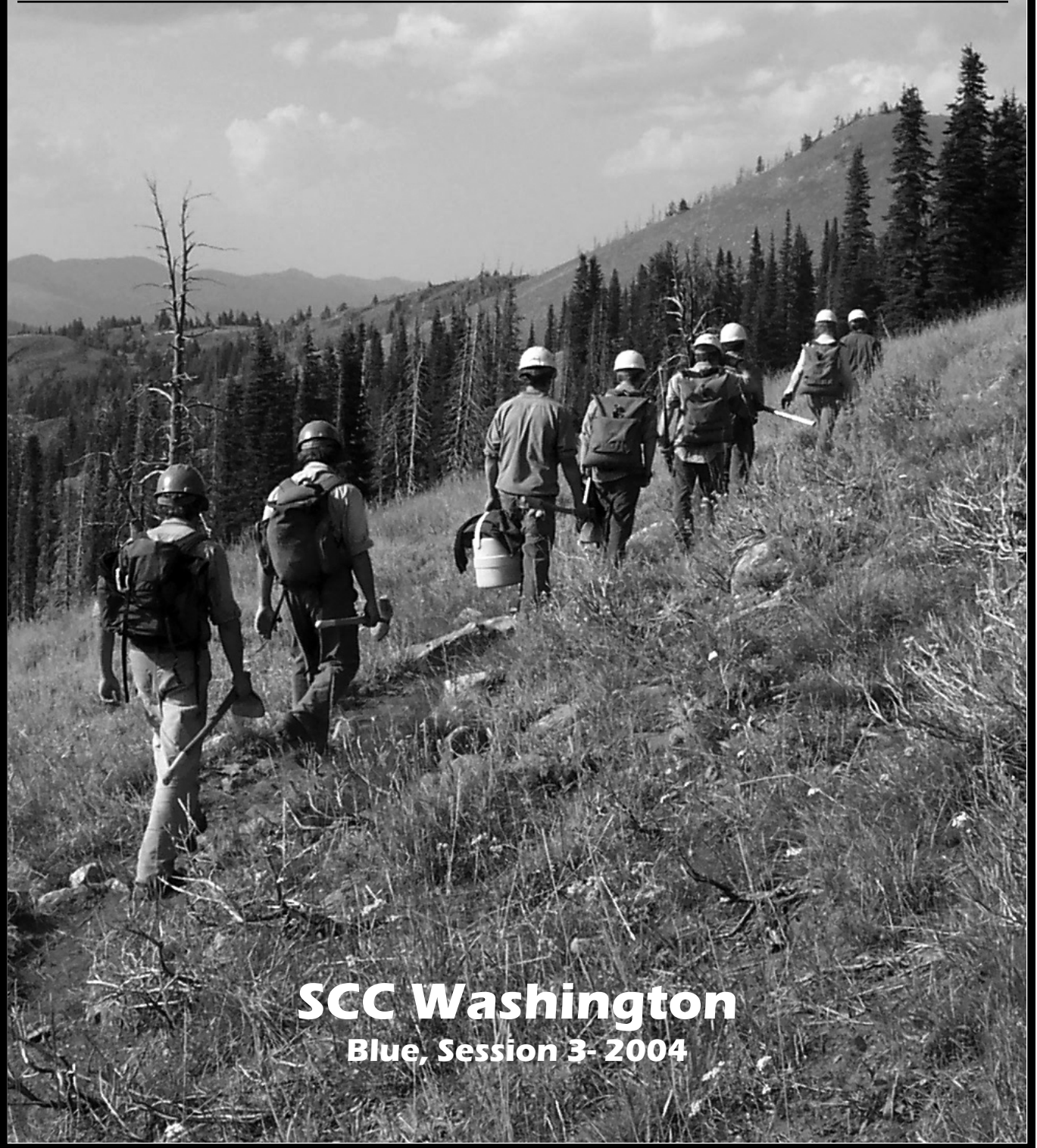




# Crew Journal



**SCC Washington**  
Blue, Session 3- 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: Fort Clatsop Nat. Memorial.**

**Ranger District:**

**Project Name- Fort-to-Sea Trail Construction**

Week 1: Date

Monday: We arrived on Sunday at Fort Riley, a military camp. We set up our tents then went to the beach. Josh and Nick played on a shipwreck. Monday we got up at 5:30 or around there and got ready to work. We then went to Fort Clatsop and started to rebuild the trails. We also pulled our poles. For dinner we ate hot dogs. Drew R.

Tuesday: Today has been a defining point for how our crew would operate, and we're gonna be awesome! Straining our backs and testing our muscles we detracted lots of poles deep in the ground and carried them uphill to be hauled out. The determination and strength of the Blue Crew showed itself in our sweat, groans, and pains. We've accomplished a lot. Haley B.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week (week one) is to work hard, be respectful to everyone on the crew, and just be careful when working. Chenoa B.

Thursday: Our first week at NYC we learned how to hustle in the morning to get to work on time. We learned how to stay safe working, how to build trail, and how to tie some basic useful knots. Janet R.

Friday: We have finally accomplished our goal of trail length, and it looks great! The tread is flat, roots are gone, and beautiful moss lines the side for a lovely border. After our 4-hour Friday work schedule that has ended our forty hours, we are all so happy for the showers! We are still learning the process of packing the trailer, but we are getting better. Enlightening conversations have brought us closer together, and multiple hour van rides are strengthening those bonds. As we head to Mt. St. Helens, we are all readying cheesy tabloids that make us laugh, enjoying clean clothes, and relaxing to the beautiful scenery. The weekend is a reward for our efforts to perfect the Lewis & Clark Trail. It is exciting to see how fun free time could be when working is already so fun! Haley B.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Rainier  
Ranger District:  
Project Name- Construct historic wonderland trail reroute**

Week 2: Date

Monday: Weekend sites are always frantic, confusing and fun. And this one was no exception. I was amazed at how many people's names I had forgotten in the first week, and in the chaos of camp setup I struggled to refresh my memory. Blue crew was the first on the scene and once we arrived at Mt. St. Helen, we began a back-and-forth search for an ideal weekend site. Just after we had finished setting up the boys' tent and the kitchen tarp's main rope, the second van arrived with many a joyous greeting. Soon all had shown and were hastily unhitching, unfolding, unpacking, arranging, setting, unloading, unpacking, greeting one another and generally enjoying themselves. Saturday 8:00 am wake up and pancakes came and found everyone in good spirits. After dish time and Saturday circle, the crew leaders lined out their various rec. trip locations and activities for the day. I, of course, stuck with our leader Josh, and was rewarded with not just one but two gorgeous lakes, one free ??? and my first ever exploration trip through the depths of the earth. All too soon the trip was over and we returned to camp to be greeted with a wide selection of culinary delights for dinner.

On Sunday, we woke up and began taking down our tents immediately. .Once we were packed, we had our Sunday circle and those heavenly words were bestowed upon our crew: "Mt. Rainier!" That is our project for the next two weeks. Halleluia! Nick C.

Tuesday: Our assignment for the next two weeks is trail maintenance and repair in the Wonderland and Paul Peak Trails. This involves widening, cleaning, sloth-and-burn, and the most tedious and difficult, root-balling. Many trees were blown down in a recent storm, some right over the trail, leaving massive balls of roots and dirt for us to remove.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for the week is trying to be on time for work, more work/less talk, have a positive attitude, and finish things as fast as possible, so that we could have more free time. Chenoa

Thursday: This week we learned about bears and how fast they move. Also, how to get them away from our campsite with bear bags and noise. We were also taught about the m?? stone and how to work them. {We learned that} water sanitation is the key to staying away from some diseases. I think by tomorrow we will know a lot more from Josh/Simon. Drew

Friday: Today we got up, ate, left late for work. We worked really hard and we got back to find all our stuff wet. It has been raining all day. It really sucked to fix: it was hard to dry. I had to use my dry clothes for drying the inside of our tent. We fixed up our stuff, Sydney made some food, and this is it. Nathan C.

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

**Ranger District**

**Project Name- Construction of the Historic Wonderland Trail re-route**

Week 3: Date

Monday: On Saturday, we hiked up to the van and had a great lunch made on the Dutch oven in the parking lot. We loaded our packs with food for the next week and hiked back down to camp. On Sunday Josh and Simon made breakfast and we worked 4 hours in the morning. Then we had lots of free time, a great SEED and dinner. Janet R.

Tuesday: On our final week here on Mt. Rainier, we are amidst the beautiful structures that make this park so amazing. Beneath the old growth of trees that stretched past our eyes, our crew has constructed more turnpikes, destroyed more root balls, and set the records in mud jumping. As we reach the peak of the week, we are excited for what more awaits us. Haley

Wednesday: The blue crew's goal for this week has been a multitude of expensive permanent projects. First, a massive switch back has been constructed. This huge project seemed unattainable, but the Blue Crew finished and they finished it well!! In addition, beautiful turnpikes made of rock have added length to the trail that will outlive us all. It has been a great week. Haley

Thursday: During our second week of backcountry, the Blue Crew learned many valuable lessons. One of them was that we paler you are the dirtier you look. And yet another – the dirtier you look, the dirtier you feel. Sydney S.

Friday: By the end of our two week backcountry adventure we have raised too many challenges with an attitude resulting in pride. The work we have done has been respected, praised and admired. The professional crews of Mt. Rainier, as well as the hikers that grace the beautiful trail, have complimented us in a genuine and impressive manner every step of our experience. The Blue Crew has left Mt. Rainier astonished with the caliber of work that Northwest Youth Corps performs. Because of our accomplishments, the reputation of this program at Mt. Rainier has been raised to a standard of respect and awe. The work we have done will always stick in our minds with happiness for the joy it has brought to those on the mountain. Haley

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie**  
**Ranger District: Enumclaw**  
**Project Name- Carbon Trail #1179: Brushing and tread**

Week 4: Date

Monday: On Saturday, we left the weekend site for rec trips. I went with Fox and we traveled to Lake Serine. It was a 3-mile hike to the lake. Once we got there the lake was beautiful. It was well worth the hike. The water was crystal clear and good fun to swim in. Then on Sunday, our crew got Fox as a rover and hopped in the van to Frog Mountain. We are chilling with red crew because we're at the same spots. It was great. Only two weeks left. Drew

Tuesday: We are working on the Carbon trail at Frog Mountain. We hike a grip to get to work, so we walk and work a lot. This place is a lot like the weekend site minus nice grass and there are a lot of bullets everywhere. We are widening the trail so that hikers and people riding horses can travel the trail as safely as possible. It has some good views. Drew

Wednesday: Blue crew really didn't have any "new" goals for this week, so I'll just explain what we did today. We started out with our 3-something hike for work. Devin came out with us also. Fox made a goal for us. We had to get to the finish point (where Josh put some sort of measuring stick) within an hour. The hike back up to camp was intense! Liz, Sydney and I were all dying by halfway. Chenoa

Thursday: The united feeling of the Blue Crew has helped us all to make it through a strenuous week. I have learned how much a "Positive Mental Attitude" helps in hard times. Because of our encouragement towards each other, we have found the energy and ability to climb that next switchback, swing through that gargantuan root, and sing on those everlasting, beautiful hikes toward our abode. Haley

Friday: Roses:

Alex: Pretty much the whole day. Waling up from work and seeing how much we'd gotten done.

Drew: Talking with Nick on the way up from work.

Nathan: The hike down to work. Discovering why rocks spark when hit with a tool. Party boy sign.

Will: Four hours of work, hike back, drive here, helping set up yellow crew's stuff.

Nick: Breakfast (Thanks Fox). Racing downhill after the yellow top. Harmonizing with swim-suit dryer at the Y. Working together.

Haley: Being at the Laundromat and having time to chill. I felt we worked well and saw what needed to be done.

Chenoa: When superman Nick raced down the hill after the yellow top. Hearing girls chant "John Wayne's Teeth" in the YMCA showers.

Sydney: Having the lady in the YMCA ask if we were in jail. We worked together better than we have yet.

Liz: The stars are pretty beautiful tonight. The walk to work. The shower.

Janet: Basically the whole day. Taking care of Sydney when she was dehydrated.

Josh: The teamwork today was incredible! Seeing blue crew hustle to set up Yellow crew's

tents and make them hot dinner.

Fox: Seeing the crew hustle like ants. The drive here.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie  
Ranger District: Skykomish  
Project Name- Deception Pass/PCT: Trail Maintenance**

Week 5: Date

Monday: Our weekend site this week was laid-back and mellow. Only one crew, yellow crew, showed up this time. Dinner was delicious on Friday; we prepared it for yellow crew. They'd been 2 weeks in the backcountry and didn't even have time for shower or store stops and still got in at 10 that night. For the rec trip, Blue crew stuck together and went to a nice swimming hole and just chilled. We got back, had Saturday circle in the rain, and went to bed. Sunday woke us up raining, and we hurried to load our gear with a minimum of soakage. Our location was announced: a section of the Pacific Crest Trail! After a 2-hour drive we arrived, packed, and ate. We hiked up and didn't quite make it and ended up sleeping in a ditch on the side of the trail. It never stopped raining. Nick C.

Tuesday: We are working on the PCT replacing turnpikes. One turnpike we used the existing logs and added some rocks, a little dirt and a lot of love. It's a "punchpike", nothing like any other turnpike. All of the hikers we saw really appreciated our work. Janet R.

Wednesday: Our goal for the week was to complete rotten turnpikes along the PCT trail. We started a big project on a very muddy section. Our goal was to dig it out and fill the turnpike with many rocks, and improve the drainage system. Another project with high goals was further down the trail, our crew worked on removing dead rotten logs from the downhill side and replacing it with a fresh piece of wood cut by Haley and Nick. It was difficult to drag the large log up the hill, but as a crew we achieved our goal! Liz W.

Thursday: Thursday we only had to work 6 ½ hours and then we hiked out back to the van. Josh, Drew, Will, Alex and Nick hiked ahead of Catie, Nath, and the rest of the girls so they could set up camp. Catie gave us some wrong directions and we ended up getting lost. So we turned around and started hiking in the dark. Josh came to our rescue and fed us and gave us some water. We finally made it up to the top an hour later. Chenoa

Friday: This last week has pushed our crew beyond its extremes. As we all hiked down and up through cold air and wet skies, our heavy backpacks dug into our backs to create a permanent impression not only on our bodies, but also our minds. Because of our group strength, everyone, even the ones who thought they couldn't, made it to our site, as well as back from it. We've been drenched, bruised, and scarred, but I feel PMA was still running strong. As we all leave and separate from each other the memories will keep us together. We've shared many laughs, sweat and tears. The Blue Crew reached the top of the mountain and will always remember how we got there: Josh, Nick, Liz, Drew, Chenoa, Alex, Sydney, Nathan, Janet, Will and Haley. Haley B.

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

*Hiking out of Deception Falls trail. Drew*

*Probably hiking at Deception Falls Trail. Chenoa*

*Hiking out of Deception Falls Trail after a 6  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. day. Nick*

*The last day: a 7-hour day and a 5-hour hike. Nathan.*

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

*Working on root balls, making new friends and seeing all of the great views. Drew*

*Making new friends, cross-cutting the very last week, looking at our work we did after we finished. Chenoa*

*Riverside chats at Mr. Rainier, the bucket brigade at the Oregon coast, and all the delicious dinners we've had. Nick*

*The crosscut on the PCT, hauling rocks on Rainer with Devon, making jokes with people. Nathan*

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

*The rec trip to Lake Sarine and also swimming with fox. Drew*

*Just all the GREAT times I had these past five weeks with my crew. Chenoa*

*The most pristine and beautiful lake I have ever seen: Lake Serene. Nick*

*The crosscut. Nathan*

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

*I will always remember the experiences I had. Drew*

*I will always remember the great comments we got from hikers about our trailwork. Chenoa*

*I will always work with the knowledge that a positive attitude is essential for success. Nick*

*Try my best. Nathan*

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

*I learned how to make trails and turnpikes, SEED was helpful and I learned how to tie knots better. Drew*

*I learned about how to make trails, more about the environment, and how to live in the outdoors. Chenoa*

*I have a much more expanded knowledge of knots. I've learned what a difference a positive attitude makes, and what an amazing bond can grow between people after five weeks of intense effort. Nick*

*I learned how to make friends. Nathan*

