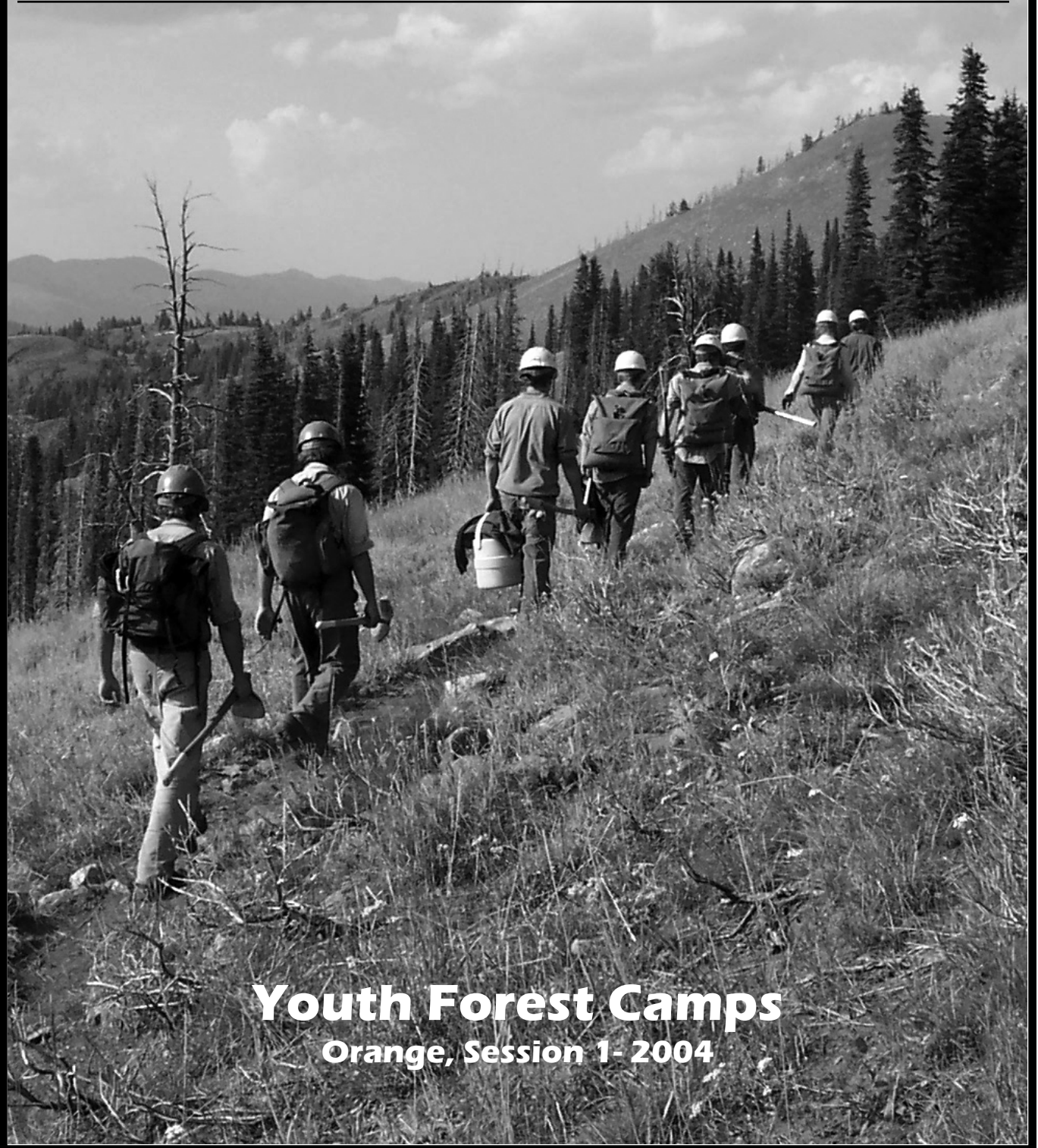




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Orange, 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: Gold Beach RD
Project Name- : Lawson Creek Trail

Week 1: Date: June 14th

Monday: Today was an okay 1st work day. We went to our location and went to work. In my opinion we did a good job. Not too many people got blisters but a few did. We have a few breaks which I think everyone enjoyed, but overall today was a good day and we accomplished a lot.—Marcel

Tuesday: This week the orange crew is working in the Lawson Creek Trail. Our work so far includes: minor lopping, rerouting of trail, digging new trail, and basic trail maintenance. The Lawson Creek Trail is in the Siskiyou National Forest. We are camping at a site that is right on top of the mountain and it gets very cold. But yet we have to drive down and then hike down to work! Oh, well!—Stephanie

Wednesday: Our goals would have to be building a stronger team and perfecting the use of our tools. We want to clean and define the trail from the creek to the road. We are learning to be friends and grow into a family.—C.J.

Thursday: We finished our section of trail today and finished an extra trail as well. Tomorrow we're just putting up signs. I can't believe the first week is almost finished! I'll be glad to take a shower and see my friends at base camp, but at the same time I'm kind of sorry to leave this campsite. It's really pretty here, and there's a somewhat decent toilet, which is more than I can say for some sites I was at last year. Anyway, I hope we pack up our tents and sleep under the stars tonight. Especially because I think they're heating up some leftover chili! Chili eaters in an enclosed space—icch. Oh, good, they're making noodles instead.—Audrey

Friday: The challenges were mainly having to get our bodies used to the hiking and the work, as well as hiking uphill a lot. The main accomplishments were completing the project and doing a sizable amount of extra credit work. Eric R.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Illinois Valley RD
Project Name- Mt. Elijah Trail

Week 2: Date: June 21st

Monday: On Friday we left Wildhorse after a half day of work. After several false stops, we finally made it to the campground recommended for showers. Once we all smelled a bit better we headed to Gold Beach where we had a late lunch and did laundry and made phone calls. Saturday there were three rec trips, one to the Redwoods, one to the Illinois River, and a stay at base one. Sunday we hung out at basecamp because we stayed there for that week. Jeff S.

Tuesday: We are working on the Mt. Elijah Trail loop. It is a beautiful hike overlooking an even more beautiful meadow valley, with a lake. The trail is so high up (6280 ft) that there are still patches of snow around. Most of the work so far has been light trail maintenance, and it looks like it will be more of the same. Jeff S.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week were to finish our trail and make it look and feel good for hikers and the crew that follows us. Marcel V.

Thursday: One of the most important things we learned this week was how to control our anger. We learned some good ways to express how we feel about one another. I also learned that cream cheese sandwiches are good. Brice H.

Friday: NYC so far has been nothing but learning experiences and FUN! I have learned to have more respect for our planet, and I've seen some of its beauties only seen outside city lines, and I've done it all while meeting great people. People from all different backgrounds, and walks of life. It's so much simpler here. We're all joined together to complete one task yet we're learning so much in the process. Over the past week we completed our project on the Siskiyou National Forest and over the weekend all the crews had the chance to come together socialize and share their weekly accomplishments. NYC has been nothing but wonderful times and I look forwards to the weeks to come. Phoebe

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

Week 3: Date: June 28th

Monday: On Saturday we went to town for a bit and spent the rest of the day hanging around base camp. On Sunday we drove to Packers cabin and walked 3 miles to the trailhead. From there we put on our packs and hiked another 3 miles to camp. Eric R.

Tuesday: We have settled into camp. And we've started working our way up our trail. It's quite a long hike, but the site makes it all worthwhile. Our camp is set right beside a river, and it is soooo pretty! And make for something to look forward to after work. Phoebe W.

Wednesday: Our crew sets lots of goals that we would like to accomplish. The main goal that we set is to finish the workday and feel good of what we did. To have the crew stay together and have nobody quit during the whole five weeks is another goal I hope we accomplish. Brice H.

Thursday: We learned about water and what we can do to conserve it and keep it clean and crew leader asked trivia questions about water and how people are using it and how many gallons of water we use each day. Brian B.

Friday: Finally it's Friday! I've been enjoying backcountry so far, but I'll be glad to have a day off tomorrow. Our hike is just getting longer and longer. It's pretty up there though and it's not too hot. Tomorrow I'll get to sleep in, and I'll get to help Jeff and CJ do their dreadlocks! I'm almost thinking of getting dreadlocks myself—they would look cool and freak my parents out—but I know I'd get sick of them within about a month so I won't. Other than doing dreadlocks we're just going to hang around camp and swim tomorrow. Sounds good! Audrey

Sunday: Today we made it 3.6 miles to the spring. The water was very refreshing it was ice cold and you could hardly taste the iodine. Tomorrow we will be done with our priority section. We hiked a total of approximately 7 miles today. Zach

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

Week 4: Date: July 5th

Monday: Today we worked up to the spring and started working back doing touch-ups. The hike in will start getting shorter from this point on. Tomorrow is our hump day. We are nearing the end of the week. Soon we will be free from backcountry! Yes! Eric

Tuesday: We are all struggling to get up because our bodies are wearing down. We are struggling to get along and communicate with each other. We all have a better understanding of what needs to be done. We are almost done with the project, only one more crosscut left to do. Today is our crewleader Hannah's birthday. Happy birthday, Hannah! CJ R.

Wednesday: Today was a good day. We started at where we left off yesterday and worked all the way back to the creek. We went a total of 12,060 feet up this week which is twice the size of the mountain we did 2 weeks ago (Mt. Elijah) so that's cool. We are still waiting for Scott to come but there's only 1 work day left then the hike out so that's good but hard. We finished early so we'll do extra tomorrow. 'Till next time. Marcel V.

Thursday: The day before we leave our two-week home in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Two weeks spent hiking up and down the Upper Chetco Trail. We've been camped at a beautiful spot on the Chetco River, our tents set up several feet from the riverbank. Today we swam and hung out on the river for at least 3 hours probably more like 4. Our last day at this project has been poignantly exuberant. All of us excited to be heading back to civilization, but some of us (me at least) regretting leaving our heavenly (except for the mosquitoes) campsite and swimming hole. Right now everyone is prepping for the big hike out tomorrow, woohoo! We still have tons of food!!

Josephine County Parks and Rec.
Project Name- Lake Selmac Park

Week 5: Date: July 12th

Monday: This weekend our crew got to relax, take showers, and go on recreational trips. Some people went to Lake Selmac to play basketball and take a bath. Part of the posse went to the Illy (Illinois River) swam and picked a satchel of blueberries. Zach has won the turkey award 2nd week in a row for whacking himself with a stick on accident. Brice H.

Tuesday: We are working on the network of trails at Lake Selmac. It seems like luxury after two weeks of steep trail in the backcountry. We have basecamp which we now have appreciation for. We are completing it quickly and looking forward to graduation. Zach Z.

Wednesday: We started working on another trail today, mostly doing brushing and tread work. It's hard to believe we have only a day and a half more of actual work! It's been fun, but everyone seems pretty anxious to go home. Audrey

Thursday: My crew and I learned how to tie knots early this morning and throughout the week we learned how to cope with each other and I learned more about how to make trail tread and flattening lumps and bumps. Brian B.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was the first workday because I wasn't sure what to do. Marcel

The most challenging day was when there was a lack of communication and after three of us hiked a huge hill, and then had to climb back down just to make sure there was water! Stephanie

The most challenging day was my first day at the Chetco Trail. We had two week back-country and it was mostly all up hill when we hiked to work. Brian B.

My most challenging day was the first day because we didn't really know each other and we weren't really ready for the hot long hikes, along with the long day. Coming out of that day I wasn't sure if I would stick it out. Phoebe W.

My most challenging day was on Wednesday of fourth week. That day was the longest hike uphill I have ever hiked in my whole life so far. I was about to quit every day, but I stuck it out. CJ R.

The second to last day of backcountry was hardest for me. We had to hike up a steep 3.6 mile hill to work in the morning. Zach Z.

For me, it was the hike into backcountry. We hiked 3+ miles without packs, and then hiked another 3+ miles with packs to our campsite. I carried two yellow-tops most of the way. Eric R.

The hardest day for me was the hike into our backcountry site, because my waist strap broke, and my pack was quite heavy . . . no fun. Jeff S.

The hardest day was when we had to hike into our 2-week backcountry. Brice H.

My most challenging day was the 2-week backcountry hike in. I had an unbelievably heavy pack, and it was a steep downhill hike the whole way. Ichh. Audrey R.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My 3 favorite experiences were meeting new people, rec trips, and the Gold Beach job.
Marcel

1. When Hannah went tumbling over her backpack climbing down a big hill. 2. Rec trip to the Illinois River. 3. Eating cranberry sauce with Tim. Stephanie

1. Laughing with the crew at dinner. 2. Camping at Chetco River. 3. Meeting new people.
Brian B.

The dinner crew conversations. Everyone falling on the hike into our backcountry camp.
Meeting all the wonderful people. Phoebe W.

Meeting all the nice and interesting people. Seeing and hearing all the interesting things everyone has done. Spending the end of my dehydrated days with my crewmembers.
CJ R.

Laughing and telling stories with the crew. Meeting new people. Working as a team.
Zach Z.

Eating a half-gallon of sherbet on the way to backcountry. Swimming after work every day in backcountry. Bursting out laughing because I saw my name on my helmet. Eric R.

Our crew talks on compaction cures during break one day. Teaching/frustrating people with the "Finger Game". Getting "dreaded" in the middle of our backcountry. Jeff S.

Eating dinner with the crew; Playing music and me being the L.O.D. (leader of the day).
Singing on the trail. (no name)

Meeting awesome people. 2. Working in beautiful places 3. Playing a prank on the guys.
Audrey R.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...Is the hard work it takes to build trails. Marcel

All the great people I met! Stephanie

I would always remember my first backpack hiking down the Chetco Trail and hiking back up it. Brian B.

I will never forget the people I meet here. The first day I was unsure of how things would work out because we're all so different. But I wouldn't change my crew every, everyone is sooo great!! Phoebe W.

I will never forget the longest hike in back country. I won't ever forget about all the people I have met here at NYC! CJ R.

I will never forget the song that we made up with the crew in backcountry. This song (to the tune of "jingle Bells") really helped me through hard times here. Eric R.

There are two things I will never forget: the excellent people that make up my orange crew, and other crews, and the song created on the trail, about the trail, by the trail-makers (us). "Jingle Dirt". Jeff S.

I think I will always remember our only rover we had, Tim. He was awesome and a funny guy. Brice H.

I will always remember the cool people I met and the crazy songs I learned from them! Audrey R.

From Now On I Will Always...

... Have a lot of respect for trails, trail workers and other environmental things. Marcel

... Take care of the environment better than I have. Stephanie

... While making trails work at a good pace don't push yourself too hard and drink a lot of water. Brian B.

... I will always have a respect for our environment, because now I know how big one person's impact affects the world. Phoebe W.

I will always have a respect for having showers and beds soooo much more. CJ R.

Follow NYC rules while camping to preserve the environment. Zach Z.

Remember the things I went through here to help me get through hard times later. Eric R.

I will always remember the old proverb: "if it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger" in this case, literally! Jeff S.

I will always respect trails and stuff like that because I know how hard it is to build it. Brice H.

I will always try to hold on to the motivation I gained from this program. Audrey R.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned how to work on trails, a little bit of anger management, and forest history. Marcel

I learned more about the wilderness and how to take care of the environment better. Stephanie

I learned how to make tread and having fun while working. Brian B.

Throughout my NYC experience I've learned to be a better team player, and communicate clearly. I also gained a better understanding of our environment. Phoebe W.

I have learned a great deal about working as a team and living as a community that depends on each other. Zack Z.

I learned to appreciate simple pleasures, maintain a good attitude, and not to put more on your plate than you can eat. Eric R.

I've learned a lot about myself, and my limits, both physically and mentally. I've also learned how to work with others better. Jeff S.

I learned how to dig good trail, drainage ditches, and to be more open and laugh a lot. Brice H.

I learned a lot about teamwork and motivation, as well as learning more about the environment. (no name)

