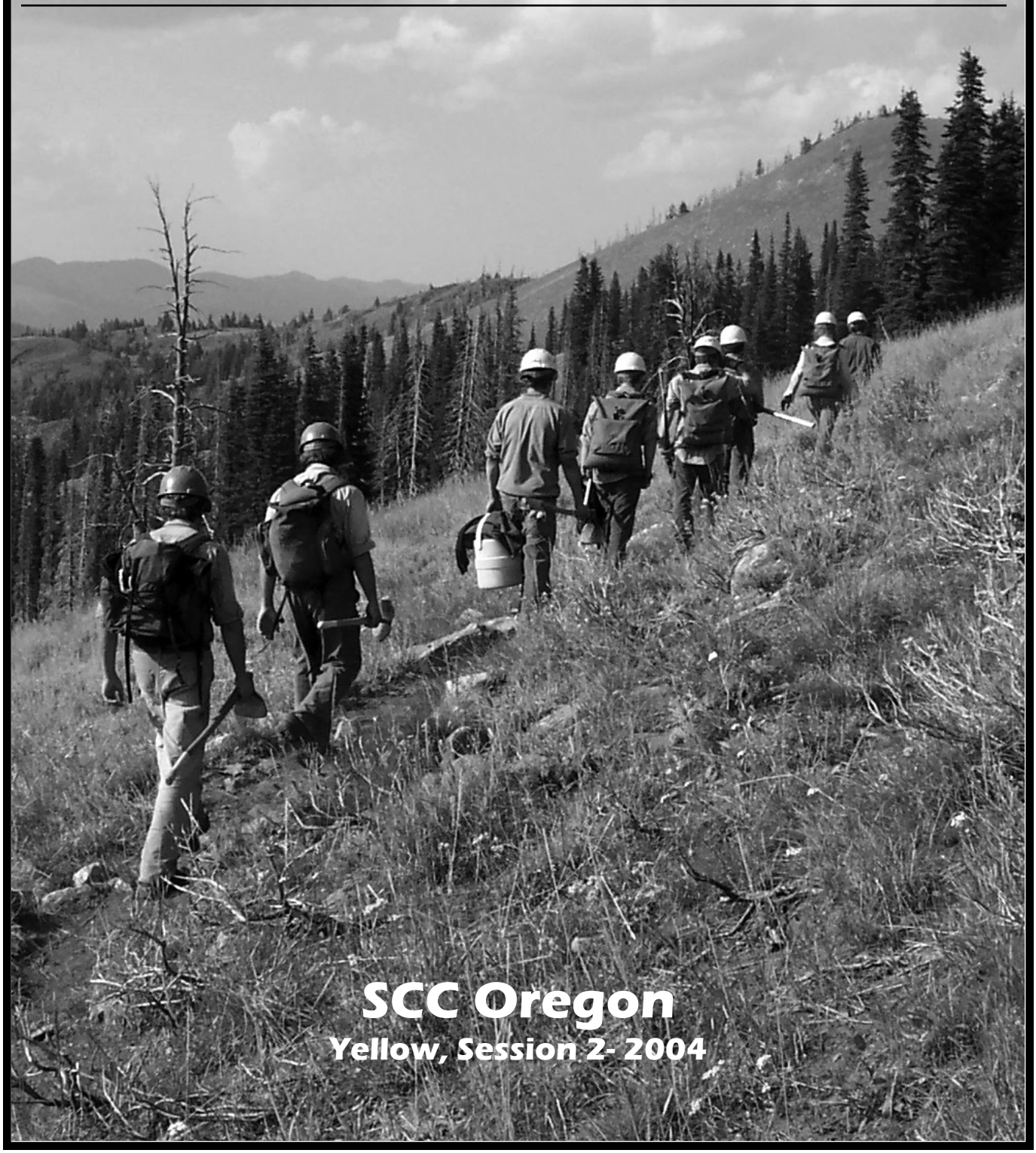
NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

Crew Journal



SCC Oregon

Yellow, 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: Fremont NF
Ranger District: Paisley RD
Project Name- Cache Cabin

Week 1: Date: July 25th

Monday: Seeing as how this weekend was really hectic and fast-paced, it was hard to some to comprehend what all was going on. After a long 5.5 hour drive we finally made it to our camp. Only to get poured on by sheets of rain. Along with some lightening and thunder we were introduced to the wonderful world of lightening drills. There is nothing like sitting in the rain on our sleeping mats for 30 min. And then there was the wonderful adventure of digging ditches around the tents. All in all, I think we've started out good. Sarah R.

Tuesday: Today we cleared more trails on the Dead Horse Lake Trail. We made it to the one-mile mark and then some. We all worked as a team and so much work done I was so happy to make it to the mile mark. Nikki S.

Wednesday: Our crew is suffering with tiredness and pain, so our goal is to make it through the week. Possibly we can finish early. We still have a lot of trail to make, but I know we'll try our hardest and make it through the week. Our crew's goal is to not give up. We're trying to get enough sleep. We are trying to hold peace. Chelsey S.

Thursday: Today seemed like the first day we were plastered to our beds. The entire crew woke up 10 minutes early to duct tape our blistered feet. Because our worksite was so far, we

eagerly piled into the "Tiki" our van, to the trailhead near our worksite. For seven short hours we hiked and worked our shortest day yet. Despite some arguments and misunderstandings, most of us enjoyed ourselves. At the end of the day we treated ourselves to our first swim in the Dead Horse Lake. One day left! Erica K.

Friday: I think our crew has had many challenges and accomplishments this week. We had a good hike up to our work spot every day, and that was definitely a challenge, and an accomplishment. By the last day, we were bombing butt up the trail. We also started off the first few days with 9-hour work days. All in all we got together pretty well, but getting to know everyone was a small challenge, but a huge accomplishment.

National Forest: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Project Name- Timpanogas Payco 2003

Week 2: Date: Aug. 2nd
Monday: We went to the weekend site, ate beans and other things for dinner. We did Saturday circle, played some games next day was the same except for the circle and we talked and presented awards. Then we packed up and headed to Indigo Lake. We drove for 2 ½ hours, got there, loaded backpacks, hiked up the trail then we set up camp. Thomas

Tuesday: We are at the Indigo Lake Campground. Today we hiked four miles to our job site and we finished the trailhead we worked on yesterday. The trail we've been working on is the Sawtooth Trail which combines with the Windy Pass trail to form a large loop in this forest. Ray

Wednesday: Our goal for the week is to do at least 1.7 miles of trail, which was completed today. Since we are on backcountry, we are all a little crabby and our buttons get pushed very easily. I'd have to say that one of our goals is to stay calm, and sane. So far, we're doing okay. We only have two more work days here, and a lot more trail to work on. Joey

Thursday: We learned about how to work through the crazy times by taking a few alone moments and just pushing ourselves hard physically. We also learned how to semi-tolerate lots of mosquitoes. Camping at Indigo Lake was like waking up in paradise as the crystal blue water gave way to the majestic Sawtooth Mtn. that we hiked every day.

Friday: Yellow crew did backcountry this week. We were challenged by swarms of bloodthirsty mosquitoes and venomous bees. We had to walk in two miles to our camp and 4 miles to the worksite. Frustrations ran wild and we all went a little crazy. We accomplished all of the working miles and hours we needed to satisfy our working skills. We survived backcountry I think with flying colors and a sense of pride. Since we finished this week's obstacle we can defeat and finish anything. Jacqueline W.

National Forest–Freemont
Ranger District – Silver Lake
Project Name- National Recreational Trail

Week 3: Date: Aug. 8th

Sunday: After two weeks of isolation in the wilderness, crewmembers got to see their parents. It was very exciting and emotional. We had a feast of lasagna and salad. Then we celebrated a crew member's birthday with ice cream and cake. We all got to meet everyone's parents, then we had Saturday circle. We discussed our goals and accomplishments, and then went to bed. In the morning we had breakfast, then we received camp awards and the yellow crew won two out of three awards: The Golden Skillet and the Gonzo Award. We came close to winning all three awards. All crews then left to their final destinations for the next two weeks. Andrew

Monday: Today we woke up; some of us were mad and unhappy. But we still work and one of us got to take [time] offs the clock. Couple of us got bit by bugs. Several crew members got punished by the misery whip, while others slaved in the hot sun dodging cow paddies. We love the Fremont! Especially the glorious view of the Winter Rim all the way to Utah. Joey and Kat E C.

Tuesday: We are in the Fremont National Forest, Silver Lake Ranger District. We are presently rebuilding a new horse – hiking trail. The original trail was burned in fire in 2002. Therefore, new trail was a necessity. Dehydration is a problem wit the low humidity and high temperatures, so a lot of water must be drunk. This project is gonna be a hardcore experience. Jacqueline W.

Wednesday: Today a second member of Yellow Crew has left the group. Down two, our crew has to make up all their hours. Tomorrow morning she will be taken to a clinic in Bend for more advanced medical treatment. This week our crew will strive to maintain a 440-hour work week. Erica K.

Thursday: This week our crew learned to stick together as one. We also learned to stand the desert heat, with the blistering sun. Our big losses will not stop us from finishing our jobs. Chelsy S.

Friday: Today our crew fixed up some old trails on Winter Rim. Although our crew has lost two crew members and one of our crew members can't work, we have done a lot of trail maintenance. Earlier in the week we constructed a lot of new trail, which has been really good. Although our crew has not made our hours, we have done really well.
Nikki S.

National Forest: Fremont NF
Ranger District: Silver Lake
Project Name- Winter Rim, NRT

Week 4: Date: Aug. 15th

Sunday: Today our crew fixed up some more trails. We worked 6 hours today because we didn't make our hours, which is all right. On the other hand, we fixed up a lot of trail today, and everyone did a good job.

Monday: We all got to sleep in this weekend! Then we had a giant French toast breakfast and lounged about until it was time to head to Ana Reservoir for a much anticipated swimming and fishing trip. After a glorious stir-fry, we proceeded to stuff ourselves with homemade pie from the Silver Lake Café in honor of Mystery Madness and Hump Week. Kat C.

We have Ben and me working on the trail, and we all have just completed one trail. I guess that Jade and I are done, but I love her even more, and I have more respect for her. I also respect my parents, but in the end it is all good.

Tuesday: We are working at the same place as last week. We are out winter rim, building new trail. We have built over a mile of trail. Since last week we are working very hard and plan to build a whole lot more.

Wednesday: Today we all got the chance to work on sawing- with a total of 56 logs down in the trail there was plenty to keep us random. Hopefully tomorrow we'll finish. Andrew was our leader of the day and he did really well. This weekend we'll finally get to go to a weekend site and see friends from other crews. The two new crew members (Alex and Ben) are fitting in quite nicely. Tomorrow there is a talk of going swimming. On Tuesday our sponsor came and taught us SEED. WE'VE all come to really appreciate him. Sarah R.

Thursday: Tomas was our L. O. D. of the day. The alarm clock was set for 10:30, so we woke up at 10 after 5. We were woken up by a chain saw, thanks to Jason. On the trail we fought over acronyms, talked about those good old shows we used to watch as knee high brats, and talked about random facts. We went swimming, got water and came back. It was a rather typical day with NYC. Ben H.

Friday: We had to finish the Winter Rim trail about 2 miles. We had a challenge of staying calm and off each other's backs. This tested the patience of almost everyone in the crew. Today was a relief for all of us to finish the trail we've been working on for two weeks. We also got to check out the neat monument near the trail. Our sponsor told us all about it. His name is Doug, and he's a really cool guy.

Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg BLM
Project Name- Mill Pond Trail

Week 5: Date: Aug. 22nd

Monday: This weekend was our last weekend at NYC. We all went on our rec. trips. Blue crew won most of the awards. We did Olympics and a talent show. It was a good load of fun. Camp was set up at Pringle falls; orange crew cooked a good dinner of BBQ chicken. After that we packed up and headed off to our last week of work. Ben H.

Tuesday: We are currently working on a trail at Mill Pond Recreational site. This week we are actually faced with building small but strong, necessary bridges. It's pretty much been raining constantly, but today we were blessed with just clouds. We've been leveling out gravel and watching our crew leader and Rover work the tractors. Joe and Nick have come to help us. This is our last week at NYC, hopefully in will be our best one. Jacqueline W.

Wednesday: Our goal this week is to complete most of the trail, but leave some for some of the volunteers for national trail day. It was nice to finish a bridge and culvert. By far we have mostly reached our goals. We have completed most of the trail. Our main goal is to just get through this last week alive. So far - so good.

Thursday: We learned how to do a variety of stuff, such as how to build a bridge, culvert and turnpikes. We also learned how to be harder workers and how to fully spread gravel. We learned to work together and to stick together.

Friday: As I sit here in the back of the good ole van #22, it finally hits me that our journey is over. We've became the yellow crew during these last five weeks. But tomorrow we all go our separate ways. Even though half the crew is asleep as we travel to big clean, I know we all must be thinking the same thing. Whoa, our five weeks are up, no more barely-morning wake-ups, no more van rides, and on Mondays we don't have to go back to work. Of course, we are all excited but this truly means the end of our journey. We came together as ten strangers but now after losing three and gaining only two we've all become a family. There past five weeks have taught us about ourselves, but also about each other. And of course, we will always have those things that we remember about each other. I know that after all is said and done, and I go home, I'll miss each and every one for something they each did. Our crew has been through so much hardship, and yet we hold our heads up high and keep going. We all thought the wee we did backcountry would be our hardest week, but we all learned that it was the week to follow that was truly the hardest. But now, with our heads held high the yellow crew comes out victorious over every obstacle that could possibly be thrown at us. So, off to the big clean we go, full of newly found knowledge that we gained through this experience. So, as I close this final journal entry, I would like to thank all members of this yellow crew, for giving me yet another truly amazing NYC experience. I would especially like to thank our crew leader Kat. Over there past five weeks she has put up with so much and has stayed so strong for our entire crew. And we'll always remember the day we backpacked into Indigo Lake. As the yellow crew likes to say, "Let's keep on keepin' on". Sarah R.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was…

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day because I wanted to go home so bad. I am glad I made it this far and I love it here. Nikki S.

My most challenging day was backpacking for backcountry. I tried my hardest and I made it. This is definitely a very good experience. Thomas C.

My most challenging day at NYC was when I was moving big huge logs with Nick. It was hard but it was also the funniest. Jade M.

My most challenging day at NYC would have been the day I backpacked the water in a six gallon approx. 4 miles to work. But it was worth it and now I know how far I can really push myself. Sarah R.

My most challenging day <u>will</u> be the last day when Sarah will have to go to California for school. That will be a pretty challenging day. Ben H.

… Working in the rain and in the heat for a day, plus waking up at 5:00 am. Andrew H.

The day I was the crew leader was challenging. I had to get on everyone's case and make them work. Jacqueline W.

How to wake up at 5:00 in the morning. Andrew H.

The most challenging days were when we lost 3 members 3 days in a row. When Joey left was the hardest day of all. All this time it has been a challenge to stay healthy. Chelsy S.

The last days and the last week, I got homesick and I got my best friend homesick too. All together, I want to see my room and my cat. Alex

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were…

When we were in the van on the first day, talking to everyone; the week at the Dead Horse Lake. And today was a good day. Nikki S.

My first favorite experience was playing at the waterfall in Proxy falls. 2nd would be swimming in the Cactus Lake, and my 3rd was taking a hot shower. Thomas C.

Going to Crater Lake with a lot of people from my crew, the camp, the fires at backcountry weekends, and hiking in backcountry. Jade M.

The first would be Jeremy and his bongo drums with the yellow top. The second would be going to Indigo Lake. And the third would be the van rides. Sarah R.

My three favorite NYC experiences were, I would say, riding in the vans. They are a lot of fun. Then, meeting people that I care about. My meeting with the yellow crew. Ben H.

More friends; meet new people and have fun. Alex O.

Living in the forest for 5 weeks and not being able to shower for 5 weeks. Also, cooking in the forest for 5 weeks, sharpen tools and clean stuff (like coolers). Andrew H.

One: I learned how to read compass. Two: I made a boyfriend. Three: I stood underneath the waterfall. Jacqueline W.

My most favorite experience was laying in a pile of gravel in the dark with the stars and the moon. On the first week site, talking to Kat E. Coons. Another experience was talking to Jade on our secret log during 3rd week and 4th week. Chelsy S.

One Thing I Will Always Remember…

All of the people on my crew, all the things I learned, my friends Jade, Chelsy and many other people in my crew. Nikki S.

One thing I will always remember is the trail work. Setting the top line, taking out vegetation, smoothing out the trail, cross cutting and removing the broom. Thomas C.

The people on my crew, the trip to Crater Lake with my friends and Nick singing June says. Jade M.

I will always remember how tight yellow crew got and how fast, and the great long talks with Kat E. Coons. Especially with Jade, my babe! Chelsy S.

NYC has instilled so many memories in me. The ones that stick out the most would be the times I spent with my crew. They day that Ben and Alex came, and the days that followed. And, of course, hanging out with Pete singing along to his guitar. Sara R.

One thing I will always remember from NYC is my meeting Sarah. She is a great person that I care about a whole lot. Ben H.

It is all the new friends that I meet here at NYC, plus looking and feeling that "I did this, I did that work". That I had to go to the bathroom at night. Andrew H..

I can do anything if I put my mind to it, no matter how hard it is or how much I don't want to do it. I will try. Jacqueline W.

No bathroom, no bedroom, no paper, no car, no hamsters, no meds, no friends, but it is all good. Alex

From Now On I Will Always…

Be better at taking care of the trails I walk on. When I go camping I will be better at not making a big mess on the camp site. Nikki S.

From now on, when I am walking on a trail I will see things that need to be corrected and things that could be fixed. I might even find myself working on the trail. Thomas C.

I will always respect my family for being there, just there. I will respect warmth, a nice bed, and I will respect the earth. Jade M.

From now on I will always learn to hold my tongue, control my anger, be polite, try my hardest at work and look at things in a better light. [I will] not judge people before I really get to know them. Ben H.

From now on I will always remember to not take things for granted, to have a PMA and also to look for the better in people. Sarah R.

…work harder in my life and also be able to do something with my life. Andrew H.

Be nice every day – by Alex O.

Respect my friends, family and others. Andrew H.

Eat all the food on my plate, respect all of my elders and have patience, even when it is hard. Do my chores, even for no money. Jacqueline W.

From now on I will always love the outdoors more and appreciate my surroundings. I will also connect with my peers better after this experience. I have learned to appreciate my young adult mentors and leaders. Chelsy S.

At NYC I Learned…

I learned lots of things about everyone on my crew members and about plants and things. It has been so good here. Nikki S.

At NYC I learned how to work very hard all day long. I learned how to cook well in the Dutch oven. I also learned to think better of myself. Thomas C.

I learned a lot more about how to be safe in the environment both ways. I learned how to accept people for who they are. I learned that most of the time you always relate to someone. Jade M.

I can push myself further than I thought. [I learned] how to successfully cross cut. I also learned that the Fremont is more than just some dry shrubs. Sarah R.

At NYC I learned that I can get very angry at small things, and can work pretty hard when I want to, and enhance my knowledge on spreading rocks. Ben H.

How to work very hard and to live in the forest for 5 weeks. Andrew H.

I can hold my anger. Other peoples' needs come first. I cannot litter or mess up nature. Living with 12 people is hard. Jacqueline W.

How to live with 11 people for 5 weeks. Andrew H.

I learned that I can be an OK leader for my peers. Most of all, I can do without drugs for 5 weeks. I learned that I am stronger that I thought. Chelsy S.