morning, all he really did was make the milk and get out the cereal. We started safety circle at 6:01. We were 1 min. late so we did 20 pushups. The hike went pretty fast considering many of us weren't feeling very good from the dinner last night. We also got a lot of work done even with 2 crewmembers leaving half way through the day. We managed to leave the shot-bun behind in the morning so Colin and Hunter went back and got it. We got in a 9-hour day and we are all tired and we left the shot-gun up there. Josh S.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette**  
**Ranger District: Middle Fork RD**  
**Project Name- Windy Pass/Indigo**

Week 4: Date

Monday: This last weekend Friday night, we ate ice cream, started to drive to our next weekend site and the van leaked out transmission fluid and could not go any farther, so we set up camp across the road and stayed the night. In the morning, Elyse went for several hours and came back with another van. Next we packed up and drove to our weekend site and then set up camp. Audie R.

Tuesday: This week we are doing trail maintenance. It is a backcountry project. We hiked 2 miles in. Every day we hike to work. What can I say? It is a most pleasing experience. The feeling exhilarates me! There is truly nothing like it. The fun doesn't stop there of course. There is no limit to the cutbank we can quite simply say, cut. Rather I would do that then swim in a thousand pools of Jell-O!

By Big Foot we are chased into the deep forest. Our heart is pounding with redemption, as we gladly run. We run into Robin Hood and ??? They swept us off our feet with great, great, great handfuls of joy. And its only day two! Upon returning to our camp we found out that frogs with shotguns have enclosed our camp in ukuleles. I felt emotionally constipated from severe lack of corn chunks. It was an epic battle, on the verge of our decent ???.

Wednesday: This week is going by fast like Monday or Tuesday. It didn't seem like we work a 9-hour day. We had worked pretty far on the trail and our soul is made to camp by Friday. I think we are not going to make it to camp by Friday, but that is my thought. Wesley D.

Thursday: We learned how to deal with a conflict between 2 people on the trail. We also learned how to be good in backcountry. And we probably won't get pizza.

Friday: The arrival of week four brought a powerful energy to our crew. I believe that knowing that we were over the hump and quickly moving towards the light at the end of session allowed good spirit to enhance our work ethic. Monday and Tuesday were satisfied with many feet of completed trail, yet Wednesday boasted 2200 feet of refined dirt heading ever closer to our camp site. This was also the week where crew members were given the shoes of our crew leader and got to experience what it truly is like to lead an arduous platoon of adolescents throughout the work day. Collin, Audie, Lesse, Jay and Yours Truly were handed the crown and did a fine job of commanding. However, conflict arose on Thursday that could have potentially torn apart our steady crew. One unintentionally hurt the other, and both of them almost came to blows. On order from Elyse, the day was stopped early, so that the team could climb on impressive hill. Its view displayed distant mountains and Jaw tooth towering over the Indigo Lake. I believe we were just being taken up for the view, but I was unaware of what was taking place. SEED was commenced and everyone laid their conflicts out on the table. I believe it made our crew stronger and brought us closer together, then ever before. Friday was a 3 hour work day, and I held the reins of leadership shorter than anyone else, but we still got a sufficient amount done, if I do say so myself. M.S.

**National Forest: Fremont NF**  
**Ranger District: Paisley RD**  
**Project Name- Cache Cabin**

Week 5: Date: Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Monday: Today Hunter was the leader. The moving started OK. We were on the clock at 6:15. We had a nice, long hike to the work site. We had a 9 hour day. [Then] we came back and started dinner. We had beans. Then there was SEED. We learned about civic action. Shawn R.

Tuesday: Today was a good day. Things started off seemingly slow, but sped up later on. Shawn was our crew leader for the day. He was an OK leader, but I felt he was lacking in some areas. Later on in the day Shawn didn't give me credit for a story that he and I wrote. We (Orange Crew) have only two days left. We all hope to see Avdi at the graduation. Hunter C.

Wednesday: Today started pretty early. We were able to get out of camp earlier than on Monday or Tuesday. I was the leader of the day today, and up until now everything has gone off without a hitch. Elyse said we got more that 2000 feet of trail done. I woke up around 2:15 this morning, Yumm.

Thursday: This week the group learned how it is to be a boss for the Day or to be bossed around by another peer, which is very important. We started off our last day by me waking them up 1 hour early, at 4:00 am. Then they went back to sleep and woke up again at 5:00. We started out at 6:00 – thanks God! The day was awesome, with lots of laughs and good memories to remember. Scott S.

Friday: Today we drove. We drove and drove and drove. And we drove and drove and drove. In between driving, we skipped stones and bought burritos. Upon arrival we cleaned. We cleaned BIG! We cleaned BIG and ate BIG, and we slept under a BIG, partly cloudy sky.

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

The first day of work with my blisters. Jay L.

The first day of backcountry while backpacking in with too much weight. Josh S.

What he [Josh Smith] said. Matt S.

The hike out, Wednesday of week 2. Hunter C.

Hiking in the first day of backcountry. Jesse T.

Going backcountry. Shawn R.

I would say backcountry. Wesley D.

The last, because I was the leader. Scott

Carrying the Dutchy into our backcountry site. Collin

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

Meeting my crew for the first time, the first shower and the last day of work. Jay L.

All the great conversations with my crew members, smelling the ponderosa for the first time, and sleeping in the woods. Josh S.

Figuring out the challenge behind the anti-gravity stick, eating the kielbasa sausage for dinner, and plunging into the lava caves. Mat S.

Breaking down, swimming at Indigo Lake, 8 hour road trip. Hunter C.

Having the van break down in the middle of nowhere on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Eating a cricket, swimming in chlorine-free water. Jesse T.

Eating my food, running around in the woods, and smelling really bad. Wesley D.

Camping on the side of the road when our first van broke down, and waking up every half hour to find myself outside the tent because the ground was so steep. Arriving at our private lake during the second backcountry week, working on the trail with such great people that I forgot about everything else. Collin

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

Oh-wha! Tofu! Oosh-koshka. Jay L.

Super coodoo!! And, of course, carebear, and the ponderosa trees. Josh S.

The girlish cries of the all-male crew, as hail slid down our shirts. Matt S.

Going backcountry Hunter C.

The entire NYC experience, the group fun and hard work.  
Shawn R.

Last work site, [when it was] raining and Shawn was running around in his Long Jones.  
Wesley E.

Hiking up the Campbell Rim Trail as the sun rose. Collin

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

Pick gravel off the ground and throw it away. Jay L.

I don't think I'll be able to sleep past 5:30 again. Josh S.

Trip on flat surfaces because I am so used to stepping around rocks. Matt S.

Study trail with INTENSITY. Hunter C.

Work hard on everything I do. Jesse T.

Try to keep my cute fingers warm. Shawn R.

Work until it is done. Wesley D.

Protect the environment

Think about the consequences of my actions before I act. Collin

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

Lots of trail ling, how to sharpen an axe by hand, and how to set up a white wall and tack it down. Jay L.

I learned a lot about trail, learned how to set up 2 white walls in 5 minutes, and I learned a lot of things about myself that I never knew. Josh S.

Everything to know about trail maintenance, learning how to cook Alfredo sauce and making a trucker's hitch. Matt S.

Forest succession, what Guardia is and what dehydration is. Hunter C.

I can wake up at 5 am to work 9 hours; how to cook edible food; how to be happy with dirty socks and blisters. Jesse T.

I am a person that needs the city; people lives and the ways of living, and trail work is OK.

How to use a saw and a razorblade. Wesley D.

\*Dips

\*Fires

\*Safety

Scott Smith

I learned that it is possible to work hard and enjoy it. Collin

