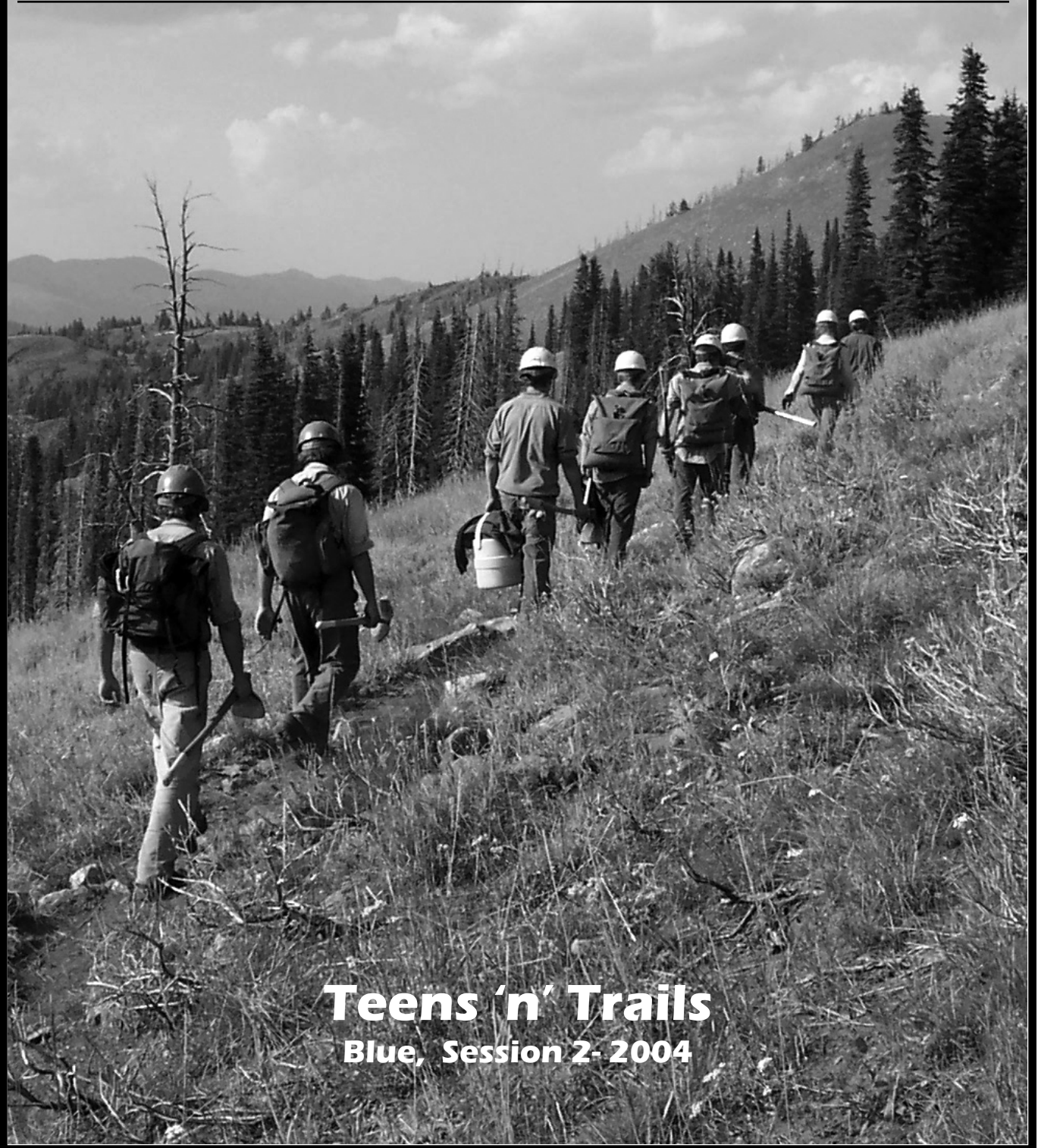




Crew Journal



Teens 'n' Trails
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 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 fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'O'.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



Sponsor: Roseburg BLM
Project Name: Millpond Recreation Area

Week 1:

Monday: Today my crew was working on new trail. It was a fairly easy day in my opinion. Today I fell in a ditch in the last two hours of work. We went to a waterfall and saw salmon jumping.

Collin B.

Tuesday: My crew split up and half went ahead and trail blazed, the other half went back and did some touch up stuff and leveling out the trail. Captains log 23 hours. Jeremiah M.

Wednesday: One of our goals for this week is to try and establish a mile of new trail. What we did today is we took our 6-7 hours, then we went swimming at a new swim hole down low by the creek. It was deep and cozy to swim in; I think we will go there from now on. Then after that we did a little SEED and went back to Camp and did chores. Today went a little quicker than yesterday. Today was all right. Dustin S.

Thursday: Today was just like any normal day. We ate French toast for breakfast, than got ready to go to work. We were on the clock by 7 am. Stretching was normal, along with the safety concerns. We worked OK until first break. Collin and I walked back to camp to get his shirt and some moleskin for me. WE got back and worked till lunch. We worked hard at the end of the day (me, Sea Boss and Cameron). We then went swimming and caught over a dozen crawdads. Collin is going to cook them and we'll eat them then. Nick G.

Friday: last Friday we only worked for 4 hours. After that we went to Diamond Lake to wash our cloths and then went to take a shower. After that we went to a camp site where we were met by other groups. Then we got to hang around with our other friends, then we ate and after that we went to sleep and that is all we did.

On the way to the weekend site, Curtis threw up and it was really funny. Faustino P.

Sponsor: Benton County Parks
Project: Beazell Memorial Forest

Week 2:

Monday: On Saturday 10 of us went to Mount Scott and hiked all the way to the top of the mountain. After we went to Diamond Lake and swam for about an hour, but before we went swimming we stopped at the store for 5 minutes Matt J.

Tuesday: The Blue Crew is on some hill somewhere in the middle of OR. We are doing a trail at the bottom of the hill with a pretty long hike. There is a swimming hole about an hour away. We went down there today and caught crawdads and ate them with hotdogs and chili. Chris H.

Wednesday: On Tuesday we went to a swimming hole but ended up catching crawdads instead. It was fun. We caught about 30 crawdads, some of which were huge. Sebastian M.

Thursday: Captains log, Stargate 10. Today we learned about Oregon and the history of this area. We also had to take down tents, it was not fun. Jeremiah M.

Friday: We got up at 7:00 am, which was way too early. Right when we got up we had to pack up our bags and take down the tents. Then, after we finally got to eat French toast, we had to pack our trailers and put them on the bus. After that we got in a circle and then assigned where each one of us was going. And we were told that we were going to Goat Island to pick weeds. We got on the bus and had to stop in Eugene to pick up our new Rover. We headed to Goat Island and we got to stop and go to McDonalds. I got two double cheeseburgers with no pickles or onions. Then we went to the mini mart and I got some Skittles and Butterfingers. And that's what I, Zach, did on Sunday. Zach S.

Sponsor: EWEB
Project Name: Goat Islands Noxious Weed Eradication

Week 3:

Monday: We had two SEEDs and the first one was about 20 minutes. It was about Beavers, like their habitat and stuff like that. The second one was about one hour. We had to make a sculpture and I made an arch. It was a little small one, but it was so beautiful for me. Dustin and Zach made one but it was inappropriate, because they were making it in front of dumb people, so DC kicked it and that's what we made on Monday. Faustino P.

Tuesday: This week we are taking down Scotch Broom and blackberries for a local power company, because the plants aren't native to the Island and make it look like a jungle. It is cleared. It looks like a field and there is a good place to camp. Jeremiah M.

Wednesday: Today we got up, ate some blackberry pancakes and downed a little coffee. Then we went to work. We cut blackberries most of the day, there was a little scotchbroom but not much. After work we went and did a SEED. We swam and talked about the water and how much we use. Also D.C. told us why it doesn't rain over where I live. Then we hiked back to camp and were making some either Asian or Hawaiian food for dinner. Dustin S.

Thursday: Today I got up an hour earlier than almost everyone else to pay off the hour of work I owed for doing only 7 hours on Monday. I ate oatmeal and had coffee for breakfast, then stretched and went to work. I mostly clipped blackberries. After work I relaxed with my friends. We are having Chili and grilled cheese sandwiches for dinner. Sebastian M.

Friday: It was hot and sunny all week except for on Friday. It rained in the morning while we worked, and continued to rain all day. We got up at 5:15 and worked for 4 hours. We worked for a total of 29 hours last week. Since we were at Goat Island we had to ferry our stuff across the river. An old guy from Eugene came out to ferry us across at 2 on Sunday. At 11 on Friday we took our break. We drove to Florence and the weekend site. Dustin S.

Sponsor: Roseburg BLM
Project: North Bank Habitat Area Restoration

Week 4:

Monday: Today we started out pulling weeds, then the contacts came and we helped them take out blackberries. Me and Chris were on a 75% slope that ends in a ditch picking blackberries. He fell and got stuck so we tried to pull him out but his foot was caught in berries so they dug a hole and got him out. Then we went swimming, it was fun. The place I am working at is just like home, it has the same type of weather.

Tuesday: We woke up at 5:30 am, got ready and went to work. We worked on cutting blackberries on a steep slope and in a ditch. Lia was working with us until lunch time. Then she left to get a water tank. After work, we had a SEED with the people who now run this place. Then we went to the water for a swim, and then had another SEED. Then we came back, did chores and ate pizza. After that we did dishes and had our free time. Chris H.

Wednesday: It was a real hot day today. We saw some baby birds in the blackberries that we were cutting and they ran away. Someone said they saw a rattlesnake, but I didn't see it. Then we went swimming. The end.

Thursday: The first thing I learned this week was how to lop black berries. I also learned how much I hate working but that's off the topic. So I lopped them until the contractors came and dropped the pesticides because it will not kill the fish. I also learned about scotch broom and why we have to kill it. The camp was pretty fun. Daniel B.

Friday: The crew faced temperatures of close to 100 degrees. Our two strategies for dealing with the heat were an early wake up and the afternoon swim. We even talked about doing a Siesta schedule but the early birds in the crew won out. We were up at 5:30, with the last of the evening stars and the morning chill. We relished in the shade, but soon enough the sun was peaking over the grassy hills. With the sun beating down we powered through the blackberries with thoughts of cooling off in the Kumquat River. Cameron H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

I think that the most challenging day at NYC was the first day, because I wasn't used to working or getting up that early. It all started on Monday when we had to get up at like 6:00 am and I was used to getting up at like 12:00 or 1:00 at my house. So it was hard to get up that early. Then the next challenge was to learn what we were supposed to do. I finally figured it out after watching my crew leader for a while. It seemed like we were working forever, but then work part of the day was finally over. Then we had to go back to camp and we got a little free time but we had to get right into chores and making dinner. We ate, and I thought the day was finally over, but we had to do dishes. I think that it is really a 12 hour job. But it was finally over, and I got to go to sleep.

Zach S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences were: going to the swimming hole on our last weekend site, the first weekend site and getting to meet lots of new people.

After our first day at the worksite (which was North-East of Roseburg), we went swimming. We had all worked hard on Monday morning, so at about two-ish we went to a swimming hole down the road. It was perfect. The water was cool and refreshing; it still provided us with a fun and interesting place to swim in McKenzie River.

At our second weekend site, I really got to know some people that at the time I did not know would pull me through this program. The bad thing was that a few of them were from other crews and that I wouldn't get to know them as much as I would have liked to.

When we had gotten through the first week, we went to a weekend site near Diamond Lake and we all had a great time. The first night was kind of boring due to the lack of free time. But the second day we did chores and went to our recreational activities. Later we went and played ultimate Frisbee and captured the flag. The crew leaders and rovers were all pretty cool. Most of them have great sense of humor and are great to hang around.

Nick G.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing that I will always remember here at NYC is the friends I've made. The kids here that I got to know pretty good in only a few days. If we were at school I would have never got to know most of the people here. But here you are forced to be around these people and after a while, even if you don't like them, you get used to them and eventually get to know them. It's been fun. I met a lot of cool people. There is a kid we call Bruce Lee. He looks like a basketball player but he is really a lover boy that likes video games. So it really shows that looks don't mean anything here. Even people on the weekend site that I only talked to a few times I will never forget. This is definitely one thing I will never forget about NYC.

Dustin S.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always hate the worst time to wake up: 5:30 in the morning, thanks to our staff who have to get up each morning and force us out of our tents, even though we love to just roll over and go back to sleep. So from here out, I am never going to get up at 5:30 ever again, for at least another month or two. *Jeremiah M.*

At NYC I Learned...

I think the most important things I learned at NYC is to appreciate my job, my hours, my staff, and most of all my parents and my life. This is a great program to take if you make it through the challenge. It teaches you to appreciate more what you have because, to be honest, this place is not fun. I also learned to adapt with people that I normally don't hang out with. It prepares you for life and the people you have to deal with in it. The last thing I learned is about nature. I was a camper and I thought I knew everything but now I know how to survive in the nature and how to appreciate it more. Now I can cope with it much better and easier. I hope a lot more kids will take this same program.
Chris H.

