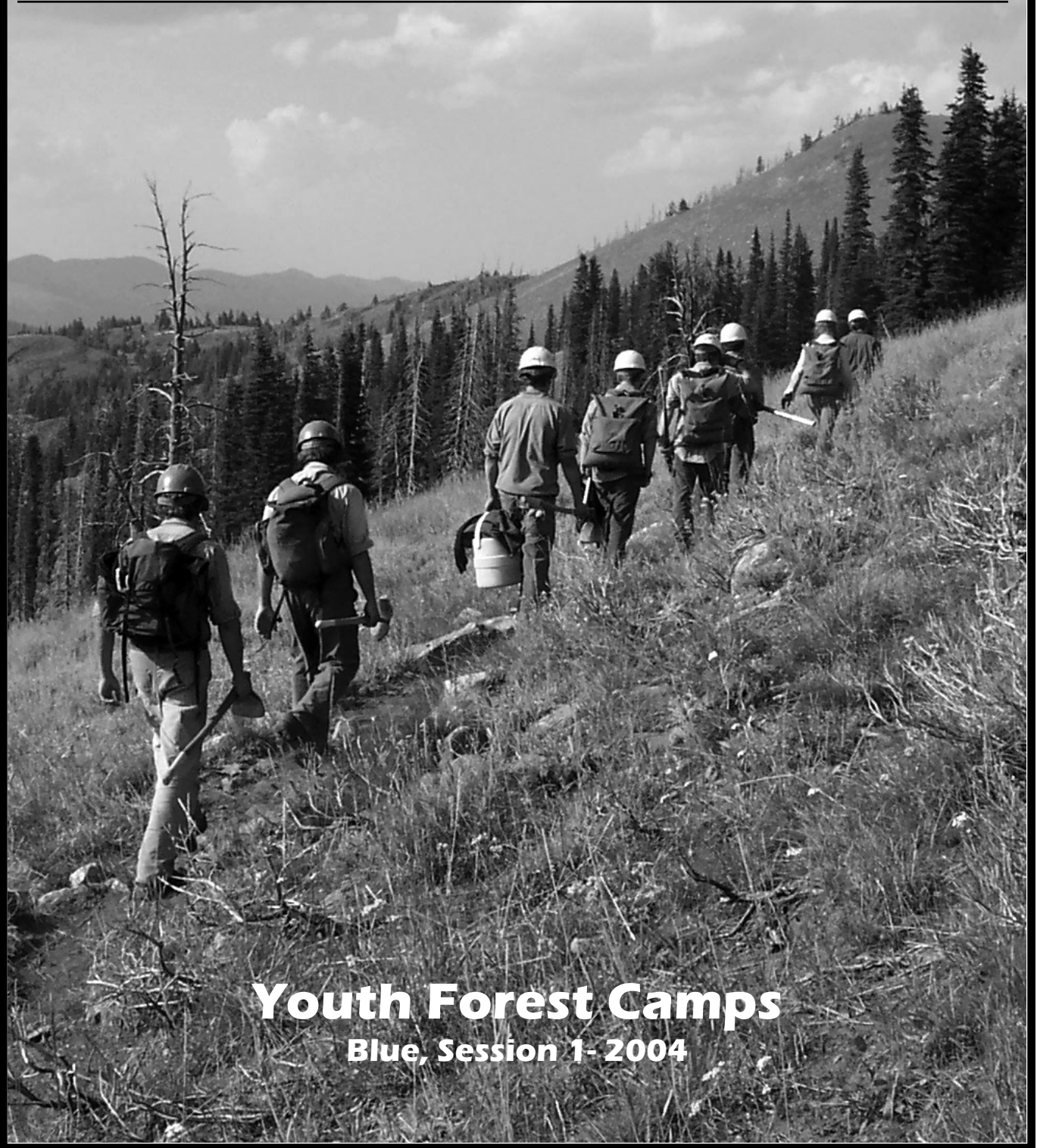




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Blue, Session 1- 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 an all 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,

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Illinois Valley
Project Name- Fehley Gulch Trail

Week 1: Date: June 14th

Monday: Our first morning at base camp went smoothly until we realized that the brown sugar in our oatmeal was actually hummus mix. Even though some of us went to work hungry, the first day on the Fehley Gulch Trail was good. After hiking in a mile or so, we crosscut our first trees and started clearing the trail which crossed several streams. I don't think I was the only one who fell in though. I felt pretty good after the first day, even though it was hard. The forest is beautiful and jellybeans at lunch made me happy. Kristin W.

Tuesday: It is our second day of work. Tuesday. Being at base camp is an easy start for our crew. Work is a little tough. None of us were exactly used to hiking, but after at least one day, we were feeling better about it. After work we went back to camp and made a delicious dinner containing mac and cheese with a side salad. And for dessert we had some cheesecake that ended up as a game of tag between a few crewmembers and the dessert pan. It was awesome. Jessica C.

Wednesday: This week has been going by pretty fast. We've been crosscutting a lot. During mid-morning Scott met up with us and we were ready to eat a snack, but the lunch people forgot a couple bags of sandwiches. So we economized on the lunch that day. At dinner we had a gourmet meal consisting of burritos and garlic-onion rice. Gabe said to cook a whole box of rice, and so I did. At dinner, Gabe had to eat the rest of the rice, which some of the girls stepped up, and helped him out. The rest of the evening went by fairly quick and relaxing with a delightful SEED to finish out the evening. Summer L.

Thursday: Just when everybody was pumped up and ready to go, Gabe started the van and nothing happened. We all thought it was a joke, but the battery was dead. We acted quickly to flag down a stranger to jump start it. When we were ready to give up and just then an old man that lived close by, he probably was taking a joy ride looking for help needed. He came at the right place and the right time. Lovewell jumped into action and put the cables onto both vehicles. Then we got it started. Just around the turn going to work we saw a good size black bear in the middle of the road. At work we worked to the top we crosscut and pulaskied giant logs that were in the trail. Had good dinner and went to sleep. Shawn M.

Friday: The first week for the blue crew was probably most challenging in the fact that it was our first week together having to work as a team, cook and clean as a crew, and simply tolerate each other. However, overcoming all these often difficult and trying situations with all ten crewmembers intact was most definitely an accomplishment we were all proud of. Other challenges we encountered included simply being overloaded with information about tools, safety, rules, chores and NYC policies. It wasn't always easy to have to work on a crosscut for an hour with someone you are barely acquainted with. But despite all these things, our accomplishments by far outweighed the challenges. The main one came on Friday when we finally reached the peak of the Fehley Gulch Trail and overcame the old-man of the forest, otherwise known as the "beast." Never before have any of us had to remove something so stubborn and massive from a trail. After at least five hours of crosscutting and pulaskiing, the beast submitted as eleven of us rolled the great hulk of a tree off the trail. I would say this was most definitely the greatest accomplishment of the first week, after removing over 30 trees from the trail. Kristin W.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Galice RD
Project Name- Bailey Loop Trail

Week 2: Date: June 21st

Monday: It is now day two of week two on the wonderful Bailey Loop Trail in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The almighty blue crew did their first backcountry hike of a whopping six miles. Oh man, can I tell you about fun! It was a tiring hike but the blue crew ripped through like no other! We started working on our trail. Have you ever seen virtual limit?! That's our trail. Hahaha! OK, maybe not that bad. We got to cut our day short since we had previous hours from our hike in and we had much to do. We're at a beautiful camp with massive amounts of killer mosquitoes. But with a little repellent and high hopes, we have overcome all. Man do we rock. (blue crew, that is . . .) J Everyone is getting along wonderfully and our band is slowly coming together. Go Blue. Jessica C.

Tuesday Today the crew walked down the trail to the new camp down by the river with our food in our packs. We also worked on the trail for a long time. I really enjoy being out in the wood away from civilization. The air out here is so clean and pure. I hope I see a really big bear. I think that would be really cool. The weather is really hot out. I drink so much water and that is weird because I really don't like water. I love some of the meals we have and I really appreciate a meal after a long work day. Sean L.

Wednesday: The crew got up early to pack camp. We worked on the last part of the trail before moving on. It was nice looking at the mountains as we left for the new camp. For lunch we had PB&J again. The hike for the new camp was hot and boring. To make work easy for the next day we kicked rocks off the trail. Once we got to the new camp we got to go swimming. It was David's Bday. The crew tried to figure out how and what to use for cheesecake but we couldn't. It was hard to set up camp. The boys couldn't find a place to set up a tent because the girls took the best spot. For dinner we had tacos. Gabe had to hike a member out so when he got back that night he had brought Danish pastries for David's Bday. That night the boy's tent fell and we were eaten up by mosquitoes. Ben S.

Thursday: Crew got up at 7:00 because we moved camp. We worked hard and fast to move camp before dark. We started to do safety circle then went to work. Everyone was working hard learning new stuff like doing trail work and how to get along. I thought the day was good. Lunch sucked because I am sick of PB&J sandwiches. They make me sick. Everyone was safe. Everyone is very tired but holding on and doing their job right because Gabe explains everything pretty clearly so everyone knows what to do. David R.

Friday: This week was a hard week for some of the crew. On Sunday we had a long hike. The hike was about 6 to 7 miles to our first camp. The camp was filled with mosquitoes and every time the crew went outside we were eaten up. Monday we started on the Little Chetco Trail. The crew got really far because there were sports where there was nothing to do. On Tuesday we went farther down the trail and it got a little harder. Wednesday we hiked our food down to a new camp because we finished the trail and got tired of the mosquitoes. Thursday we moved camp and did some touchup on the trail. The crew was relieved to be rid of most of the mosquitoes. Friday we worked hard and did a good job on the start of a new trail. The crew is really looking forward to the weekend because we don't have to do any work and we get to go swimming. Ben S.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Galice RD
Project Name- Bailey Loop Trail

Week 3: Date

Monday: We started our day with a fantastic hike into work. It was a little tough, but we were all ready for our 9-hour day to begin. We started the Emily Cabin Trail and finished. I'm glad we don't have to re-hike that trail because it's basically uphill the entire way. The hike down was gruesome on the crew's feet, but after a little soak in the creek we were better. Chores

were handed out and we went back to work. It was a tiring day and very hot. The crew's a little touchy and cranky, but a good fire and a big meal will do us all some good. Jessica C.

Tuesday: Since we finished Emily's Cabin Trail, today we continued work on the Little Chetco Trail. There was only one major crosscut and mostly just pruning and clearing. Accidentally, when the crew split up, half of us went to the wrong half of the trail at least a good mile. Fortunately it wasn't too much of an issue and we got a great view. By the end of the workday we discovered a really deep swimming hole down the river full of fish we planned on catching. I'm not sure how much longer mashed up peanut butter and jelly and hummus pitas are going to cut it for lunch. Personally I don't mind them, but I think half the crew is living off of cookies and gorp. Kristen W.

Wednesday: On Wednesday we walked up the Jeep trail and finished the Emily Cabin Trail. Then we looped through the Chetco Trail back to camp. We swam then we ate dinner. After dinner I bet David and Gabe that I could fit a whole 12.5 oz of turkey into my mouth and I did it. Sean then bet the other Shawn that he could fit 2 tuna cans into his mouth and eat it, which he did. After all Sean had the stinkiest breath of all. Thomas S.

Thursday: Today we packed up camp en route to the van. We bumped our packs to the junction and moved some downed logs. We then worked on quality control as we finished the Emily Cabin Trail. We then met up with our packs and started our epic hike to the van. It was tough but we all made it together and safe. We are all itching for showers and pizza. Sam H.

Friday: Today we woke up early and came into town, took showers and did laundry. Then with mystery madness money we bought 4 BIG pizzas. After pizza we came back to basecamp but red crew was not here. We unpacked quickly in about 20 min. and got settle in. Plans for the afternoon include swimming and sleeping. I'm looking forward to seeing my family and the 4th. We had a very challenging week and we are looking forward to some rest. We hiked all around the Emily Cabin Trail and the Little Chetco Trail. At one point we hiked 7 miles in one day on top of working. We built a rock retaining wall with two large rocks and a lot of small rocks and dirt we moved with our helmets. NYC has made me push my limits to make myself better. Sam H.

National Forest: Rogue River

Ranger District: Ashland

Project Name- Rogue River NF: PCT trail maintenance

Week 4: Date: July 5th

Monday: Some of us went to the river and some went to go and play basketball in town. The red crew were the only crew at base camp along with us so in town people played basketball red vs. blue. Well that didn't work out I guess because the red crew beat the blue crew. O well, we'll have a rematch someday and the blue crew won't lose next time. Sean L.

Tuesday: Today we worked on another part of the Pacific Crest Trail. We've been working on it since Monday and we saw our first hikers heading north to Canada. It was an exciting thing

because I thought we weren't going to see any hikers, because the trail is overgrown. We had some visitors our contact George stopped by, and sadly reported that our camp was in a sensitive high meadow range. Therefore we had to move camp. No more snow! We had snow around our other campsite and we used that as a cooler for food. This week, we have leaders of the day and today Thomas and I were leaders. It was exciting because I like the fact that I can prove to people I can lead by example. Summer L.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week are to do the Pacific Crest Trail as well as we can with the time that we have. And the crew's personal goal is to work on communication before the end of the five weeks. Today went well too. People were communicating better today. People were willing to work really hard today and asking if they could do anything so I think by the end of the week we will be doing great. David R.

Thursday: Our crew has learned about leadership this week. We did leaders of the day every day, and we were paired up as leaders. We learned about drug abuse and causes of it. Sam and Sean did their P.H.s and a SEED about the first work crews in the 30's, it was called the CCC. We're almost done and I think the rest of the crew will make it. Thomas S.

Friday: This week we went to a really cool place where you can see everything. The view was great and the area was awesome also. We had to eat all the watermelon that we got from the weekend. Our crew had tables on a bad surface. We had to take out some dirt to level it out for the tables to be level. Next day we went to work and we busted a lot of trail where we went to far that we didn't realize how far we hiked back to the van. We had to pack up camp for some reason. A good challenge was hiking through this extreme trail to get to the top, we had to dig our way through the snow, thick and deep snow it had to have been the toughest trail. Wednesday we left our camp to another spot. We had a little better spot I think. We have had no injuries for the past 4 weeks and not injured yet. The accomplishment was the trail that we've been working on, the Pacific Crest Trail, and completed the whole trail. We complete the trail connected the dots so we finished our project. Shawn R.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Chetco RD
Project Name- Upper Chetco Trail

Week 5: Date: July 12th

Monday: Over the weekend we got to go on rec trips, either to the lake to play basketball and swim, or to go blueberry picking. Everyone had barrels of fun! On Sunday the crews were given a destination and were off. We wound up working on the Upper Chetco Trail. The crew hiked in 6 miles and set up camp only to impatiently wait for our next work day to come. Jessica C.

Tuesday: We the blue crew are working on the Upper Chetco Trail. This is our last week, and we are working to connect a part of the trail that other crews have been working on. We accomplished it ahead of time, so we took our time doing quality control, and made the trail look really nice. Sadly to say we were going to graduate with 9 people, but we lost two people, Reger and David. So at the end of the week we're going to hike out. Summer L.

Wednesday: This week the blue crew wanted to get the trail done and we did. All the work we had to do was brushing and using the midreach. The crew hopes to do quality work tomorrow. It was hard today because we really had to work hard to finish. The mosquitoes are really bad here. Luckily we had lots of bug spray. Ben S.

Thursday: Because we got the trail finished on Wednesday, we went to the end of the trail today and did quality control all the way back to camp. All of the crew was very pumped because it was the last day of work. I am disappointed the session is basically over but I hope I can do the next session so thanks for a great session. Sean L.

Friday: Blue crew had backcountry this week and the hike in and the hike out were challenges this week. All week our water source was about 3 miles away and about 6 round trip. We had a lot of brushy areas with 1 crosscut. In 2 and ½ days we finished then we did QC for the rest of the time. We found bear tracks and then a bear found us. Work was hard and long. We lost 2 members but we finished the job. There was a lot of lopping and midreach. This is the end of the session and we had a lot of fun and we are happy to go home. Sam H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the first week I had to hike up a huge hill at the end of the week. But after it was over I felt really good. Sean L.

The most challenging day was being completely out of shape and out the first week doing nothing but crosscutting. It was very tough. Jessica C.

My most challenging day would have to be the last work day because it dragged on for so long. I thought it would never end. Ben S.

The most challenging day at NYC was the last week because I just got too excited and want to see my family. Also the hike killed me because I was not ready for it. Summer L.

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be during the first week when I crosscut for about two hours straight. There were no subs and it made me cry. Kristen W.

My most challenging day would be hiking out of my two-week backcountry. Sam H.

The first day was hard because I had to meet everyone. Thomas S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Seeing a friend fit a 12.5 ounce can of turkey in his mouth and then seeing another friend fit two cans of tuna to top him. It felt good to finish the session. Ben S.

My favorite 3 experiences were one being freaked out by a bear while Jessica and I were getting water. 2. Watching two friends stuff cans of turkey and chicken of the sea in their mouths. 3. Seeing a herd of llamas. Sam H.

My three favorite NYC experiences were watching Thomas put a can of turkey in his mouth and hiking to my forest, and meeting people in YFC. Sean L.

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were when I tripped in the tent and Gabe (crewleader) said, "Are you finished in there Cavett?" Had to be there moment. Also chugging water with Kristen then having to pee so bad (another had to be there moment). And last was getting along with my entire crew. Jessica C.

Camping, working, and sleeping. T.S.

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were the conversations the girls and Mike had (had to be there moment). Also the humor and joking while we had in the backcountry. That was the best time in the world! Summer L.

Three favorite experiences: 1. Getting syrup all over myself on Saturday morning breakfasts. 2. Playing "Baby I Love You" while eating. 3. The one and only time Gabe voluntarily turned up the radio was to Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" at 7:00 am. And then he started singing. That was the best moment of my five weeks.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember Thomas fitting a can of turkey in his mouth. It was so funny. Sean L.

I will always remember the screams/yelps or random calls the blue crew made during the work days. Jessica C.

I will always remember the good times I had on the blue crew. Ben S.

I will always remember always screaming BLUE CREW! During the day. Sam H.

I will always remember the good and hard times the blue crew had. Summer L.

Five weeks of WORK. T.S.

I will always remember that even when I think I can't, I really can. Kristen W.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always appreciate the wilderness areas, because I've spent considerable amount of time in wilderness areas. Summer L.

From now on I will always pick up trash in a wilderness area and appreciate it more. Sean L.

From now on I will always watch myself on how I treat others around me. Jessica C.

From now on I will always remember that no matter where I am and what I have, I will make it. Even if I only have a toothbrush and one dirty sock things will work out. They always do. Kristen W.

From now on I will always try and be more careful in what I do. Ben S.

From now on I will watch what I do. Sam H.

I will always sleep disturbed because of all the night being smacked by other sleeping crewmembers. T.S.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned how to get along with others, work extremely hard, and to take pride in my work. Sam H.

I learned to appreciate the outdoors more and forget about most of my wants. Jessica C.

I learned to appreciate the greater outdoors and not to take things for granted; also I learned how to live without my wants. Sean L.

I learned at NYC is simple: Never ever give up ever. Sam H.

I learned that it is good to say what is on your mind, and to work as a team. Also I learned that it is good to have some one to talk to. Ben S.

Hard work was the biggest thing I learned and hiking hard and cooking. T.S.

At NYC I learned that 1. Water fixes everything. 2. Things are never as bad as they seem 3. And that people aren't always exactly as they seem. Kristen W.

