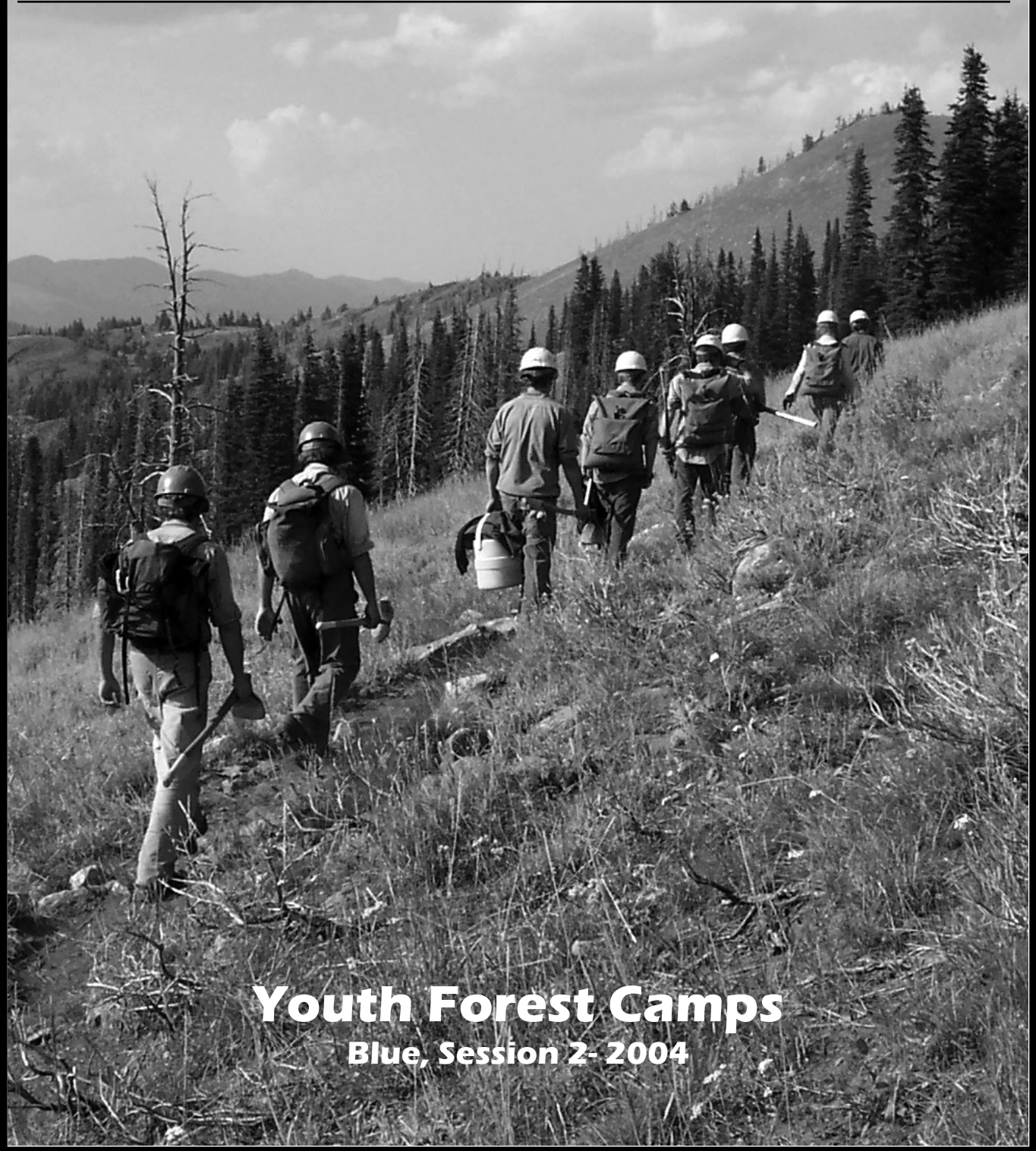




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Blue, Session 2- 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– Rogue River NF
Ranger District – Prospect RD
Project Name- Rogue River Trail**

Week 1: Date: July 26th

Monday: Upon reaching basecamp, the whole camp had endured at least an hour and a half driving. After we went through the safety and proper use stations, the crews endured their very first NYC dinner, and headed to bed. Sunday morning the crews were evenly divided into crews, loaded the trailers and were off to their first work site. Kris K.

Tuesday: We were working next to the Rogue River. This week I think they said the trail was 8 to 10 miles and we got it done in 2 days. We were just trimming the bushes, trees and stuff. We are cleaning and sometimes widening or repairing the trail. At first, the trail was all covered with branches and roots, but now we pruned and cleaned it up. Derrik K.

Wednesday: Crew goals are to work maximum effort and to work fast. So the work will get done quicker. [Another goal is] to get along with each crew member and crew leader; to try and participate in crew discussions and activities; not to rest until break times or until the job is done; learn how to use tools in the right

way, and not to lose any; obey all of the crew rules, every time. Drink lots of water – otherwise we will suffer from dehydration. David S.

Thursday: The crew-the Blue Crew – learned many important concepts and details of teamwork and outdoor life. Most of all, we've learned much about trail building and our fellow teammates. From SEED we learned how to identify anger and come to a conclusive answer about it, without negative outcome. However, I think, the most important concept we have learned is the first step to teamwork – there is still much to learn. Our 12 man team is developing into a healthy and mature family. The emphasis on teamwork is accelerating work ethics and empathy development. Even though we are having some minor problems, we will grow through them. I enjoy learning with these 12, and I will miss Tim when he leaves to go to another group.

Friday: In the beginning of our first week it was a great challenge to get into the groove of work, in which we wake up before dawn and hike back around forth. The crew was also getting used to each other. But we did our jobs well, and we ended up sticking together as a crew. Some even became buddies. It was our first week to get used to work and the environment of the next four [weeks], and we managed to accomplish this.

In regards to what we have learned: we learned how to put up a tent, start a fire, cook dinner, and some other camp essentials. On the trail, we learned how to maintain a trail with all of our tools, such as the clippers, the hog, the hazel, the Pulaski, the saws and the mcleod. We learned how a trail should look and which tool we should use for the job at hand. Most certainly, we learned how to work as a team, and to look out for one another on the trail. We learned how to share tasks with one another and how to coordinate our efforts, in order to get the job done. This lesson will serve us well in the next coming weeks. David F.

Oregon State Park and Rec. Project Name- Joseph Stewart SP –Upper Rogue

Week 2: Date: August 2nd

Monday: This weekend was great. We went on rec. trips – some to Rogue River, Lost Creek Lake and Crater Lake. Everyone had a wonderful time. It was pretty much a very relaxing weekend. We got to visit with all the other crews continue making friends. Everyone is very nice. The Blue Crew cooked the weekend dinner: Taco Salad, which was incredibly nice. Everybody seemed to like it. There were few eating contests. One was on corn and the other race was on salad. So all around, it was a good weekend. Nathan B.

Tuesday: We are at the base camp north of Prospect, and we are working on our second stretch of the Rogue River Trail towards Prospect. We are doing heavier brushing and treadwork because it is a more heavily used segment of trail than the previous ones we worked on. Also, we are doing some rock work-retaining walls and rock staircases. The rocks were placed to look believably natural – or at least to fit into a natural setting. Ben F.

Wednesday: We are pushing for perfection, perfection which may only be reached through hard work. In order to do so we must be precise, completely complete our tasks on every given day; stay positive through all the complications, keep ourselves motivated by motivating each other. We should, with our sound mind and body, agree with and do everything that our crew leader tells us to do; be team players; when needed, help without being asked to do so; not to complain, no matter how unbearable it may seem, for your complaining will only bring your team mates down; be serious about your work. Messing

around will only make others mad and take them off the task. As the result of that, injuries may occur (either mental or physical ones). We need to be courteous and open-minded to each other's thoughts and feelings so that everyone could get along. Last but not the least: safety first, any way! Codey Q.

Thursday: This week our crew pursued many tasks from which we learned many new skills. Since we are tracking in the poison oak country, many of our crewmembers learned about the certain type of oak, what it looks like and what it does to person's skin. Our crew learned how to avoid its infection and what to do when someone is infected. We also learned how to carve out trails on steep hills and make them pretty. The crew made a trail out of rocks and boulders. Everyone learned about rock safety and how to build the rock staircases. Anatoly S.

Friday: Setting up camp this week wasn't really a challenge, because we had the luxury of base camp. However, one challenge was to keep [focus] on the task and not to get too used to how "cush" base camp is. I think we accomplished that and also managed to get all of our work done in an efficient manner.

On the job site, it was a challenge to learn and adapt to new jobs and methods of working. We did some rock work, which was both physically and mentally challenging but very rewarding as well. Also, we did some more brushing and treadwork, similar to what we did last week on a different part of the trail. There was some poison oak on this part of the trail, though. With the rockwork, which involved the combination of moving very heavy rocks and poison oak-infested tread work, our safety was the biggest concern and the biggest challenge for our crew. However, we made it just fine. Ben F.

National Park Service
Crater Lake National Park
Project Name- PCT maintenance

Week 3: Date: August 9th

Monday: After a week of hard work we were happy to get back to civilization to do laundry, take a shower and take our store stop so that the majority of us could buy our junk food. After eating ourselves to agonizing satisfaction, we were pretty excited about seeing our peers that had been absent from us for a whole week. Relaxation overwhelmed our tired bodies when we settled into base camp. Saturday was the peak of the weekend, the day in which we embark upon rec trips to places of our liking. I decided to take a second look at the wonderful and amazing Crater Lake. As always, it is breathtaking, exhilarating vibe is a feel I will remember forever. Codey Q.

Tuesday: Well, we got backcountry this week and the hike was pretty goods. We had like a 3 something hike in that, we ended up making 7 times total. We were working on a re-route through the PCT and through the Stuart Falls area. It was sweet weather the whole week through 100 degrees. And after 8-9 hour days we got to go to the Crater Lake info area and watched the film on history of Crater Lake. It was sweet. Kris K.08/10/04

Wednesday: The goals for my crew this week are to keep up our hard work and stay motivated to finish our project and please our contact. We need to accomplish our reroute and trails' retaining walls. Since we keep a very good pace and eat and drink a lot of body fuel, there should be no problem meeting this challenge. Nathan B. 8/11/04

Thursday: Our crew learned much about rock retaining walls and the ability to work together. We used ample communication and teamwork to complete over 4 rock structures and over 500 feet of trail. We controlled our posture and our extensive use our tools to create beautiful trails, but most of all we learned the value of hard work and teamwork. Jakob W. 08/12/04

Friday: Friday began later than usual, as we woke up at six instead of five-thirty. Immediately, we faced the challenge of the swarms of bees surrounding our water and kitchen, while the mosquitoes were relentless in their assaults. But we learned how not to let anything get to us, and we began our work polishing and finishing both the rerouting trail and a new trail through a rock field. The reroute needed rock to stabilize the tread, as well as pounds of dirt. The problem [for us was] getting good dirt, as we could only find the right for the job uphill, near a rock field. Carrying the dirt down became a hazard, and one member almost fell. He was quickly sent to digging, and the job was done with no injuries. In the rock field on the other trail, a group of the Blue Crew learned to work around an unmovable boulder in the ground by building a stable retaining wall. At the end of the work day the trails were sweet and done. The challenge then became clearing up, as it took longer than expected. We managed to get to the van and pack only an hour late, and we went to the Crater Lake shows, which charged a dollar each. The frustrations began at the wash, all people argue over wall materials. But the rest of the day was smooth sailing, as Gabe treated us to pizza and we were able to wash our clothes. All of the frustrations we had earlier began to disappear. It appeared that after we -were working so hard all with many frustrations around us, we really needed a break, and we got it. Daniel F.

National Forest: Rogue River NF
Ranger District; Ashland RD
Project Name- Rogue River Nat'l Forest: PCT Maintenance

Week 4: Date: August 16th

Monday: This weekend we worked 4 hours on Friday, hiked out of our camp, got the van all loaded and ready to roll, and then headed out. We had pizza that night, did some chilling at the base camp, and then hit the sack. Saturday was rec trips all around. Saturday night was the usual, but after bed something did happen. I noticed that David Shepley's hand was shaking. Chris and I knew that he had a history of seizures, so when it persisted, I went to get Gabe. Chris was attempting to wake him up, but he would not wake up! Scott, Joe and the crew leaders eventually took him to the hospital, but his seizure had stopped at camp. On Sunday we went to the hospital and were informed that Dave is alright. He had a "pseudo seizure", and he may or may not return to work. That was pretty much the weekend. Ben F.

Tuesday: We are mostly brushing at the PCT. The weather is good, the growth of the plants is extreme, and so we are mostly gonna brush for the rest of the week. The weather is hot every day. The moral is strong with the soldiers, even though the project is inching along. Kris K.

Wednesday: We are trying to keep the trail working like it is done by a professional landscaping crew. We're trying to stay so hydrated that our bathroom breaks overrule our paid breaks. We are also making a goal to eat well of our heavily equipped food box, although we are now nearly exploding from the amount of food we made. We are hoping to finish the trail we are working on as soon as possible but in the same manner. Phil H.

Thursday: This week we learned many new tasks which helped us accomplish many goals. This week we worked on trail brushing and all the steps that one involved in the process. We learned how to brush off bushes with hog hoes. We improved our skills on general on general trail brushing and tree cutting. Many members learned how to bake brownies on the Dutch oven lid. The crew learned about the corps members and more about their personal histories. We got to know each other better. Anatoly S.

Friday: I think the challenge our whole crew had this week been completing our project precisely and in a timely fashion. The project we had this week was immensely redundant. Our crew had problems staying on track with what needed to be done. There were also some crew member issues, which were addressed in benchmarks. With the help of our leadership –Gabe and Eric – they were able to challenge us and help us to complete our work with quality, not to mention speediness. As a crew, I believe, we have an ongoing challenge, which was addressed positively and in good fashion. The challenge is our teamwork and relationships. I believe that the temperaments of everyone are changing for the best. This helps us in the next week-weeks-our last week with the right control. It has been taught and grasped. We will finish out strong with friendships under our belts. Jacob W.

**National Forest -Rogue River NF
Ranger District –Prospect RD
Project Name- Union Creek Fence Jackson Co.**

Week 5: Date: August 23rd

Monday: The Blue Crew went on rec trips to Crater Lake, lumber jack festival, lost lake, etc. We hung out at base camp as well as this week. We won the Olympic gold at the Olympics. Went down to the Creek to hang out while Derek fished. For the Olympics we had to carry five gallons worth of water while strapped to suspenders and run to the line and back, the Yellow top water jug and carrying oranges without using our hands and not dropping them. David S.

Tuesday: Tuesday we, um... Well, we are pouring a tad of cement setting in posts and putting up a fresh gate set up. Also, we are putting plastic in seed orchards to take out the nasty weeds in certain parts. Also, we, um... Also, we walked around checking the orchard for dead trees to help the seed orchards success and the gate for goodness. Nathan B.

Wednesday: this week we would like to keep everybody safe and positive, so that we finish the program with our original crew. We'd like to complete whatever random tasks are set before us, because we have an odd project. I'd like to keep our crew free of antagonism and hard feelings-it's good to leave on a positive note. Lastly, our whole crew wants the week to go by fast and just be really fun and positive for every individual and for the crew as a whole unit. Ben F.

Thursday: We basically learned how to kill weeds in masses, count trees and ... yay... make a bridge.. I think it was a cool and fun week. Our contacts were cool, I thought. Oh, we put up a fence that broke down, too... that was fun. We also learned how to make pigs-in-a-blanket out of pancake mix and hot dogs. This is the recipe that I will remember for a while. Derrik K.

Friday: The crew and I had an overwhelming challenge that was carried over from week 1: no injuries and 10/10 people. Apparently, no crew had accomplished this. So we made it our goal and outmost concern to keep safe and make everything enjoyable. As the 5th week commenced with the reintroduction of David C., we started out strong. After completing a fence, counting trees and brushing and OHV trail we still had no injuries. Now the challenge of 5th week would start in Thursday [and go into] the next day – Friday. After building a bridge we commenced a pretty dangerous hike back to the NYC van. On Friday we brushed a trail with drop offs, pot holes and close quarters. This was another formidable foe against safety. But we came out alright while accomplishing a major goal set in the first week. I myself am proud of our crew and our leadership.

Jacob Wahlgren

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My name is David Farmer at the Blue crew, and my most challenging day would have to be Thursday of the fourth week, where we pulled a nine-hour day of the hardest brushing we had ever done. We were missing a crew member, so we had to pull four nine-hour days, all on the fourth [week], and I was rather fatigued. I used the hog hoe for many hours, and I found the work hard, repetitive and unrewarding. Also, everyone was in a bad mood. It was a really stressful time, as we were all mentally and physically exhausted from working long and hard. But I was happy when it was over, and when I look back, I'm glad I went through it. David F.

My most challenging day at NYC is the first day you try to talk to as many as you can, you have hundreds of questions and it is just crazy. Nathan B.

This week I got a terrible headache on our hike in. It was the worst headache I'd ever had - then it came back the next day, too. It was hard to participate those days. Ben F.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day in which we had to pack 5 gallons of water for 3 miles into backcountry. It was a good adrenaline rush, and I would do anything to experience it again. Signing off, Codey Q.

My name is Phil H. My most challenging day was day 2, week 1.

My most challenging day was in the fourth week, the last day - keeping busy. Jacob W.

My most challenging day at NYC was when we packed in all our stuff into the backcountry. It was an awesome rush! Anatoly S.

On Thursday of the backcountry trip on the way back with a 7 gallon in my pack. It was really hard. Derrick K.

My most challenging day was Thursday, the 26th, when we did that tremendous hiking up and down the long, steep hill. David S.

My most demanding day this session was when we had only 9 people. Kris K.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My name is David Farmer, and my favorite three experiences at NYC were building rock retaining wall, moving boulders and building bridge. David F.

The bridge construction, which was great
Back country at Crater Lake, Oregon, was fun. I actually got to dig a fresh trail!

Winning the NYC Olympics was bad. Nathan B.

Chilling with other crews at the weekend sites
Moving dirt uphill at Crater Lake from the heart-shaped barrow.
Making pigs-in-a-blanket for dinner. Ben F.

First week of the session when we hiked 10 miles a day.
Rec trip to Crater Lake
Weekends at base camp

Codey Q.

Phil H.:

Digging barrows
Moving rocks
Rock walls

Retaining walls
Meeting new people
Working with my group

Jake W.

First week, walking 10 miles a day
Crater Lake hikes
Upriver hiking on rec trip Tolya S.

Food recipes were cool to learn
Winning the NYC Olympics
Learning new skills

Derrick K.

One of my favorite experiences was going to Crater Lake. Another one was relaxing and chilling with my crew. Last one is meeting all of the contacts that we worked for. David S.

When we went backcountry; our last day of work; the orientation. Kris K.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

My name is David Farmer, and one thing I will always remember during the NYC is the crew I was with. They were really great friends. David F.

I will always remember everything, like last session. Nathan B.

...Making yummy pigs-in-a-blanket for my crew. Ben F.

First impressions mean nothing without past history. Codey Q.

My crew. Phil H.

The work I've done, and the people I've met. J. W.

All of the whole experience. Tola S.

How to make pigs-in-a-blanket with a pancake mix. Derrick K.

One thing I will always remember is learning and laughing with very good and friendly people. David S.

Not complain and work hard. Kris K.

From Now On I Will Always...

My name is David Farmer, and from now on I will always control myself in the face of annoyance.

I will always cook in proportion. Nathan B.

... Let things go easier, not hold any grudges, work hard and hold firm to the belief that he who ceases to question, ceases to know. Ben F.

Keep working hard. Phil H.

Think of others a second before I think of myself. Codey Q.

Keep motivated, wake up early, and be responsible w/my body and external things.
Jacob W.

Enjoy all the different experiences. Tola S.

... Not eat until everyone is served! Derrick K.

My name is David S., and from now on I will try not to be angry with people when they are being annoying.

Work here! Appreciate nature. Kris K.

At NYC I Learned...

My name is David Farmer, and while at NYC, I learned how to maintain a trail, to get along well with people and to deal with long, hard day. David F.

I learned a lot of patience through trial. Nathan B.

To be innovative in my cooking; to operate the cross-cut, and how to manage a crew. Ben F. (Swamper)

I learned leadership skills by observing my crew leader, I learned expanded self-motivation and how to push my body past the limits; social skills. Codey Q.

Phil H.:

Learning how to use trail tools

Work ethics

Tolerance

Trail building (retaining walls, etc.)
Conservation (through SEED activities)
Leadership skills, from crew leader Jacob W.

trail building
conservation
more about myself Tola S.

how to properly use given tools
how to build trails
how to build bridges
Derrick K.

Trail building
More about myself
Leadership through crew leader
David S.

