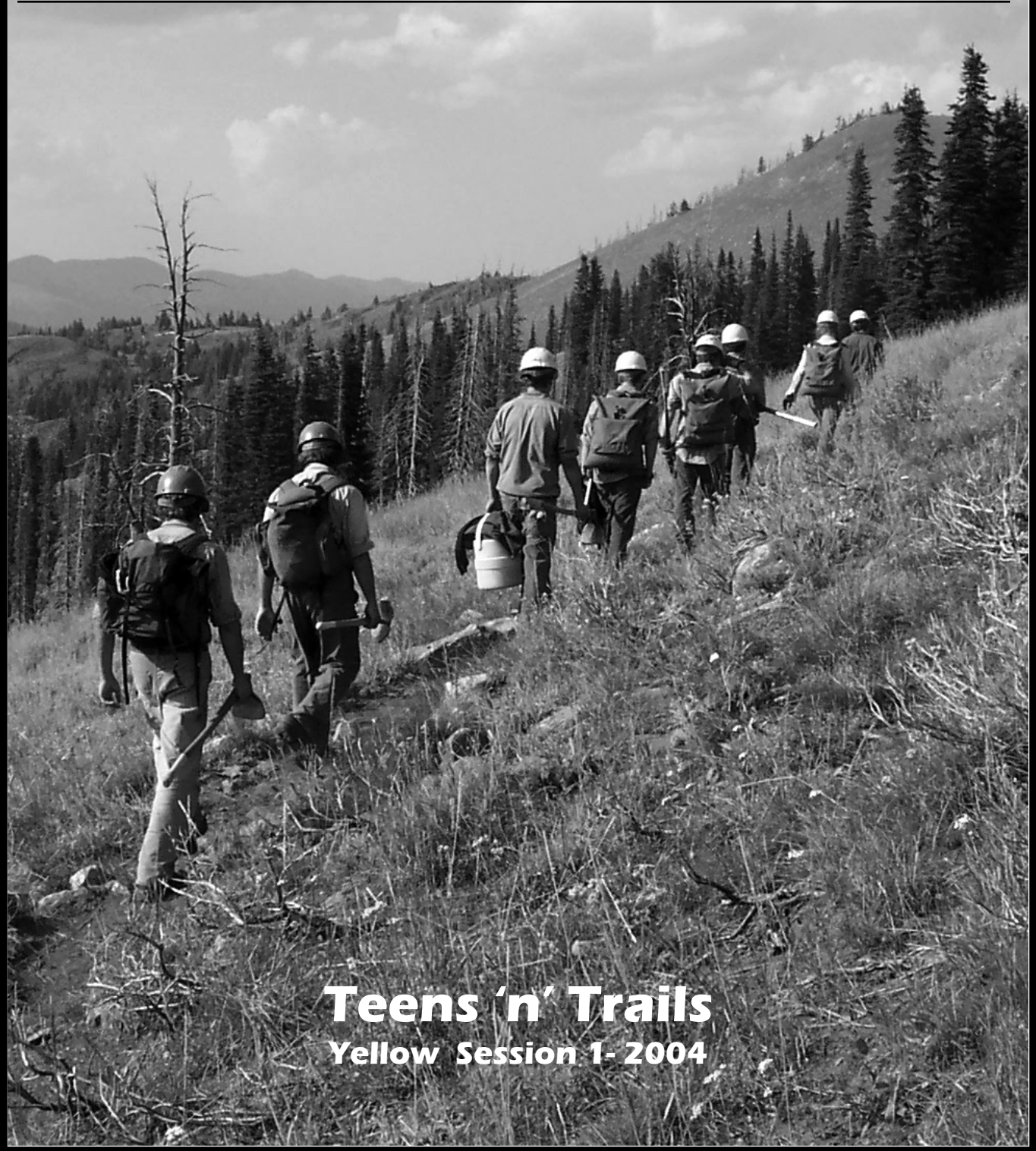




Crew Journal



Teens 'n' Trails
Yellow Session 1- 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 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'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



Sponsor: Roseburg BLM
Project Name: Roseburg Pruning

Week 1:

Monday: On Friday we met the entire crew then found camp on Saturday and spent the night and made energy balls!—Mykel L.

Tuesday: this week we'll be pruning trees. We started yesterday. Most of the crew's complaints were that the work is too light and monotonous. To complete the project we are pruning the trees to maximize the profits on this eventual logging (Ta-dah!) We're all getting along fine but have been having "some issues" with use of profanity . . . In which case, I'll let what I was thinking of that go unsaid . . .—Katie S.

Wednesday: We got up had breakfast. Then we headed out for the day. Then we got to the worksite with a guest (Lia) and started our day! Then in 6 ½ hours the crew was done! Joseph had to work 10 more min. for make-up time when we saw a snake!!! It was OK. Then we had a great time catching crawdads then cooking them into a good dinner. Our goal is to finish the pruning project.—Joseph S.

Thursday: Our crew learned fashion. The crew learned that pitch removal is real bad. Dylan learned how to make a sandwich.—Dylan M.

Friday: Overall our crew was sick of sawing by the time Friday rolled around, but then came together, and we came very close to finishing our project. Getting to bed and quiet on time has been hard for us this week, but that will change in the coming weeks.

After getting up and taking down camp at 5:30 this morning we thought all day long about laundry and long hot showers, but the really exciting part of the day was finally getting to the weekend site. On the way there we all expected to be last and so we were pleasantly surprised when we pulled up to the meadow and discovered we were the second crew to arrive. From that moment on it was a mad dash to set up camp, eat dinner, and spend time together before hitting the hay. All in all it was a great week, one down, three to go!—Nellie B.

Sponsor: Benton County Parks

Project Name: Beazell Memorial Forest Trail

Week 2:

Monday: The crew did trails. It was hard work. We had to get up at 8 am Monday. Life is great and so am I—Tim M.

Tuesday: This week we have been building an entirely new trail which is being made to protect the Tailors Checker spot butterfly, so far the work has been really fun. We have been moving logs which is hard but fun. I love our campsite and this job. —Faye T.

Wednesday: This week our job is to do trail work. Let me tell ya it is not easy but it can be fun. Our goal is to complete about half a mile worth of trail. We want to make it presentable and professional looking.—Victoria P.

Thursday: This week we learned how to make trails but we also did a SEED on safety. Well yesterday the crew leaders did a fake play. They had Faye go off and pretend to have an accident. No one knew where she was and we were all worried. Anyways we found her and we found out that it was fake and she was OK.—Victoria Peterson

Today we continued to build trails. The work isn't too hard considering we mostly have been clearing the duff from above where the trail is to be laid. The crew and I seem to enjoy making this trail, but like most good things they get a little boring. I'm glad it's Thursday and next week we will be working on something new. Overall trail work has been a good experience.—Daren T.

Friday: After coming off of a rough weekend site, the crew had a lot of meetings to hash out our issues at the beginning of the week. Building trail proved to be good medicine for most of the crew, especially moving logs. We loved our campsite, and our crew got more into SEEDs this week, especially the equality SEED, the first aid SEEDs and the Knot SEED. It hardly feels like the session is half over, but the crew is excited for the weekend, especially because it is parent's weekend, and everyone has been realizing how much they miss their family and friends. In general all are looking forward to a new challenge and a new project next week. BRING IT ON!—Nellie B.

Sponsor: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name: Dean Creek Restoration

Week 3:

Monday: We lost 3 crewmembers this week: Joe, Nikki and Mykel. This weekend we took rafts out onto Blue River Reservoir and played out on the lake. It was also parent's weekend, so many crewmembers were happy to see their parents. Jamethiel C.

Tuesday: This week we have been removing blackberries in elk territory, which is pretty easy, except when we have to be in the sun. Today the news crew came out to film us working for TV. I am hoping I can get a tape of it. Faye T.

Wednesday: My crew's goals for this week are to finish all the blackberries and get all the sticks and rocks off the road. Also to work together because Nell needs help because she is all alone. Also one other goal is to work together and help each other not to quit. Tim M.

Thursday: In the SEED this last week, we've had an environmental focus. As far as the crew, we've been tentatively exploring the new crew dynamics without Mykel, Nikki and Joe, and with Jamie and Jake. Katie S.



Friday: This week we struggled with productivity at Dean Creek. Pulling blackberries was no one's idea of fun, but we managed to make a big dent in the infested meadows at the elk-viewing center. Our biggest accomplishment this week was coming together as a crew and working hard to incorporate our new additions. But Jamie and Jake have been invited into the crew through both the polar bear outing at the beach and our weekly Thursday peach feed. Spirits are high as we roll out of week three and into the home stretch. Nellie B.

Sponsor: Coos Bay BLM

Project: Dean Creek Restoration

Week 4:

Monday: Saturday morning after chores and mail, we split up into separate rec. trips. I went to Crater Lake and Crater Lake Lodge, took pictures, had tons of fun and saw some snow. The talent show was at night, our crew's skit was hilarious and the best, I think, (even though Peter's remake of "I will always love you" was great). Blue Crew got up and sang, Red Crew break-danced and Orange Crew pot-banged. The crew Olympics was fun, Orange Crew won, then Blue, us and Red Crew. Sunday morning was the usual chaos but we were gone by 10 am. I think it was the best weekend ever. Jamethiel C.

Tuesday: This week we are repairing trail and building turnpikes on the Blue Ridge Trail system. We are also making drain dips to divert the water off the trail. The hardest part was today, when we had to haul gravel for the turnpikes. It was hard but fun, as always.

Wednesday: Goals for the week are:

Finish both turnpikes

Work really hard

Make all our hours

Make it through the week

Jamethiel C.

Thursday: To spout official rhetoric, this week (as always) was a wealth and joyous learning and greater knowledge of one another. Actually, this week has been rather difficult. We're all exhausted and more than a bit sick of one another after the first 3 weeks; but now we are learning to trust one another to make it through one more physically challenging week.

Katie S.

Friday: We had a challenging project this week which included finishing a turnpike and filling two turnpikes with gravel. The entire crew worked very hard to move heavy buckets and bags filled with gravel down the trail. This week the service we provided as a crew was right in front of us during the day with the mountain bike, dirt bike and horse traffic on the trail daily. All session, working up to our full potential has been a challenge for the crew as a whole, but we proved our abilities in the gravel line. Putting in drain drips on the trails was different.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging days have never been at the worksite. But on Fridays, when I call home and talk to parents, take a shower, or have a store stop, I am reminded of everything that I've left at home. Then I look at my crew and really, really want to go back to the woods. The heart-rending, indescribable, earth-shattering anguish I suffer every cursed Friday, makes it the most challenging part of NYC. Katie S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first Monday, pruning. It seemed to never end. Dylan M.

The most challenging day was the Sunday of second weekend camp. I quit, got all the way to HQ before I decided I couldn't go home, and my emotions were black. Jamethiel C.

The most challenging day was probably on the second weekend when we lost 3 crew members. It was really hard to get over. Vikki P.

It was pruning the first week. Tim M.

My most challenging day at NYC was Tuesday of week 4. I overworked myself and collapsed under the weight of a gravel bag. Chris G.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first Sunday and getting to know everyone in my crew. Daren T.

My most challenging day at NYC was on a Friday when I called home. I wanted to go and see my mom. I would very much love to see her again, I am ready to go home. Jake A.

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be the last day of the second week, when I was coming down with strep and working in the in the hot sun for those last few hours. Faye T.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My favorite NYC experiences were: Going to Crater Lake, going to see the coast at Florence and building new trail. Dylan C.

Going to Crater Lake for the first time, van rides with Blue, Red and Yellow Crew, and getting to see fireworks. Jamethiel C.

My favorite experiences at NYC were walking on the coast at Florence, blasting Disney music in the van and seeing the horses on our trail during the 4th week. Katlyn S.

I enjoyed going to the beach, playing speed with Nellie, and getting I a food fight on the last night. Vikki P.

The ocean, Crater Lake, and the lake. – Tim M.

My 3 favorite experiences were polar bearing, Crater Lake and going to the beach the third week. Chris G.

My 3 favorite experiences were: Crater Lake, the beach, and seeing everyone at the weekend sites. Daren T.

My three greatest experiences are when we went Polar Bearing; when Nellie had a food fight, and getting to go rafting. Jake A.

Polar bearing at the beach, howling gravel and having S'mores 2nd week. Faye T.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is when Nelly and Vicky got in a food fight and tofu fight. Dylan M.

The Saturday of the 3rd weekend camp, going to Crater Lake, being there, the drive and hanging with my friends on other crews. Jamethiel C.

I will never, ever, ever forget Nellie smashing burrito into Vicky's face while continuing to discuss the situation in a reasonable tone of voice. Katlyn S.

I will never forget when everyone went swimming in the ocean at night. Vikki P.

The food fight last Thursday. Tim M.

I will always remember the food fight Nellie and Vicki got into on Thursday night. Chris G.

I will always remember Polar bearing in the ocean. Daren T.

I will always remember going to sleep outside, and I built a shelter. Jake A.

From Now On I Will Always...

...live life to the fullest and to dig a latrine well. Dylan M.

Enjoy the gourmet and appreciate the destination. Jamethiel C.

... Walk right through the center of a trail, no matter how muddy. The "darn" things are really, really hard to repair. Katie S.

Take chances and live life to the fullest. Vikki P.

I will always challenge myself and work my hardest. Chris G.

From now on I will always remember how comfortable my bed is. Daren T.

Prune my trees at home so that they could grow. Jake A.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned how to make a proper drain dip and how to build a turnpike. My favorite thing is learning how to tie some knots. Dylan M.

How to mentally deal with a gravel bump line, how to just let go of frustration, and how to build a turnpike. Jamethiel C.

I learned how to deal with homesickness, exactly how bad mosquito bites can itch, and how to pace myself on the worksite. Kathlyn S.

I've learned responsibility, how to deal with my drug problems, and what hard work is and that I can do it. Vikki P.

To be helpful and responsible. To work really hard Tim M.

At NYC I learned to work my hardest, and to be as helpful as possible. Chris G.

At NYC I learned how to build turnpikes and drain dips. Daren T.

At NYC I learned how to build a turnpike and a drain dip. Jake A.

