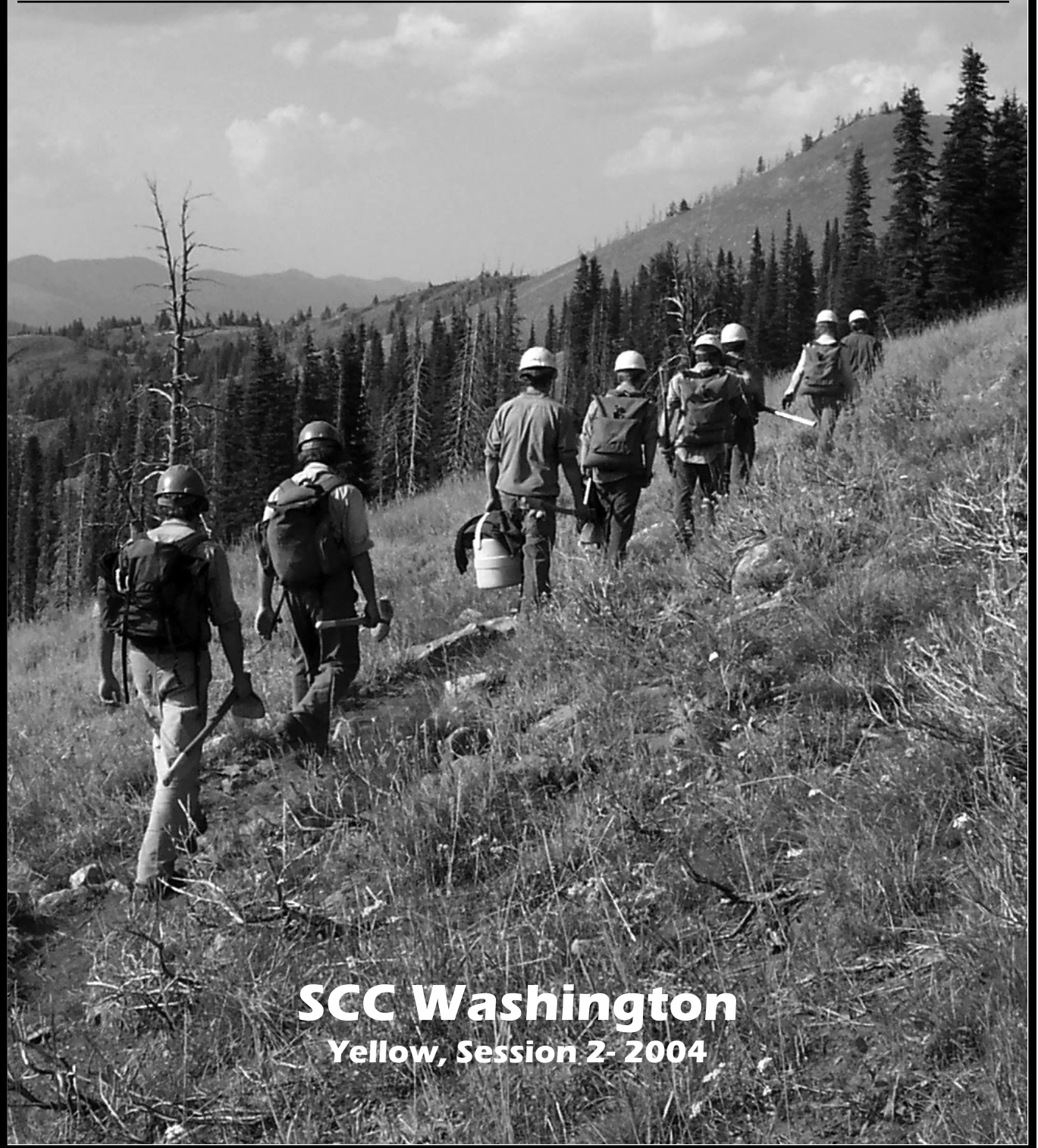




Crew Journal



SCC Washington
Yellow, Session 2- 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: Umatilla
Ranger District: Umatilla
Project Name- North Fork John Day River

Week 1: Date

Sunday: Sunday, yellow crew enjoyed a 10-hour drive to John Day, where conversations consisted of innocent happy topics to the unmentionable to irritating riddles. The music was unsavory. At the trail head, in cold rainy weather, much scrambling occurred. Hot dogs and rice, and now a word from Okea, ring around the rosie, flop slop bop and rop, go to bed boys.

Monday: Yellow crew is comprised of several unique individuals, a crewleader Brenna, and a rover, Jimmy, who all slave away in sickly conditions for Mastah' Jordano. We were placed into our crews on Sunday, after a tedious Saturday full of "big fun" circles, clinics, circles, circles . . . circles. A sticky meal of meat slop and macaroni glop, dirty jokes among the children, and loud laughing cadenced the evening. Saturday wasn't such a good time for me, as I'd spent the last 30 hours in airports around the country. Jesha "The Patriot"

Thus begins the quest to a full hike, work day, and existence under the wrath of cold and wet, cruel weather. Jesha broke her voice box and is forced to suffer in silence while PMA babies scream "Go YELLOW CREW, YEAH!" and bust out in song and Pulaski dance. However, Jesha does not mourn because Jesha is the PMA Mother-Lord, who habitually engages in acts of PMA. The hike to the camp was slow paced but beautiful, the sight reminding me of the picture on the front bag of my toilet paper at home: Green Forest brand toilet paper—soft and cleansing, unlike wet, decomposing pine cones.

Lop, loppity lop lop lop lop, brush on the trail is our enemy. Mastah Ja-danO is watching so you'd better get up. Gosh it's gotta be under 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Jesha L.

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Tuesday: Today, we had a good day. The weather was nice. Everyone was very productive. I felt better today. I think the overall morale of the crew has higher. We were very cooperative. I hope tomorrow is as good. Tyler B.

Wednesday: This week we want to finish this beautiful trail along the creek. They say it is about two miles but we have been working for three days and we haven't reached the stopping point. I swear it has to be at least three miles. I am beginning to at least get used to the work if not exactly like it. We have only been brushing which gets boring after a while. In some ways, OK, a lot of ways, it would be great to do something new. I guess that the work is calming. It gives you time to think.

They say that hopefully we will be fixing the trail by Friday. They also say that it shouldn't be raining by then. That would be the best thing that could happen. Kristy G.

Thursday: Every day our crew works together, we learn more about how each individual comes into the group with their own influence. We learn to push ourselves and one another further, as we brave the rain and living with complete strangers. Amber B.

It has been raining basically since we got here. I don't think I have been properly dry in like five days. I am looking forward to the sun.

This program has been hard but I am beginning to see its rewards. In some weird way even your aching muscles seem to be like a trophy. Then there is the crew itself. As we spend more and more time together, we seem to have more and more fun.

I am not going to say that I have not had my doubts. I have wondered if the program is worth it at the end of the day when you are tired and damp, but now I am beginning to see that at the end it will all be worth it. Kristy G.

Friday: Our challenges consisted of long hikes and working in the cold. We were challenged to move from point A to point B, often carrying heavy gear in order to work on our job. It was often rainy and was cold. Therefore, taking away from our motivation. But I feel the crew overcame this and relied on each other for their motivation rather than subsiding to the cold and hikes. At the end of the week we could easily put our accomplishments into perspective. We accomplished not only working our goal amount of hours and completing what we needed to do on the trail but got to know and like each other through our work. As well the first week went well and we can now use it as a building block to make the rest of our session better through the things we learned from one another. Alex

National Forest or area that the work took place: Ochoco-

Ranger District: Paulina

Project Name- Evasive species [sic]

Week 2: Date

Monday: Yellow crew dominated the fashion show of the weekend site. Using charcoal to blacken Jeshia and Leif's bodies, as well as decorative grass and duct tape garments, they were transformed into wild banshees. Every member of the crew was involved in some way. Life at the campsite is starting to feel more like being a part of a family.—Amber B.

Monday: Today was the first battle in the epic war against the alien species known to us as "Hound's Tongue." The battle was long and brutal, and in the end, we were semi-victorious. Granted, half the crew is becoming ill, but we would not let that deter us from the ultimate goal: three cleared priorities. Leif C.

Tuesday: Here we are again. Back at our project site at Ochoco National Forest. We are here to remove the rest of the invasive species in this area, a weed called Hound's Tongue, so basically we get to weed a huge garden. The work can be monotonous but much like the lopping it gives you time to talk to the crew and to think.

There are points during the day when everyone is just silent as we are either chopping or pulling the Hound's Tongue. Occasionally you would hear the birds sing or even sometimes a hawk somewhere overhead. It is easy to see why some people love this kind of work and why others hate it. It is wonderful to work in such beautiful surroundings. But the work is hard, hot and dirty. However, at least for me, at the end of the day you can't help but be happy with the day even if everything didn't happen as you thought it should. --Kristy G.

Tuesday: Today, our battle technique has received a boost. We spent much of the early hours in battle developing what I like to call "the Zig-Zag of Death." The tactic is simple: walk in a

semi-reasonable formation known as a “line” The reason I say “line” is because some of our soldiers had a hard time staying in formation. Perhaps the task of walking at the same pace in a zigzag fashion is too difficult for us to master. But alas! Another day brings us to another battle, and perhaps tomorrow we shall succeed in the attempt to bolster our arsenal of attack techniques. Leif C.

Wednesday: Due to the beauty of Mystery Madness, I Brenna Kenney am making breakfast today which means I get to write in the journal. It is actually very nice to wake to a quiet camp and prepare wonders of a magnificent meal for everyone! The goals for the week is simple . . . kill the hounds tongue!!!! We were born for nothing except destroying this noxious WEED. We of course have other goals of being a strong and growing community, learning during SEED and most important, having fun.

Wednesday: We’re killing hound’s tongue with speed and efficiency. Our viciousness is frightening. Today we discovered a camp dedicated to training rebel insurgence forces. Imagine it: the only targets in sight are hound’s tongues, as far as the eye can see. Perhaps the rebels have won today, because we will be returning to this particular field of battle tomorrow before the heat of the day. Leif

Thursday: So last night Deb came and did a compass/map SEED which was phenomenal. We got up at 6:30 to get ready for work (don’t forget it’s 6 am), work 9 long exhausting hours. IN the middle of first break we had a couple surprise guests which were Andrew and Jordan. We thought Jordan wouldn’t be able to work with us which was a bummer but we had no problems so he didn’t have to. But he came back and did anyways. Thank you guys! We have almost made it through our second week together. Go yellow crew. Can I hear a whatwhat!
—Crystal A.

Thursday: A major step toward victory has been taken today as a large fortress housing hounds tongue leaders was discovered and destroyed. After an early victory the hounds tongue grew scarce and we suspect there are only a few small militia forces still in existence. Alex H.

Friday: The black swarm known as “The Sickness” has descended upon the faithful yellow crew. Our immune systems put up a good defense; however, 5 valiant corpsmembers have fallen. The effort was great and the battle was long. The evil sickness attacked at night, and often times you could hear skirmishes being fought and expelled by the oral units of the members. On top of the internal battles, all were fighting genetically altered parasitically freakish creatures known as ticks. During the day the knight of Hounds tongue from the fourth realm fell upon the large patches of resistance with such viciousness and ferocity that many of the rebels simply wilted and ejected themselves from the wretched soil they inhabited. All hope seemed lost, until two members of the Hounds tongue ? joined forces with the knight and his brave companions. Priority One and Two were effectively eliminated and at least one battle was won this week.—Leif C.

At last victory was achieved. We successfully cleared three priorities this week. We feel as if our impact on the insurgence forces was great this week and they have been set back great steps. As for our battalion, we are off to the infirmary for treatment of our troops. Leif C.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Malheur
Ranger District: Malheur
Project Name- Sheep Creek Trail Reroute

Week 3: Date

Monday: Most of the weekend we were at the hospital to repair our sick. We had an amazing chicken dinner from orange crew when we got home.

Sunday, we drove not too far to our new home. It is absolutely amazing and BEAUtiful out here.

Finally , we get to do some trail work. Thank God! This morning we spent on fixing up the first part of the trail then hiked a little. Crystal A.

Tuesday: I am rebelling against this prompt. It is boring and I don't feel that any reader would enjoy a dull journal entry about our project. We are doing tread in the woods. Does that suffice? Anywho, I would like to underline the amazing breakfast yellow crew woke up to this morning: pancakes burnt on the outside and sloppy in the middle. The work day began with a . . . ahh, what the dirty, I'm just a grumpy old man. Sean W.

Wednesday: This week we are heading to a place called Sheep Creek. We are building a trail this time. So far there have been new sections of trail, all of it pretty mushy. We got a really awesome sponsor. He tries to take care of a lot of our needs including ice cream on Friday. I think we are doing pretty good on this trip and trying to put a lot of effort into this job. Today has been frustrating with all the attitudes and such. I can see it in myself and my fellow crew members which is very unfortunate. I hope things will change. Darcy S.

Thursday: This week has been nothing short of amazing. Both in what we have learned and what we have done. We have learned, or course, about building trail. You can tell as the trail progresses how much we have learned and improved. But we have not only learned more about the work but we are continuously learning how to live together as a crew. We learn through our mistakes. Even though progress is slow we are learning to live together without constantly arguing. But like I said, progress is slow. We also are settling into a sort of routine. The routines make time go by even faster. Kristy G.

Friday: This Friday our sponsor Jerry gave us money to go get milkshakes. We packed our dirty clothes and went to town. We stopped at the RV park for showers. After that we went to the Hitching Post for ice cream. Also we did laundry in Prairie City. Then we went to the library in John Day to read and check our email. A couple of hours later we started to head home and get ready for the next day.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Malheur
Ranger District: Malheur
Project Name- Sheep Creek Reroute

Week 4: Date

Monday: This weekend was spent at the lovely Strawberry Lake in the lovely Strawberry Wilderness Area. It was a nice short hike, and another short hike would lead you to a beautiful waterfall, believe it or not, named Strawberry Falls. Some would believe that the name of all those objects had to do with the small reddish fruit. Do not let them mislead you. Many years ago, gigantic aliens shaped much like strawberries descended upon the area to create the geographical features. This is why the area is named as such. Leif C.

Tuesday: We are building trail at the wonderful location of Sheep's Creek. The days are long and grueling under the verbal lashings of our rover Cole. We are driven mercilessly forward under rock sleet hail and later under the blazing sun moving stone like the slaves of Egypt in ages past. The food will be served soon and I look forward to sleep even though my fellow workers and I will almost literally be piled on top of each other. Sean

Wednesday: Today we had the strangest oatmeal I have ever seen. It wasn't too bad with a packet of hot choco in it. We had to write a cover letter last night for homework. After we ate breakfast we hiked to work. We went cross-country part of the way. At lunch, Leif and Brenna ran as fast as they could to bring back 80 lbs. of water. Little did the crew know that there was water down on the ATV trail where we were supposed to come up. After lunch the day went pretty slow digging in gravel. Darcy S.

Thursday: We still continue to learn so much we learn about building trail, the outdoors, and living in a small community. Little accidents and misfortunes only allow us to learn even more. We learn how to work harder every day. We also learn how to work as a team.

This week while not as fast as last week, went by so quickly. I thoroughly enjoyed this work week and work site, although I am glad to be moving to a new site. I am glad we are finally moving into Washington. I have been anxiously waiting since the beginning and it is finally here. I can't wait. Kristy G.

Friday: Our crew's biggest challenge this week was losing Leif due to an accidental mishap for what is only hopefully a week. We had the best contact ever which made working the reroutes along Sheep's Creek immensely easier. Our biggest accomplishment was building trail as a crew for the first time and doing a good job of it to the satisfaction of our crewleader, contact (Terry) and ourselves. The two weeks along Sheep's Creek were a blast. We can only hope our last two weeks will be as good. Sean W.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee
Ranger District: Wenatchee
Project Name- Cady Creek

Week 5: Date

Monday: Yet again we met up with all the other crews before relocating at a new location. The only difference is that this time we were at the last weekend site of the session. So far the last time we resupplied our gear and went on our rec trip. Like every other time it was a wonderful feeling to relax at some beautiful location. But before we knew it, we were once again off to our new home, this time for two weeks in backcountry. And before we know it we will be back with the other crews and this time will be the last. Because then will be time for the Big Clean and the long-awaited graduation.

It is amazing how quickly time goes by. It seems like it wasn't long ago at all that we were at orientation and here we are over 2/3 of the way done. Kristy G.

Tuesday: Just like the first week, the crew is engaged in brushing. The Cady Creek trail in the Wenatchee National Forest is our location. We are basically cutting down saplings and branches that are hanging too far onto the trail. Our work took a surprising turn today when a reroute was required and a few drainage ditches. I had fun working with Kristy on our project which took us the last part of the day to make a noticeable change to it. I had lots of fun with it and satisfied with my work at the end of the day. Our crew will miss Jordan and await a time when we learn how to keep track of our tools. Alex H.

Wednesday: Today was wet, but eventually the sun came out at times. The crew was in good spirits even though we were wet. We got to have a fire and dry our socks out. Brenna had a talk with Mother Nature so hopefully we have a nicer day. Tyler B.

Thursday: Today we finished one side of the creek and we went to the other side. We started with tree control and brushing. Kristy, Crystal and I cut a giant wad of branches off a tree oh what a glorious moment it was. Darcy S.

Friday: This week we worked on brushing the Cady Creek Trail in the Wenatchee Nat'l Forest. We also completed several drainage structures. The weather stayed fairly cool all week long and it rained every day except for Friday, when we hiked out for resupply. This was the only week we didn't make a trip to the hospital, and it was the only week we worked with ten people instead of eleven or twelve. We had no rover this week. Amber B.

Week 6: Date

Monday: Free time is such a rare opportunity while we are out here. That is why it was so nice to go on our solos. It was nice to be able to sit in the sun as I finished some work and write home. It was especially nice considering what we did the day before on Saturday. Again we moved camp to our new home for the week. Except this time was more challenging than ever before. This time, we hiked one and a half miles uphill in the rain. It was extremely difficult but I feel like I accomplished a lot. With an easy day on Sunday we were ready for another day of work today. Kristy G.

Tuesday: We are doing it all this week. Up trail from our last week's work. We are brushing and doing many fun projects like drainage ditches, drainage dips, barrow pits and more! Our trail is having major traffic as well. We saw two groups of hikers and a few horses. All of the people complimented us on our work and thanked us for doing such a good job. Alex H.

Wednesday: today we did more brushing and some drainage dips and ditches. We had good weather. The bugs can be angry at us but we can live with it. The food was also decent. Tyler B.

Thursday: This is our last Thursday together as a crew. In a way it's nice, but in a way it's sad to leave a family forever. Darcy S.

Friday: Our crew continued brushing this week along Cady Creek trail. It was a great week and tremendous way to finish the session. The sun was shining, the hikers we met were grateful, our average fly kill count per day was 300, and we exceeded our contact's expectations. We are the only crew to finish with the same 10 people we started with which is something to be proud of. Sean W.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

First week waking up to the pitter patter of rain. Sean W.

There never was a most challenging day because I knew what to expect. Adjusting to the new rules. Crystal A.

Being hot, wet, and helpless on the hike into backcountry the first week. Alex H.

My most challenging day was the day after I burned my hands, feeling totally useless and not being able to help my crew. Leif C.

My first day in backcountry, sitting in the freezing rain. I was amazed at what I had gotten myself into. Kristy G.

The second week when I was sick and pulling hounds tongue in the scabs. Darcy S.

I was sick the second week pulling hounds tongue. Curtis

My most challenging day was my first day. It was the hardest day and the longest day ever. Tyler B.

My peak point of ultra-uber sickness—strep throat and bronchitis the first week.
Jesha L.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

... The people, personal benefit, new opportunities. Sean W.

- ... The amazing people, the beautiful places, and time to improve myself.
Crystal A.

... The people, learning good work ethic, and pushing myself physically. Alex H.

... Bustin' tail on the hikes, complaining about food, hot sweaty ? love. Leif C.

... Singing on the trail, working in the hail, cuddling with the crew around the campfire. Kristy G.

... Singing on the trail, the people, and the beautiful places. Darcy S.

... The people, learning, the beautiful places. Curtis A.

... Pooping in dirt, burritos y tacos, crime. Jesha L.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember my crew and crew leader. Sean W.

Jesha's beautiful face and Brenna. Crystal A.

My crew and Brenna. Alex Havran

Laughing my butt off all the time. Leif

Informing the world that the van stinks on the interstate. Kristy G.

I will always remember my crew and leader. Darcy S.

The people I've met while here. Curtis A.

Oatmeal and iodine. Jesha L.

From Now On I Will Always...

... Be slightly more prompt. Sean W.

... Think about how to approach people and my tone of voice used. Crystal A.

... Conserve energy when possible, be able to work harder and be willing to do more, and be thankful for what I have. Alex H.

... Be ready to run away to the woods. Leif C.

... Appreciate showers. Kristy G.

I will always work harder for work. Darcy S.

... How people take everything for granted. Curtis A.

... Abstain from washing. Jesha L.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned my French is really bad, that my ability to grow facial hair is limited, that it is good to always be open to new experiences. Sean W.

The way you talk to different people are valuable. Crystal A.

How to build trails in general, how to do low impact camping, how to work harder than ever before! Alex H.

More about my limits, 2nd degree burns hurt more than anything in my life, banana slug's reproductive organ is $\frac{3}{4}$ their length. Leif C.

I learned how to work with a group of strangers in the wilderness with extreme conditions. Kristy G.

I learned how to build trail. Darcy S.

The names of the tools and how to build trails. Curtis A.

I learned I have a sweet smell to biting insects. Jesha L.

