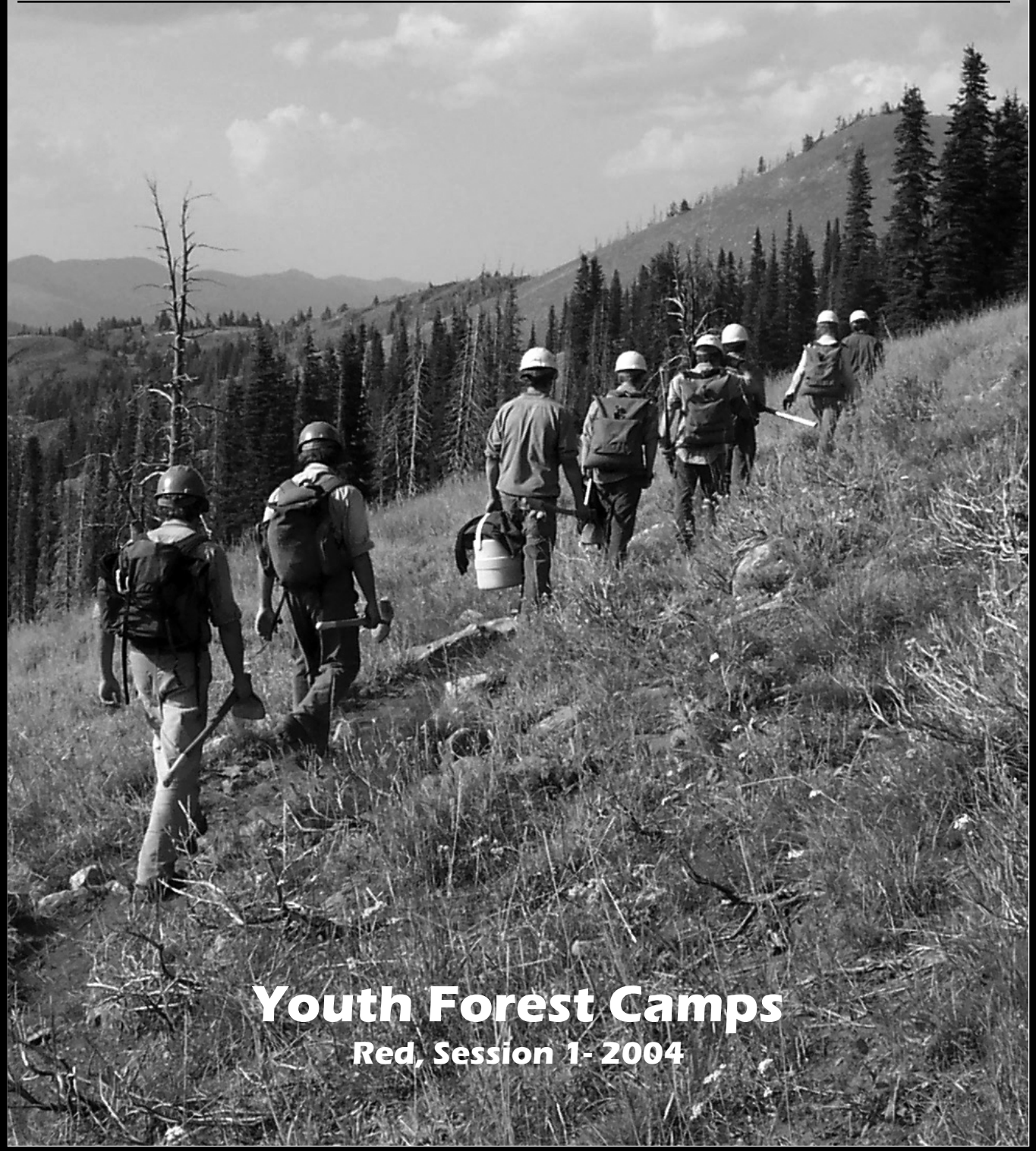




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Red, 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: Chetco RD
Project Name- Upper Chetco Trail

Week 1: Date: June 14th

Monday: Saturday we all arrived for orientation. Sunday morning we figured out our crew members and where our crew was going. We drove for a few hours then packed our bags then headed out for the trail. We didn't make it to our camp spot by sundown so we camped about 2 miles away. We then woke up early the next morning and cleared the trails to our camp spot. Then walked back and got our bags and arrived at camp. Kari M.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to finish our switchback near camp. We are located in the Kalmiopsis National Forest on the Upper Chetco trail. At this point in time we are building a switchback trail complete with rock retaining walls. We all have our different reasons for being here whether it is to get away from drama for the experience or for the money. Even though getting to our PJ (Project) was tough we liked it. Our RoverEric had a mishap with a rock the size of half the mountain rolled on his foot bending his steel toe in his boots causing him ten pushups which was awesome. And when we got back to camp Eric wore a thick head band to keep his forehead from being completely covered in bug bites. And Molly did push-ups while singing. Jennifer H.

Wednesday: This week's goal is to finish the trail. Find somewhere to swim. Not get eaten alive by bugs. Stay clean. Build muscles. Work as a team. Don't get hurt no more. Logan F.

Thursday: This week we learned how to solve problems between each other. If you solve your problems it's a lot better than not telling anyone or the person that you have a problem with. Later, you could be best friends if you solve your problems. I think this is the most important thing that we did this week because I like to get along with people and solve the problems with the person that has a problem with me. Anthony R.

Friday: What we thought was the end of the trail was not the end—it was only half. We did a lot of hoeing (I think I spelled it wrong . . . if I did I'll do fifty) and hogging on the not-so-visible trail. A good amount of sawing and lopping took place as well. Making the end of the day hike back up to camp almost kills us, but we're getting better.

Guess what guys! I found my spoon today, isn't that wonderful? Dinner was great, as was hearing Eric's logic as to why he ate quarters. Yeah, he's nothing but a bouncer quarter eating head (self proclaimed might I add)

Random things to take up journal space:

- Kari thinks she's a cheerleader . . . teheehee
- I owe Trevor's bootlegging self 50 push-ups
- Si reminds me of a ninja/break-dancer
- Logan is a fire hazard
- **mosquitoes are eating us alive!**--Jule H.

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

Week 2: Date: June 21st

Sunday: This week we cleared about 1.5 miles of trail. The crew also went on about 9 or 10 trips to the water spring. Saturday we had the day off. Everyone slept until 10. It was so cool. The crew is running low on food. It sucks. And that's what we did this weekend. Chase

Monday: We were by the river that's about 2.9 miles away from camp. It was a hard day. It was really hot. We worked an 8-hour day. It took a long time for us to walk back about 2 hours. Kari, Molly, Jule, Logan & Si all went on the water run. It took us way too long but that was my fault. It was a tiring day. Kari

Tuesday: Today was awesome. We worked for 8 hours cleaning up the trail and whistling while we worked. On the hike back home, our trail and camp was absorbed in clouds. It made the 2 mile hike back peaceful and it put everything into perspective. The air was cool for once and it kept the mosquitoes away. We found out that we get to sleep an extra half hour in the morning and that Molly and Eric will be making us a scrumptious breakfast! It was a good day and this makes it even better. Bayley S.

Wednesday: Today we hiked down to a HUGE log! It had to be sawed down, pulaskied, and hand sawed! We worked 7 or so hours today, and get past “The Gauntlet”—a huge spot FULL of poison oak! Everyone worked VERY HARD today!! Good communication, and safety and a hard working crew made this day a good day! I hope our crew can be and get closer together, and make friends with each other. WHAT A GOOD DAY! Mary G.

Friday: Our challenges this week were having problems with one another and not having good communication with each other. Another challenge was having the trail done by a certain time. Water was hard for every single person, whether they showed it or not.

Our accomplishments this week were we finished the three miles of trail work that we had to do. The biggest accomplishment was we hiked fifty-one miles and did it as a crew in two weeks. Trevor F.

National Forest: Rogue River NF

Ranger District: Ashland RD

Project Name- PCT

Week 3: Date: June 28th

Monday: Dry cleaners, showers, and the usual stuff at home we do. We hung out and played hack and threw the ol’ football around a lot. Logan

Tuesday: We are working on the Pacific Crest Trail. We’ve done about 1 ½ miles of trail. We lofted and cleared brush. There was thunder and lightening and lots of rain. Kari

Wednesday: The crew’s goals for this week are to not get in fights and really try hard to work as a team. In this week we have already had conflicts so we all sat down as a team and worked it out. Now we are working more as a team and we all hope that we can get along with each other until the end. We all want to work hard on the trail so that other NYC groups won’t have to come back to this project and continue working. Si

Thursday: Dadada . . . Trenchtown Rock. We learned how to build trenches. Aside from plain ol’ digging in the mud. This morning was gloomy. Nearly everyone was in a horrible-very bad-not-so-good mood. It cleared up by the end of the day though. Tomorrow is the last day red crew will work on the PCT. But then again we get free pizza tomorrow!! (and the crowd goes wild) Kari is eating jelly beans right now . . . the guys are talking about cars, and Bayley is making dinner with Si. Yep, that’s all I’ve got. ¡Adios amigos! Jule H.

Friday: Last night my crew and I went to sleep early and we woke up at 5:30 am. We cleared brush for 4 hours. We got off at 10:00 and went back to camp and loaded up all gear. We got to the showers at like 2:00. Jule washed her hair twice and still has dandruff. Then we went to town and did our laundry and made phone calls. Kari & Jule got smoothies!! After laundry was done we went to the pizza pit. It was yummy. We got back to basecamp at around 6 and just hung around here. Kari M.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Illinois Valley
Project Name- Bailey Loop Trail

Week 4: Date: July 5th

Monday: This weekend we all went swimming and we all had a blast. One group went into town with some blue crew kids and we all played a pickup game of basketball and it was red crew vs. blue. And of course red won so it was all good. While we were there some weirdoes jacked our grub. We are all glad to start a new project. Peace red crew. Si S.

Tuesday: We got two weeks backcountry, clearing trails, sweeping and cutting trees. In the forest. We are going to clear miles of trails. The crew has 3 different trails to work on these next two weeks. We are in the burn once again. The burn is OK. I would have loved to be there before the fire. Scott said that is was like a jungle. Chase S.

Wednesday: We woke up this morning to Molly singing joyfully. It set a good tone for the whole day. The weather wasn't too hot, it felt just right. We started filing a big hole in with tons of rocks and dug a barrow pit to make it a trail once again. The day went by really fast. The drinking water was clean, meals were good, people were happy, and the mosquitoes were minimal. Overall it was a good day, despite the fact that Tony's finger is the size of Texas. Bayley

Thursday: This week my crew learned that there are certain ways to deal with problems and some are good ways, and some are bad ways but problems get dealt with either way. Trevor F.

Friday: Our crew's challenges and all this week were a big old drainage was approx. 200 feet long and a foot in depth. We had to gather boulders and do a bucket brigade and fill with dirt also. We dug some big giant graves that were once a barrow pit and then further on down the trail were a big old tree that we were crosscutting but it kept pinching our saw so we were making wedge cuts and pulasking the tree. We are still not done but we will finish on Sunday. Our accomplishments are finishing the drainage. And today after work we had to hike up a huge treacherous hill. It sucked. We worked until 5 PM today but what the hay. We get off early possibly on another day. Jenn H.

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

Week 5: Date: June 12th

Monday: This weekend my crew chilled at camp and most people slept away most of the day. Si, Trevor, Kari and I all went to a giant boulder and hung out for about three hours. When people weren't hiking or sleeping we played cards or just sat and B.S.ed. On Sunday we worked and hiked to the river and worked back towards camp. The river was beautiful and everyone wanted to throw Molly in but she played that she didn't want to go in but during Roses and Thorns we found out that she actually enjoyed the fact that we were considering throwing her in because it was a rose of hers. Jenn H.

Tuesday: Today was challenging day. We could see the river from where we were on the trail. It was so hot out and all we wanted to do was jump in the water and cool off. It was so hot out that we drank all of our water and were left with only what was in our Nalgene's. The day went by slowly and the hike back was long. The hard work brought us together and I think we'll know to bring more water, although the laughs from dehydration can be unforgettable. Bayley

Wednesday: The crew goals are to finish all 3 trails before we leave. We want to get through 2 weeks. We all can't wait to leave so bad. I think we all have worked all as a team and we have hopefully reached all of the goals we set in the 1st week over all we have done that fairly well. We are all excited to leave and we all have achieved almost all the goals as a team. Peace red crew. Chase

Thursday: If you see an arrow made out of rocks, follow it. Bring soda if you're going on a 7.5 mile hike. It tastes better and someone who didn't bring it will probably give you 5 dollars for one and most importantly bring a pen that works! Logan F.

Friday: "You guys want some cookies?" H*ll no! I swear never to eat another duplex sandwich crème cookie ever . . . unless I'm on a trail working for NYC. When I'm on the trail during work and awaiting lunch break, those stupid cookies are the only thing on my mind, even though deep down I know they're disgusting. In the past 5 weeks I've probably eaten well over 100 of them . . . *cringe*. I don't understand how petroleum base between two starches was so appetizing—maybe I was too dehydrated or something. Either way, it is funny how one week I'm addicted to them and only hours later I can't fathom anything more repulsive. Jule H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

During our second week in the Kalmiopsis on the upper Chetco we hiked to the end of the trail and began working up. The 2.4 mile water run after work was hard on me physically and had a tough time staying positive. Jule

My hardest day was the first because I wasn't ready. Trevor F.

Was the day when half of our crew wanted to give up and I felt like I couldn't do anything to help? Bayley

Was when I found out that we had yet another 2 week backcountry trip and I was making the decision to leave but I thought a lot of things through and stayed. I'm glad I did. Kari

The first day walking in 4 miles it was so hard physically. 6 crosscuts walking was so hard on my body. Chase

The first day. I wasn't prepared for what was ahead of me. Jenn

When I hiked 6 miles without water. Logan F.

Hiking with 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ -70 lbs. on my back. And going through depression stages. Mary

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day of working. It was a long hike and no one was really ready for it. Si.

The most challenging day of NYC was the first day. Chase and I worked while we had to hike for 5.8 miles and I wasn't used to it. Tony

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

The food; the music; the friends. Logan F.

The feeling of self accomplishment; the feeling of friends being part of a family; the hikes into our worksite. Si S.

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were Mike and Trevor trading hardhats and their personalities. Always working and talking to Si and his jokes! Then, remembering the sites of nature. Tony

The last, the PCT Trail, and hanging out with the crew. Trevor F.

Everything. Friends, work, a new memory. Mary

Running around every corner with Kari thinking that the van would be there after our first backcountry job, the thunder and lightening storm on the PCT, and the endless amount of songs sung on the trails. Bayley

Si singing the Lion King song and me falling to the ground with laughter, all the different songs that we sang every day at work, and sitting on big rocks by the rapids at the Illinois River with Jule. Kari

Being surrounded by wilderness, laughing hard at things that weren't funny (dehydration), and swimming in the Illinois River. Jule

Swimming at the Illinois River, all the hundred or so songs sung on the trails and the beautiful scenes. Jenn

The first walk in. The last day here. Swimming river. Chase

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Is the evolution game where everyone was hobbling around like chickens. Bayley S.

Is the feeling of accomplishment as soon as we reached the van week 5. Kari

Is the first day walking in with Molly, Joe, Tony and me. Crosscut six logs. Chase

Is the fact that I know I can put in hard work and our book of stupid sayings. Jenn

I will always remember the walking we've done and the work. Tony

What poison oak looks like. Logan F.

Everything: making friends, graduation, and knowing I'm leaving as a better person. Mary

Never take water for granted again. Trevor F.

Hard work is rewarding . . . and that duplex sandwich crème cookies are gross. I will always remember when we would be dehydrated and we would say some funny stuff! Si S.

From Now On I Will Always...

Look at the positive things in life and not take the good things that I do have for granted. Kari.

Work to my limits no matter what or how hard it is. Chase

Appreciate the smaller things in life that are comfortable that most people take for granted. Jenn

Never to take things for granted and always work hard. Si

Not try to get poison oak. Logan F.

Never take anything for granted. Mary

Look at showers as something that is waaaay overrated. Jule H.

Push myself to my limits even when I want to give up. Also, never ever scratch poison oak, it leads to nothing good. Bayley

I will always push myself to the max and never take anything for granted. Tony

At NYC I Learned...

I learned how far I could push myself. Trevor F.

I learned more about myself in every way. I learned to be myself, and that free agency is important. That the ONLY one you can change is YOURSELF. Marylee G.

Life is 90% mental and 10% physical. Optimism is the key, and make sure you always have ketchup! Jule

That life is simply mind of matter and there are no limits to where life can take me. Pain is weakness leaving the body! Bayley

That life is what you make it. You only live once so don't take anything for granted and live your life to the fullest. Kari

That teamwork is very nice to have. Hard work is always better than no work. Crosscut is very fun. Chase

That when times are tough we can always pull through and you don't accomplish anything if you give up it only puts you further behind. Jenn

To always have fun and to work as a team and never try to get in the middle of a conflict. Si

The 3 things that I learned at NYC is to have fun, to work hard even if you are in a bad mood, and to be respectful to others. Tony

How to crosscut. Logan F.

