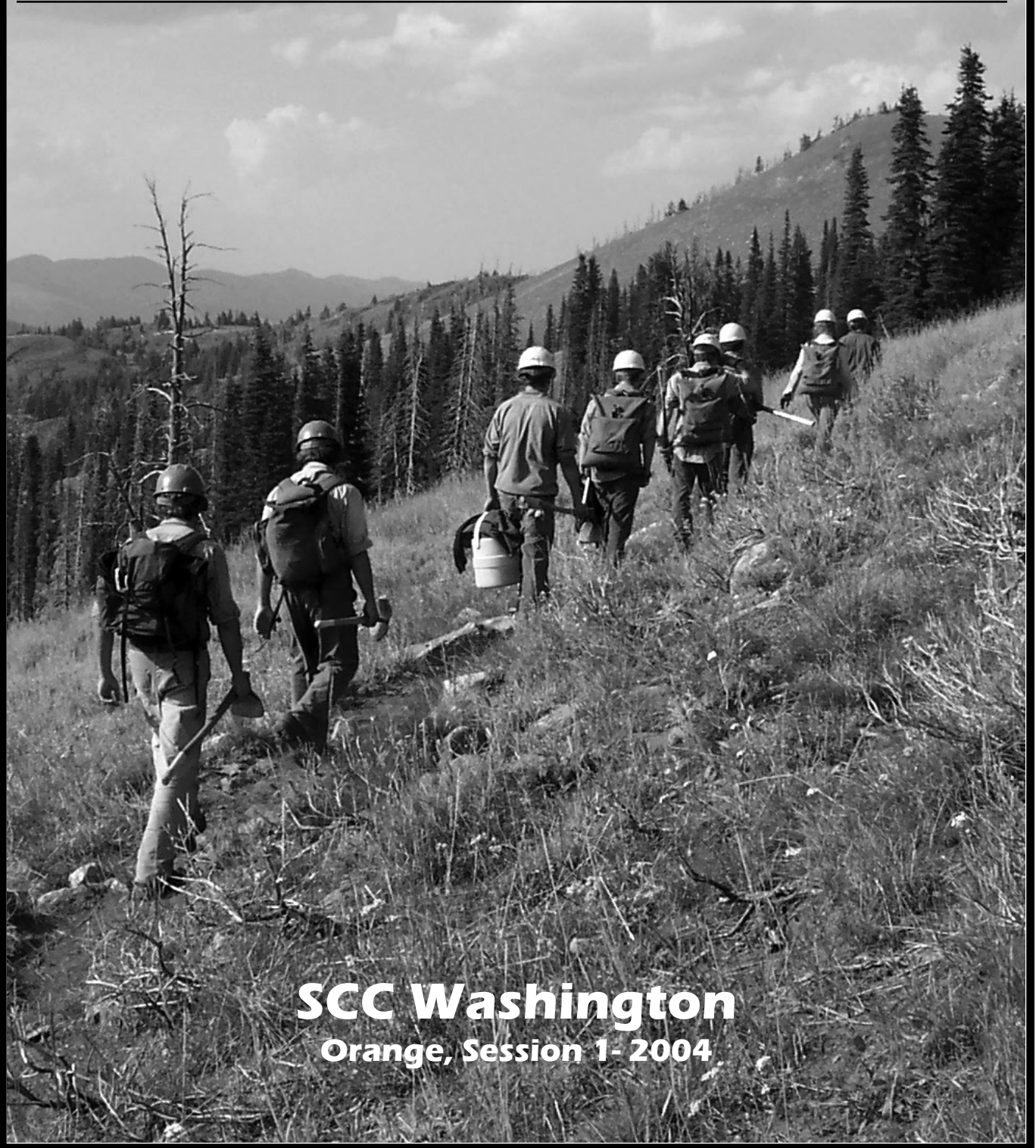




# Crew Journal



**SCC Washington**  
Orange, Session 1- 2004



Hey Hey Hey! It's that time of year again. All the vans have been washed and vacuumed, all the tents have been patched, all the tools sharpened and put away, and we have finally caught up on all those short nights and long summer days of little rest and hard trail dawgin'! It's time once again to sit back, reflect on the season and start recounting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids. I hope this journal reminds you of the wicked hard days the awe inspiring vistas and the seemingly endless supply of pasta and trio-sauce. I hope that it takes you back to campfire stories and ice-cold creeks and that break in the rain that seemed like a holiday! We've typed out the scribbles lain down at the end of all those long days by worn out hands aching from swinging a tool and copied some of the dazzling images drawn up by the artists of the bunch. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done safety circle before dawn, done the push-up challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for those of you who know, that these entries can serve as a small key for 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 and good friends, great achievements 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,

Billy Scrafford



**National Forest or area that the work took place**

**Ranger District**

**Project Name-**

Week 1: Date

Sunday: Day one of our excursion: We are camped outside of Treegrove in the Calipoolya Treegrove. The mission of our visit is to prune several acres so that the forest and lumber industries can make mass profits from the higher quality lumber our work will produce. After several sessions in proper tool use and NYC safety regulations, we are confident that we will be able to do the work at a professional level in a maximum safety environment. The main goal of our crew is to be safe, but we also have several sub-goals as well. Some of us have come here to earn money, have fun, meet new people, escape old people, come in tune with nature, or just practice being in a professional niche. All of these goals are microcosms of each of our design. Some have more than one goal—others have many, but we all share the desire to succeed.  
Jake & Alex

I should keep my language clear from the mouth

I should have good action they're headed down south

I should be respectful to my mates

I should not get into bad debates

I should not have sex with my girlfriends  
I should not do drugs on special dates  
I should not get in a fight  
I should work with all my might  
--Andrew

I'm a think that sees everything. When there's something wrong I puff up and scream. I just came back if you hunt me I'm gone forever. So if you leave alone I'll do the same for you.  
--Glenn S.

Monday: This weekend we did rotations to learn how to set up a tent, the camp rules, things we would be able to cook and eat, and learn about the vans and trailers. On Sunday morning we got split up and met our crewleaders. We headed to the park to have a safety briefing, after that we headed to meet our contact and set up camp.

Tuesday: We are at Mad Bull BLM by Roseburg. Life is like a river flowing through the hands of time. Love is like a poem written all out of rhyme. Peace is like a property nobody knows is mine. Life and love and peace: all 3 should be combined. Nancy B.

Wednesday: The goal for the week is to get the 11 acres done. I also want to stay the whole six weeks. And less drama. Glenn S.

Thursday: This week my crew learned about nature, using new tools, working through many confrontations and especially learning to work together in our worksite, camp and friendships. We learned a lot about ourselves and each other. We all learned to push ourselves harder to accomplish our goals of working through crew problems and finishing our eleven acres of cutting trees. Right now all of us are learning to be better people and friends. I think my crew has learned many pieces of advice that will help and encourage us through our lives. Lindsay Y.

Friday: This week my crew was challenged with some drama that went on, but thankfully we all made it through, even though some people wanted to quit. We totally accomplished way more than I personally thought we would because this was probably the first time a lot of the people actually had to live in the woods. Overall I am totally proud of my crew and would like to totally thank Andrew for being like totally upbeat and optimistic throughout all of the rain and soaked clothing. He totally made the work day go a heck of a lot better. Then of course got to give props? To everyone else. Despite all the wet and cold we all trudged along and stayed together. I am totally pumped about the rest of the time I have left with this crew and I totally hope that everyone can handle the challenges to come and that absolutely nobody decides to leave and go home. I totally love everyone and hope that we become a huge, happy family, so to speak. Becca P.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Coos Bay BLM  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Deer Creek Restoration**

Week 2: Date

Monday: I see everything around me and it puts a smile on my face. A good friend told me that you have 3 choices in life: save the world, harm the world, or just screw everything and pursue happiness. I'm just so happy to spend time with my crew, my family. Tex is this incredible guy Josh he's my bro I'd put my life on the line for him. Nancy she is a kid at heart but so kind and caring. Alex A.K.A. Butthead: he is a music talented guy. Glen Greatest artists and gets moves on the skateboard A.K.A. Glenypoo. Heather funniest girl I've ever know. I love her laugh. Becca: hell of a good singer and has a sense of humor. Lynnsiy: She has a kind heart but confused at times. She still sticks things out. She's a bold person. Goren He's the king of guy you would not want to mess with. If you ever want to hear a great story ask him. Katherine she is like a big sister always motivating us to do the things we don't want to do. So what I'm trying to say is people love is not on the outside but on the inside of you guys. All of you are beautiful in my sight back to the first saying if I only had a certain time on this earth I would save the world little by little just by all the people around me making them happy because that's what makes me happy.

Tuesday: This week we have to clear out the edges of a meadow for the elk living in the area. We are doing this to give mowers more room and to push back the plants in the area that are starting to over-inhabit the meadow. We are on the Oregon Coast soaking up the sun and enjoying our free-time on the beach and with our fellow blue crew. Lindsay Y.

Wednesday: This past two weeks I have learned a lot about life. I used to live life a day at a time and not worry about anything else. This crew has taught me to care about the upcoming day and how to trust. I have a brother that I would give my life for. A girl that I love. Friends that I will have forever. Friends that I actually listen (to) and that I can trust with my heart. I'm going to work my hardest for this crew because I don't want to let you guys down because you guys are my family and I love you guys. (Can't read name)

Thursday: Today, more than any other day, we learned the true meaning of riparian habitat restoration. Today we learned that, while pruning trees is good, chainsawing them down is much more effective! The lesson of destroying nature to save it is something that all of the young should be taught. Those nasty "foreign invaders" such as blackberries and foxglove both need to be terminated at all costs! One of which bears a sweet fruit, the other a heart medication. Foreign invaders are known to cause all sorts of problems such as destruction of all other species, pollution of land and air, and a general disregard for all other life. What are some of the foreign invaders you can name? Jake W.

Friday: As a crew this week, we have had many personal challenges. Every one of us has worked hard to set our own goals and to stick with them. Mine personally as getting up on time so my crew doesn't have to wait for me. So far, it has worked out! Yay! Anyways as for accomplishments we cleared a quarter acre of blackberry or "Roseberry" to Andrew and did about 950 feet of trail. On Friday, we finished 2 culverts and cleared out a bunch of tries. That only

way we were able to do all this was by using our teamwork skills and communicating. We had our times where everything fell apart, but by talking things through and coming to conclusions, we were able to get through them. This week has been awesome and everyone of us at times have claimed we were going to quit . . . yea right, cuz we're all still here! Heather B.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Coos Bay BLM  
Ranger District  
Project Name- Grazing Allotment**

Week 3: Date

Monday: This weekend most of our crew went to Old Town Florence looked at a few shops and went shopping. We had a fire on the beach with all the crews and shared our biggest accomplishments. The weekend site was fun and we had best dinner since I've been here. Geron

Tuesday: The project this week is pulling Scotch Broom in a 60 acre place. It is filled with bees' nests. We ran into six of them in two days. The other thing that we need to do is clean up a big tree that fell over. Then we have to restretch the fence.

Wednesday: My crew's goals for this week are to clear all of the Scotch broom it's great. We also have other goals consisting of not getting sung by bees from our 700 bee's nests, not completely getting serrated from the blackberry bushes and not completely getting dehydrated and also we are trying to not get covered in poison oak. So far I'm doing good at not getting stung unlike Heather who got a nice kiss yesterday on her cheek and so far I'm not completely covered in poison oak unlike Jake I'm so thrilled, and it's double hump day so we have another surprise wonder. Nancy B.

Thursday: This week, my crew has learned that the vile horrible invasive plant, the Scotch broom, must be eradicated from the face of the earth and all week we have been battling the evil thing but still the Scotch broom holds on for dear life, and refuses to leave. I think that our crew has learned that hard work and patience always pays off in the end because we win, and also because we are orange crew and we rock! Everyone else . . . Becca P.

Friday: The daunting task of staring eye to eye with the deadly Scotch broom alone is a task few would dare face, but combined with blackberries with thorns like razor blades and poison oak causing our skin to boil and decompose before our very eyes; it just may be the most terrifying combination the world has ever seen. Needless to say the orange crew was the only crew up to the task. We attacked the Scotch broom with improbable tenacity, shocking even the most skeptical of rovers. In fact, we dispatched with the Scotch broom so quickly we had time to casually repair hundreds of feet of fence. Our steadfast determination and reckless abandon set a ridiculously high standard for the rest of the noxious weed removal industry to follow.

Another week, another trail of destruction left in our wake. This is one loyal orange crewmember, signing out after another week of incredible accomplishment. Alex

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Olympic National Park**  
**Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Mink Lake**

Week 4: Date

Monday: This week to come will be the toughest days of our lives. Some of our closest crew members took the wrong path and know they are gone and we're lost without them and only through hard work and memories will we be able to make it through. It's not that their decision made the crew sacrifice; it's the fact that they're gone. We lost the best friends ever: Geren and his crazy life stories and troubled times; Heather a.k.a. Gumby, the sister we have never had. We will miss them so much and our crew will never be the same without them. We will never be the full orange again because we are missing two of the peels. Josh G.

Tuesday: Once upon a time there was an ancient forest and in this forest beheld a lake but to get to this majestic lake you had to go up through a broken trail and it is a dangerous journey. Not too dangerous for a crew of 10 for they have come to blaze a trail. They have taken on the greatest task known to mankind. They must build, carry, and sweat their greatest fear away and that fear is the climb but nothing will get in the way of these bold hearted people. The reason of expedition was so that other people would be able to see the wonders of this exuberant land and these people that have brought this task upon them. They call themselves orange crew.

Wednesday: Some say that a goal is something that should be fought for. The knarled hand slowly straining with all its power to grasp the apex of mountain great. However, my belief and what I suppose the belief of the rest of the crew is much different than the previously stated conformity of what constituted a goal. If my interpretation of our goals is correct, then it is not a physical goal that we are to satisfy, but the potentially more difficult mental goal of enjoying and retaining the beauty of this mother-land within ourselves. The people who can accomplish such a feat are very great indeed. Jake W.

Thursday: My crew learned that even though you have to go through tough situations, you can't let that drag you down. This week we said goodbye to two of our friends, part of the family. Even though that was hard, and we all felt like crap, we still had to work. Through the pain, I believe that as people we have all grown stronger and as friends we have all grown closer. Also I think that in saying goodbye we have formed stronger bonds with those we had to let go. Because the saying "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" is true. While they are gone we shall remember the good times we had and less of the bad. I hope that as a crew we all grow closer and that we'll all be here in the end. Becca P.

Friday: This week our crew faced many challenges and learned a lot. Each day we went on a thirty-minute hike to and from our worksite which definitely tested our limits, but we all made it through OK.

Our great accomplishments were all the improvements that we made to our trail. We learned how to build and re-route trails which was challenging but very rewarding when we went back and saw all the work we had put into our project. Making HUGE water bars was fun and our still continuing projects along the way will become a great accomplishment for all of us. This week some of us have done things that we never thought we could actually do. Lindsay Y.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Olympic National Park**

**Ranger District:**

**Project Name- Mink Lake Trail**

Week 5: Date

Monday: This weekend my crew and I went on a hike to the Sol Duc Falls . . . they were extremely beautiful and we counted 4 rainbows! We also went on a hike to the Mink Lake area and almost all of us took a relaxing nap. We saw weird otter-like things that would lift their heads out of the water to see what we were up to. We had a nice weekend full of exercise and lots of laughs. And we also got pop for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July which was a nice bonus. Lindsay Y.

Tuesday: In our latest tortuous excursion into the unknown we have been thrown back into the torrential mud pit we know as Olympic National Park to continue our endless string of tasks consisting of lifting up heavy objects, walking a short distance, putting them down again then finding they don't fit, scampering off to repeat the process with a new ridiculously heavy object. As intellectually stimulating as this sounds, it is apparent that many of the crewmembers are losing their sanity and both a real and figurative storm is brewing on the horizon. Alex M.

Wednesday: Our goal for this week is to stay alive and finish our steps. I had a good day today putting in step with Simon and Josh and Glen. At the end of this day, my brain is nonfunctional. I can't think. I've worked myself brain dead. I can't think anymore. I have no goals. Personally, to get food in our stomach is another goal and did I mention staying alive was another goal?

Thursday: The week as a whole taught us not only certain work skills, but teamwork skills as well. The loss of two of our most dear crewmembers the week before made us develop a new team chemistry. Having to perform unique jobs at a lower than normal capacity was a severe strain on the entire crew. However, in the end, we gained a much deeper understanding of each other and of the forest in which we worked. For instance, on a personal level, I learned that true technique and skill is required to shovel gravel for a good majority of the day. One would think that putting pebbles into buckets is a mundane, boring, and tactic-less job. However, this is definitely NOT the case. The job of tossing pebbles into buckets for hours on end required someone with a very close grasp on their sanity. The constant clank of rock on plastic, over time, drives one toward madness . . . or at least various acts of physical violence. So I guess the moral of this story: the moral of this story—is that one should not ?lare? pebbles where rock does not belong. Jake W.

Friday: Hmmm, let me think, challenges. Yeah, our propane tank ran out. We can't cook dinner so I get to write a journal for Sunday while Katherine is getting the propane. OK, never mind we're gonna boil water over a campfire because there isn't propane anywhere within a hundred mile radius of this place. There are many more challenges that we've had to face this past week, most of them having to do with dinner. Our accomplishments are plentiful, most having to do with making it up that darn hill every morning and kicking that mountain's behind. The end of the day after work, and going to sleep would probably be most people's favorite part of all the time we have out here, that and the free time!!! And of course, we appreciate Katherine and Simon. Nancy B.

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

My most challenging day of NYC was probably the least physically demanding of any of the entire six weeks. It was the final Monday of the session and I was sitting down and not working because of the absence of my work boots. The previous Friday, while doing laundry, I have no doubt that tiny Laundromat creatures must have stole up behind me and cast an evil spell inducing a sudden wave of forgetfulness to fall over me and my boots were left in the Port Angeles Laundromat, doomed to rest there for eternity. Or so those evil creatures must have thought. But instead, another crew swept in from above two days later to grab the boots out of the jaws of the enemy. Unfortunately the boots did not arrive on Monday so I was rendered useless for the day.

At first, the time of sitting back and relaxing all day sounded quite pleasant to my ears. In fact, it was very pleasant for the first several hours of the day as I casually relaxed and read my book. Over time however, my good mood began to transform. A persistent sore throat followed me all day, weighing me down like a small baby strapped to my back. Secondly, giant swarms of horseflies encircled me throughout the day, onto any bare skin and leaving small itchy bumps all over my feet and arms. A third downer upon my day was the file cabinets full of paperwork left to me by my cold wretch crewleader. All of these however, were simply minor annoyances. The thing that really made getting through the day a challenge was listening to the extreme disgruntlement of my crew, listening to the bickering of my fellow crewmembers was more trying than an entire day of hard work. Listening to my best friends argue and rant and snap at anyone who dared come nearer. No doubt the bad mood began with just one or two but it spread like peanut butter until everyone had it all over them and it shows by the amount of dirt stuck to them.

I've learned from this painful day to cherish the moments where we set along and to try not to show it when I am irritable so I don't spread it throughout the rest of my crew. Alex M.

My most challenging day was when my two friends were fired for a dumb reason. It was like my heart was taken away from me. I don't understand how you get so close and get torn apart. Another hard day was today because I've made myself a family and not knowing if I ever will see them again is hard. I think they all have taught me perseverance and to be torn away is so hard but I know when hard times come I have somebody to get in touch with and help us make it through.

I think that every day hot hard and hard. But it still at the same time it

got easier. We started to get along with the crew but we started to dislike other people on other crews. People didn't want us to come to the weekend site until we made peace then it was a beautiful relationships with the other crews. Andrew D.

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

Personally I've had many quite enjoyable experiences at NYC but since I have to pick 3, I will choose 3 that the group would recognize. Well, within the second week we were all getting to know each other pretty well, and I found it quite amusing to see Andrew, Josh, and Alex running in to the "roseberry bushes" although it was a bit foolish and dangerous some might say, they cracked me up every time they would start yelling about football and running in to the "roseberry bushes" and during the 4<sup>th</sup> week, although it was sad that 2 of our crewmembers (Heather and Garren) left us, Lyndsey and I became great friends instead of enemies while "mourning" over the loss of our friends, and the entire crew became even more (if possible) closer and not in a sarcastic way.

Having Katherine as our crewleader and all of our rovers has been a very positive experience. Katherine is awesome with the douchey? Nancy B.

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

One thing I will always remember about NYC is all of the friends I have made, and especially my crew. Throughout the weeks we have been out here I have come to call everybody part of my family. All of the people out here have shown me how to just let loose and actually be true to who I am and not trying to change myself just to fit in. Andrew: I will always remember because he was always a goof ball and all the beat boxing. Lindsay: I love Lindsay like a little sister; she has kept me sane and kept me here. Nancy: I will remember Nancy because she was always singing and when she becomes famous I'll totally buy her CD. Jake: I will remember him for all of his sly humor. Alex: I will remember Alex because he was always funny and he never actually tried to be. Glenn: I will remember Glenn because he was always nice and understanding and really easy to talk to. Josh: I'll remember Josh because he was always so funny and when he wasn't in a good mood I could always make him smile. Katherine: I will always remember Katherine because even though she pushed us she was also really cool and like on the same level as us.

One thing I will always remember is my crew. We have been through a lot and yet we always seem to get back up and keep going. All of us have had times when we have all wanted to quit and everybody keeps everyone else here. This crew has grown so tight and I have grown so used to seeing them every day that when this is over I will be hard put not to cry. I am absolutely positive that I will remember them for the rest of my life, and I sincerely hope that we all stay in touch for a long time. I believe that everyone on my crew has become one of the best friends I will ever have. Becca P.

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

From now on I will always? Now there is a tough question to answer. We learn a lot of life long lessons that we take with us on our life long journey. I think the one thing that the four crews and I will take with us after we leave the six weeks is pure hard work, a wonderful time and adventure.

As we leave I believe that we are going to take with us responsibility and teamwork. I believe that when some people come to NYC they have some acknowledgement of what was to come forward. When you learn those two things in your life it's one thing that you will never lose. It's something that becomes part of you; it becomes part of your life. You are always willing to take a giant step and you won't give up until the job is done. Then the step is completed. Then we can look back and say I have that huge step now I can take an even bigger step and not give up. If that is not responsibility I don't know what is.

Then we come to teamwork. With this job there is no such thing as a being by ourselves. Everything we do either takes the entire crew or one other person to help you through with your project. So when we go back home, we absolutely won't have a problem turning around and asking for help when a hand is needed.

Now I have one thing to add. We all should thank NYC for what they have done for us. We just made the best friends that we will ever have. So that is one thing we will walk away with and have forever and for always. Friends are what help us make it through life. So thank you NYC, I learned a life lesson and I made nine of the best friends that I will ever have in my life. Josh G.

Although at first I was very skeptical of NYC could teach me, later I came to realize that the fruits from the learning tree were bountiful. Many of the changes that took place because of this great learning experience will stay with me for a lifetime.

At the beginning of the session, I did not have a strong aversion, but being unclean did bring about a feeling of discomfort. However, as time passed, this peculiar feeling began to dissolve and something close to an attitude of pride took its place. Because of this change in thought, I will now wash clothing and bath much less frequently. This is not only pleasing to me for it is less wasteful and better for the environment.

The change in work habit was another great advancement that I will take with me. Before my NYC excursion, I had never worked an eight hour workday. To be able to perform tasks required great physical and mental strength for a long period of time is a skill that is beyond value. Now, in any job that I later may

encounter, I will be able to attack it with a new and unequalled vigor.

The change of living conditions was a huge change for me. This new habitat taught me much about teamwork and friendship. From now on I will be able to talk about certain roses I find in a person's character and work habits as well as any resolve a problem that may take place.

There are countless changes that have taken place due to my NYC experience and with these changes I am grateful that I am able to carry these new habits on with me. Because I am able to take these experiences on with, I truly believe that I have advanced as a person. Jake W.

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

At NYC I learned how to work in a group with 9 other people. I figured out how to do things that I never knew how to do before like tie knots, learned how to make food I never made before. I learned how to make trails like level 1 & 2. I also learned how to make water bars. I learned how to live without some of the things that I always had every day like TV, music, and game systems. Glen S.

While attending NYC I learned many valuable lessons that I will carry with me for a lifetime. The most important lesson I learned was to trust again. I came into NYC afraid to trust and feeling that everyone was the same, but my new friends which have become my family showed me that people truly can care about others. I never thought that in six weeks I could completely change my opinions of other people but surprisingly I have, and it didn't even take the entire 6 weeks. I never knew just living with such different but amazing people could completely change my life . . . but it has.

Another thing I learned was to have a good work ethic. Whenever I felt like slacking or had to sit out, I felt that I was letting my whole crew down; even if they did understand what I was going through. This experience has taught me to push myself to the limit and further. I had never worked this hard in my entire life, but now I know I can and so does my crew and everyone back home who didn't think I could make it. Learning to work hard and complete challenging projects has made me feel like I can do anything I set my mind to.

Last but not least, I learned to be a better person and friend. Every person here has touched my heart in a different way and showed me how to not be afraid of new experiences or just being myself. When the program started, I was really shy and never really showed my sense of humor or any real personal aspect

of my life; but now, nearing the end, that part of me have completely changed. I love and respect every member of my crew for what they have done for me and for others . . . they have made this experience one that will always be remembered and they all have a special place in my heart. Being the person I am now I couldn't imagine nor do I want to imagine having anyone or anything different about these last six weeks of my life. I am grateful for all that I have learned and am happy to walk away with the memories I have . . . I just wish there could have been many more. The ones I have will be held close to me forever just like every person in my crew. Lindsay

