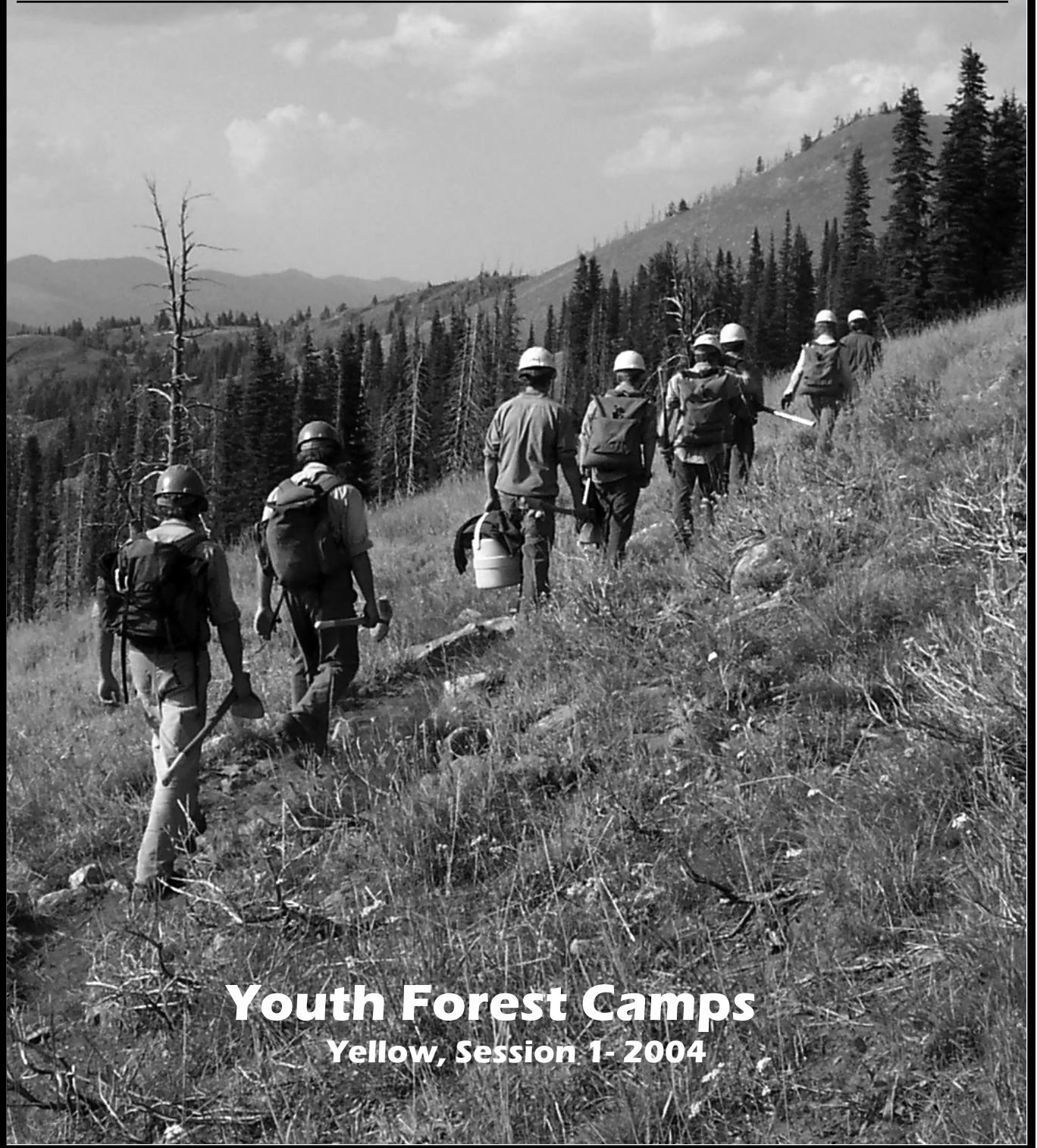




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Yellow, 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 RD
Project Name- Baby Foot Lake.

Week 1: Date: June 14th

Monday: At the start of NYC everyone was introduced to each other and for the most part the energy seemed positive. As we were broken up into groups we were sent out to start our group project for the week. Our group (yellow) was sent into the backcountry of the great Biscuit Fire. Our project was to clean up the trail to Baby foot Lake. The first day working on our project everyone seemed very motivated to get the job done. By the end of the day we looked back and the results were great. Just about the entire mile of trail was restored. I think our work will be greatly appreciated by visitors in the future. --Ian M.

Tuesday: This week we are clearing, building and beautifying the trails surrounding the small, but refreshing Baby Foot Lake in order to make them friendlier to tourists and backpackers. Among our projects are creating stable rock bridges across water, crosscutting trees downed by winter storms and fires, rerouting trails and practicing the "Happy Trail Shuffle" as we trek through the rocky ghostly wasteland left by the Biscuit Fire.-- Jay K.

Wednesday: My crew's goals include creating a contract for how we should treat each other for the next 4 ½ weeks, during which we will live in the woods in our NYC bubble. So far we have agreed to expect respect, courtesy, personal space, encouragement, and self discipline/ motivation. As far as work is concerned (end of text)—Olaf

Thursday: The crew's mission was to clean up the trails. This I believe (speaking for everyone) the longest, hardest, stressful week of each of our lives. A week we'll never forget.-- Rodney

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

Week 2: Date: June 21st

Monday: We headed back to basecamp most of us ate taco Bell and did our laundry and took showers on Saturday. We had different rec trips going all over Cave Junction . When we got back we got had Saturday circle and then we went to bed. On Sunday we got packed up to go to our next project. Johnson D.

Tuesday: The yellow crew is now working on the other end of the Biscuit Fire. (no name)

Wednesday: OK! So, chilling in our camp is a main attraction. chilling is the enjoyment of our daily lives here at camp. Also, as a crew, we find enjoyment in caring for each other's bodily functions is most of our laughs when we are too tired to joke. (Jordan)

Thursday: This week our group learned on the jobsite patience, endurance and how to find strength when it seems all is lost, while at camp we learned the extent of Jhonson's hilarity, the extremes Dustin will go (i.e. drinking a full bottle of pickle juice with little encouragement) and the depths of Jordan's gross nature. We were stretched to our limits with 12-hour days, dealing with uncooperative crewmembers and the smells of hardworking, unshowered, deodorant-forsaking men. In all, we learned the precious value of free time and the importance of building one another up, rather than breaking each other down. Our guest Rover this week, Tim, taught us that "push-up" words are acceptable crosscut talk and that one should give second thought to wearing sweatpants in gym class. Jay

Friday: Quite a day. After working 4 ¾ hours finishing up the trail, we broke camp and headed out the winding road toward Brookings. Stopping briefly at the Ranger District to return the radio, our van pooped out as we prepared to leaves. Red crew came and went as our tinkers tried to find the problem. I called a mechanic and waited. All the crewmembers joined Tim and went shopping and to the Beach while I waited for Bill, the mechanic. He came, fixed the car, and, after he left and we got going, the car broke again! We switched fuses, got going again, and far from any sign of civilization broke down. A friendly SUV driver dragged the van to a turn off, and we camped by the side of the road.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Gold Beach RD
Project Name- Game Lake Trail

Week 3: Date: June 28th

Monday: This weekend we yellow crew got stuck at the Forest Service Center then at California and we had to spend the night there on the side of the road. The next day Scott came and helped us get to town from there we did our laundry and got something to eat and then went to base camp and we were all tired unfortunately we had to head out for our next work site. Jhonson D.

Tuesday: We worked on the Game Lake Trail. Worked our first 9 hour day in the barn? It was mostly tread work today. It is very dry and dusty and the mosquitoes were intense. We decided that whoever built the nicest caren got to sit shotgun to the next worksite. We covered about 1 ½ miles, but then Scott showed up and said “it wasn’t good enough.”

This week yellow crew’s goals were pretty simple. If we finished enough trail this week, we could hike out and spend next week on the beautiful Illinois River. We’re working 9 hour days every day this week and are getting over a mile done each day. Hopefully by Saturday we’ll be out of this burnt hole in the ground and get a little fishing/swimming in—Bryan

Thursday: We learned about different plant types and shapes. We also learned about the different regions that plants grow in and how the environment affects how the climate affects the plants. We learned about succession in a burn, clearcut and in all different types of forest environment. Ian

Friday: We were challenged by clouds of mosquitoes, fields of poison oak and shadeless heat. We all worked 36 hours this week. Worked 3 nine hour days and 1 eight hour day. We worked so fast we ran out of trail. We got 9 miles in and it was just dandy. Ben H.

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Gold Beach RD
Project Name- Illinois River Trail

Week 4: Date: July 5th

Monday: Last weekend we came out of our backcountry site after a long day of hiking, packing and working. On our way we were met with a gorgeous sunset hanging over the ocean. Later we went to town, made visits to the store and hospital, then set up camp on the Illinois River and spent the 4th of July working and eating licorice. Some harmony and morale were brought back to the group after our rover, Erik, delivered an East Cost style. Jay K.

Tuesday: This is fourth week and my first journal entry—a testament to the inequality and disorganization of chore distribution. Also, my last journal entry cuz

I got fired Today! Oh well—This bloody camp has taken more from my life than any amount of money would compensate. The project is going great though and the trail will be done on the next week I'll be high again. Yay. Jason C.

Well it's Tuesday again, the yellow crew is out here on our sweet front/back country project, week 2. We've been building a French drain all week and will continue today along with tread work. The crew's moral dropped today when Jason got fired, but as always, Erik cheered us up with a little bit of the robot. Oh, and don't forget our daily swim in the beautiful Illinois. Charlie-Nayrb-Bryan

Wednesday: We worked on the Illinois River trail where the Biscuit fire went through. We also made a French drain. Our breakfasts are really slow. The tread crew has been moving right along quite fast. We went swimming and picked blackberries. We are sitting on a deck with a table that looks at the Illinois River, and the rest of the crew is sitting at camp doing dinner. Justin

Thursday: We learned that trail work is a matter of changing the tread we walk on rather than settling for a rocky step. We are changing our surroundings rather than letting our surroundings define us. As well, we learned to accept authority's role in camp by discontinuing our "griping" in response to orders. We learned how to make a French drain. We learned how to safely throw rocks by yelling "ROCK!" We learned how to keep a fire in control.

Friday: We hiked too much today. We did not do much work though it was super dooper painful. Today we packed up camp and left at 8:30 am. We took a store stop in Gold Beach, and hung out at the beach, where we swam, played soccer, and fed squirrels. We had a few accomplishments this week: we finished a French drain and each of us worked 40 hours. We didn't really have any challenges this week because the trail we were working on only needed detail work, and a French drain needed to be installed. Jordan K.

**National Forest or area that the work took place—Rogue River.
Ranger District—Prospect RD
Project Name- Hamaker Hazard Tree**

Week 5: Date: June 14th

Sunday: As the weekend comes to an end the yellow crew sets out on it's last week of work. And for once it looks like it won't be in the burn. It is kind of a funny project. We have a road that needs some chainsaw work. I forecast a lot of swamping and piling. Crew moral is high. The thought of freshly made food and feather pillows only a week away is in all of our heads, but we won't let that affect our work, oh no, we will not! Bryan B.

Monday: Well on Friday we didn't work and we packed up our stuff and left for the beach around 8:30 am. Then we headed for base camp and had beef stew and chilled. On Saturday some of us went to play some Bball, some to pick blueberries and others just chilled at base camp. On Sunday we arrived at our new front country spot known as the Hammerser Trail.

Tuesday: Yellow crew's project this week is a spur road 760. We are felling trees, stripping their limbs, and stacking them on the side of the road for accessibility of disabled people for firewood. We are about 15 miles north of Medford. We are camped in a front country camp, right next to the Rogue River, which is too cold to swim in. Jordan K.

Wednesday: This week, our crew is working on an old road. Our goals consist of clearing out any old dead trees that could someday fall into the road. We placed the cut down logs on the side of the road so that people can collect firewood. We also repaired holes and dents in the road to make it a smoother ride. Ian M.

Thursday: What I learned this week was how to use a chainsaw. The fireman told us how to do everything and it was interesting. I also learned how to make a face on the tree. Jhonson D.

Friday: Our greatest challenge this week was finding work while David and Erik chopped down trees. Otherwise, life was good, food tasty, and mosquitoes hungry, as always. David V.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

The most challenging day of NYC for me was day one, week two on the Upper Chetco trail. It was the most treacherous incline and not enough water, we all were very dehydrated. Ian

The last day on the Game Lake trail challenged me physically and emotionally. At that point, I was tired of working on the section of trail, and felt myself just wanting to hike out. Though challenging, it felt great to push through my tiredness and polish up the trail. David

My most challenging day at NYC was pulling my back muscle but I still force myself to work. Jhonson

The most changing day of NYC for me was the first day of the first week. It was the hardest day for me because we had to hike in to our backcountry camp, and it was very difficult for I was very out of shape. Jordan

The most challenging thing at NYC would be trying to get along with Others the first and second week.. Dustin

When I had my sprained ankle that required me to walk on a crutch for around six miles. Jay

The most challenging day of this session was the hike out of backcountry when we worked then hiked out then worked then hiked the rest of the way out. Spencer

My personal most challenging day of the session was Friday of the third week. I felt that part of the crew was busting out, and part was really slacking, not only in work, but bumping water and compost. A lot of my inner-crew relationships were hurt that day. Bryan

My most challenging day would have to be orientation. I was already for NYC until about five minutes before I got to base camp. I had sudden doubts about it. I fit in pretty well socially so that was not a problem and I have been well away from my families for long periods of time before I guess it was just the feeling of having my first job. Ben

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

When Tim Black went to look at an almost finished crosscut and it broke 2" away from his face. When Dave got hit in the head with a football at base camp. When after two weeks of "talking" about how good he was at basketball Jhonson got schooled by Erik. Ian

1. Cooking a well-received Indian chicken curry in the Dutchie. 2. Seeing my face with four weeks of beastly beardage (the longest it had ever been). Bearing witness to the most gorgeous sunset I've every seen on my 9th mile of the day while coming out of a gnarly backcountry site. Jay

1. Learning how to use a crosscut. 2. Meeting all the different types of people. 3. Us meeting the rollers going on the rec trip. Jhonson

Today when I felled a tree with Jay and a trusty Pulaski. Spencer

When Ben (AKA Bush) complains and his head shakes violently 2. How every day, when Erik was here, Ben got "savagely burned" by him. Jordan

My favorite times at NYC were 1. Playing with wooden sticks that look like guns and having gun fights with them. 2. When Jordan (AKA Frodo) goes suddenly wild and screams in a very high pitched tone. 3. Erik when he gets like a 3 year old sporadically. Ben

My favorite 3 times was when Dave got hit with a hazel and when he got hit in the head with a football. My last was when Olaf was late every day we would all laugh at him. Dustin

Dave getting hit in the head with the football. Dompie drinking the whole jar of pickle juice. Erik is god with the robot. Bryan

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

The smell of my tent after two weeks. Jay

I will always remember the crew, crewleaders, rovers, and all the other people I bonded with. Dustin

The time we tossed rocks off a deck into a river that was like 70 feet high. Spencer

The time I feel a tree that was supposedly too big for me, or Erik's funny antics. Ben

The time Ian accidentally told Jay that he had a mosquito on his double chin, which he didn't have. Jay

All the rovers and the rec trips we took. Jhonson

When Ben (AKA Bush) wiped himself with a pinecone traveling in the wrong direction. :-0
Jordan

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always try and not take advantage of the little comforts of life. Also, every time I use a flushing toilet I will enjoy every second of its sweet, sweet swirling and cleansing. Bryan

Prioritize my time better so that I may find sufficient amounts of it to get done what I find most valuable. Also, I will far better appreciate my independence and my fortune to live in the absence of clouds of mosquitoes. Jay

I will say to myself yes, I get to be in my nice bed and when I hear about NYC I can be proud and say, yes, I've done that, it's worth the experience. Dustin

I will never take for granted the fast food, TV, flushing toilets, running water or any other object that doesn't come instantly. Ben

I will always do my best to camp at a low-impact cost. I will also do my best at covering up any trace of my campsite. Ian

At NYC I Learned...

1. To crosscut; 2. To truly appreciate free time; 3. To be content in situations with unfavorable circumstances. Jay

I learned how to use a Pulaski. Dustin

This year I've learned that being patient with other corpsmembers is so important, maybe the most important of all. Bryan

I learned how to use a crosscut and how useful they are. Ian

I have learned 1. How to use NYC's backcountry stoves; 2. How to build a trail to NYC's and the US Forest Service standards; 3. How to build a French drain. Ben

Is how to use a crosscut; 2. How to cook; 3. How to hit the wood properly with our axes. Jhonson

