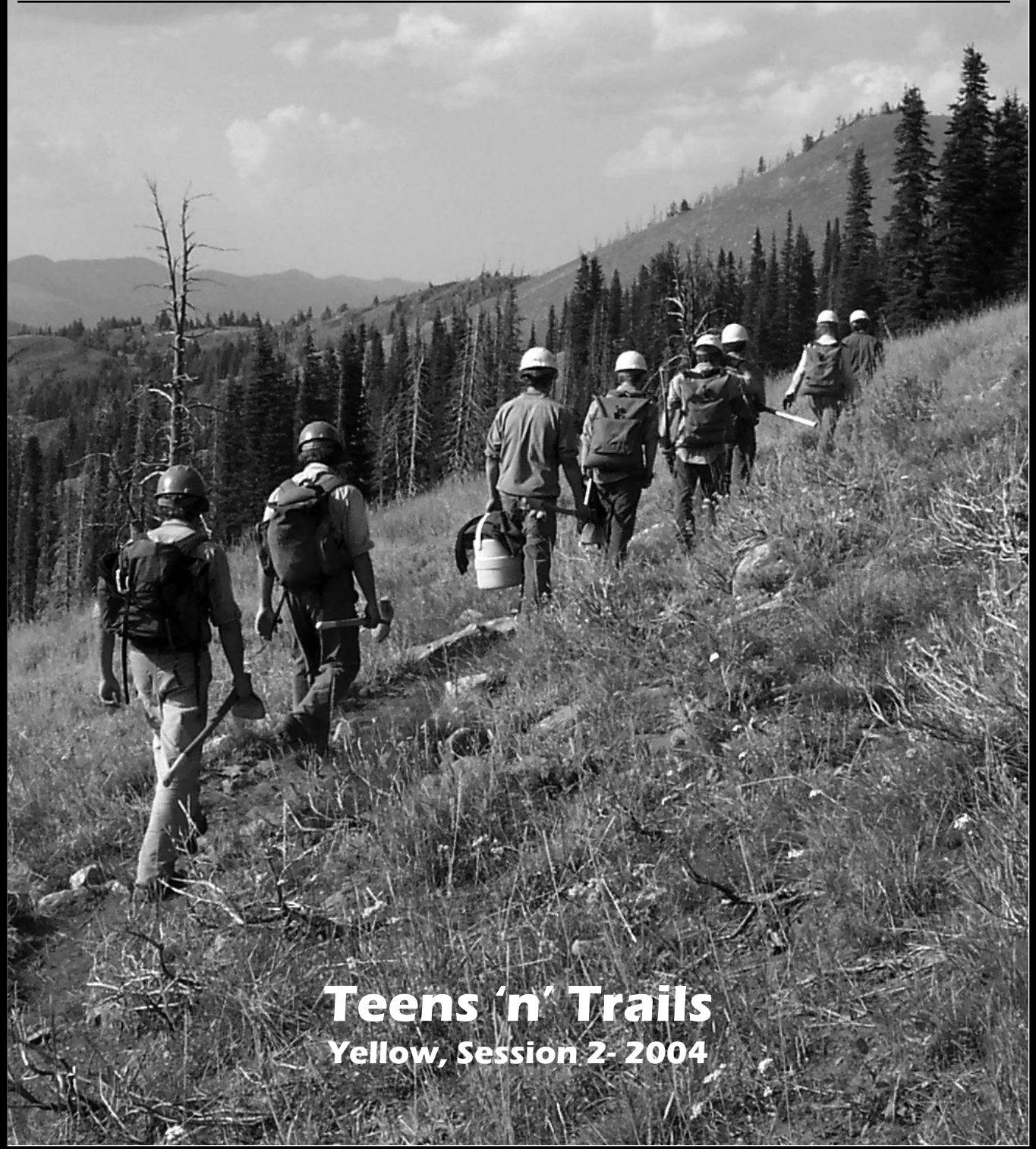




Crew Journal



Teens 'n' Trails
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 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: Coos Bay BLM

Project Name: New River Trail Maintenance

Week 1:

Monday: We got to meet new people and roll down, and we played games. Kari P.

Tuesday: This week our group (yellow) is making a re-route in a new river forest place. We are also moving brush left by the last group that worked here before us. We are also ahead of schedule on the re-route and it is amazing here on the Oregon Coast. We are making this trail so that people can see the wonders of the forest, especially on the Oregon Coast, so that they may fall in love with it and vote to keep it.

Wednesday: My crew's goal for the week was to come together as a crew, be friends and to be able to trust them. Also a goal was to finish our project for this week. We are doing a good job and we probably will finish it, it all is looking good.

Thursday: We learned about trust. We also learned that when you gossip, you slack off from work. No one feels safe when people gossip. There were people gossiping and they solved it by talking to each other. They apologized. We all seem to be getting along very well. D.C. and Nellie have been really great crew leaders. Amanda V.

Friday: This week was one of challenges, coming together and firsts. For many on the Yellow crew this was the first time they had ever camped, cooked or washed dishes by hand. The enthusiasm was very high on the worksite and in camp which made the days fly by and the trail seemed almost to be built by itself. Our challenge this week had to do with the rumors and gossip. Though things started out rough, by the end of the week the crew understood both the destructive force of gossip and the awesome power of team work.

Sponsor: Eugene BLM
Project Name: Whittaker Creek Loop Trail

Week 2:

Monday: As we were driving we got lost on the way to the weekend site. We ate dinner once we got there and set up our tents. We woke up, chilled, and then went on hikes. We came back, and then almost all the crews played CTF. We ate dinner and played some more. We woke up and then we packed and left. We got to our campsite, set up camp and went swimming. Leif C.

Tuesday: We are working uphill, and it is looking right at Whittaker Creek. Our Campsite is cool and we are building new trail and putting in retaining walls.

Wednesday: My crew's goals are to get this trail done even though TNT has never done such a hard trail before. We've done a good job so far, and we're working really hard and busting our butts to get this trail finished. Another goal is for all of us to stay friends, stick together, no one to quit and to not go home after we see our parents this weekend. Toshae C.

Thursday: What our crew learned this week is to never give up, even when you have the hardest job. We also learned that it is important to stick together and not to put anyone down in any way. We also learned to be safe because of super safe Tasha. Amanda V.

Friday: This week the Yellow Crew was challenged by a very technical trail. Our task was to put in new trail on every step and erosion prone hillsides, in addition to building one switchback and 3 retaining walls. Our crew worked in tough conditions, but their hard work and dedication to the project paid off at the end. Though it was a bit of a scramble, we finished all of our structures and all of the trail we needed to build. We left the site with our minds on the cleansing showers at the YMCA. but also a huge sense of pride for finishing the project. We now head into the weekend site with all ten original crew members, ready to tackle the new challenges week 3 will bring. Nellie B.

Sponsor: Roseburg BLM
Project Name: Mill Pond Trail

Week 3:

It was parent's weekend and crew Olympics. Before the parents came, we went on a rec. trip, we went hiking. Swimming and rafting. The parents came and everyone seemed happy. We got 3rd place in the Olympics. That night Amanda snuck out and got fired, the next day Shanae was taken home due to a knee injury which really sucked. Brian C.

Tuesday: We are graveling a trail for the handicapped and we are building some new trail with some structures. We are in Mill Pond. We are building a handicap-accessible trail, so that the handicapped people could enjoy the trail too. Brian C.

Wednesday: Our goal is not to loose any people at all, and to get most of the trail done, so that we can go to the weekend site and tell everyone that we got the trail done again, even though we lost 3 people in three days!!!

AHHHH!!!!

I hope we have two great days and go to the dance on Saturday! Toshae C.

Thursday: Our crew learned about drugs and what had happened in our lives with Pot, Alcohol and smoking. Most of us tried these things at least once in our lives. Our crew also learned about the forest fire, and how fire can be good sometimes, because the nutrients from the trees go into soil and help new plants grow. We also learned about animals in the forest. Ireine M.

Friday: Although our numbers went down this week, this crew pulled together and has become a very tight knit group. Now known as the Solid Seven, this crew works very hard together and got a lot of work done on the Mill Pond Trail. Running wheel-barrels filled with gravel is the hardest work this crew has done so far. The idea of running gravel on a Friday, starting at 6 am would cause most of the people to walk away from the project, but this crew cheerfully went to work this rainy morning and finished the section of gravel we had started a few days before. After losing crew members before the most physically demanding project and still accomplishing a great deal, this crew can face any challenges presented to them next week, and finish out the session with yet another success. Nellie B.

Sponsor: Salem BLM
Project Name: Aquila Vista

Week 4:

Monday: This weekend our crew hung out with all the other crews. On Saturday we had a dance. Everyone had lots of fun, but some of the crew leaders were gone. They'd have had fun too. We also were supposed to have a talent show but no one was prepared and we did not have enough time because it would have been late. Ireine M.

Tuesday: We have gravel to run, but it is fun, even in the sun, no one has a gun, OK – I'm done. Well, if seriously, we have gravel but it is OK, because we have people to laugh at (county workers). We have many little projects that are very detailed, so that's fun. We are at Aquilla Vista, I am writing right now because Nellie asked me to. Toshae C.

Wednesday: I think our goal for the week is to finish the French drain and view point, to finish with the whole crew, and to have as much fun during the last week as possible. Brian C.

Thursday: We learned how to appreciate each other by having the "Thank You" circle. We thanked everyone in the crew and heard them thank us. We also ate S'mores and spent some time with each other before going to the weekend site with the other crews. We had a lot of fun. Ireine M.

Friday: This week yellow crew was given a second round on gravel duty. When our crew found out on Monday that more wheel barrels of gravel were on the agenda, their shoulders slumped a bit, but they found ways to overcome the monotony of the gravel line by playing trail games and drawing pictures of the wheel barrels for each other. Yet again, yellow crew was able to finish their project and fill the French drain with gravel. This crew finished out their session with a bang. GREAT JOB, YELLOW CREW! Nellie B.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The day we got picked for crews. I knew two other kids, and they both got different colors. Leif C.

My most challenging moment at NYC was at Row River, while I was trying to saw a tree down. I must have worked 2 hours on it and it wasn't working out. It disappointed me. Kari P.

The day we were picked for crews and Nellie called my name. Because Nellie had to yell at all the kids in my tent. So I thought she would hate me, but it turned out good. Brian C.

The first day, because I didn't know anyone and I was afraid people wouldn't like me. Ireine M.

The day that I found out everyone that every one of my enemies was on the same crew as me. Natoshae C.

Moving gravel on the third week. Nathan E.

The week that we were at Whittaker Creek, having to climb all the way up the trail and back to camp. Katelyne W.

When Amie wasn't in my crew and when 3 people got fired. Natoshae C.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Getting toilets all 4 weeks. Getting to listen to some good music. Getting to go to CD/game exchange and buying Slipknot's new CD. Leif C.

My favorite NYC experience was doing a circle of questions in SEED. We learned so much about each other and broke our stereotypes. Another good moment was the intense "capture the flag" game on our third weekend. Kari P.

My favorite was getting to know my crew, having toilets all 4 weeks and having fun. Ireine Mungarro

Making really good new friends. Making really good guy friends, gaining self-respect and losing weight!!! Natoshae C.

...Visiting with the rovers and drilling. Nathan E.

Learning lots about how to build things, sleeping out in the tents for a month and doing SEED. Katelyne W.

Removing roots and stumps

Making such close friends

Being exhausted after the day is done

Brian C.

All of the work we did, the people that I met, and losing weight.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember how hard gravel is to haul. Kari P.

I will always remember my friends I made and the good times we had.

Ireine M.

The things I will always remember are all the good times we all had. Katelyne W.

How awesome it feels when Nellie called the final tool count. Brian C.

How important my family and friends are in my life. I would be dead without them. Toshae C.

From Now On I Will Always...

...Love music more than I do now, if possible. Leif C.

From now on I will always think of shanay-nay when I see flagging. Kari P.

I will always remember the good times. Ireine M.

I will always push myself farther, will never doubt my strengths and will always be positive. Katelyne W.

...Respect the trails I work on. Brian C.

Everyone that I met here and how great of an experience this was! Toshae C.

Work from now on. Nathan E.

At NYC I Learned...

Since I came here, I feel smarter then I was. I learned what the poison oak looks like, and what are the names of different tools. Leif C.

Going to NYC taught me that teenagers love food. I also learned how to make rooting well. Another thing I learned is how to drink out of the yellow top. Kari P.

I learned a lot about respect, friendship and leadership. Ireine M.

Here I have learned good people skills and not to be so judgmental. I also learned how far I can push myself. Katelyne W.

The names of tools and how to use them; having my space is what makes me tick. Wheel barrowing sucks! Brian C.

I learned about hard work, friendship and not caring how I look for a month. I felt like a bum, yet [I was] so confident of myself. Toshae C.

I learned how to not take a shower every week and I learned that I hate the music that Nellie likes. I also learned that I hate vans. Nathan E.

