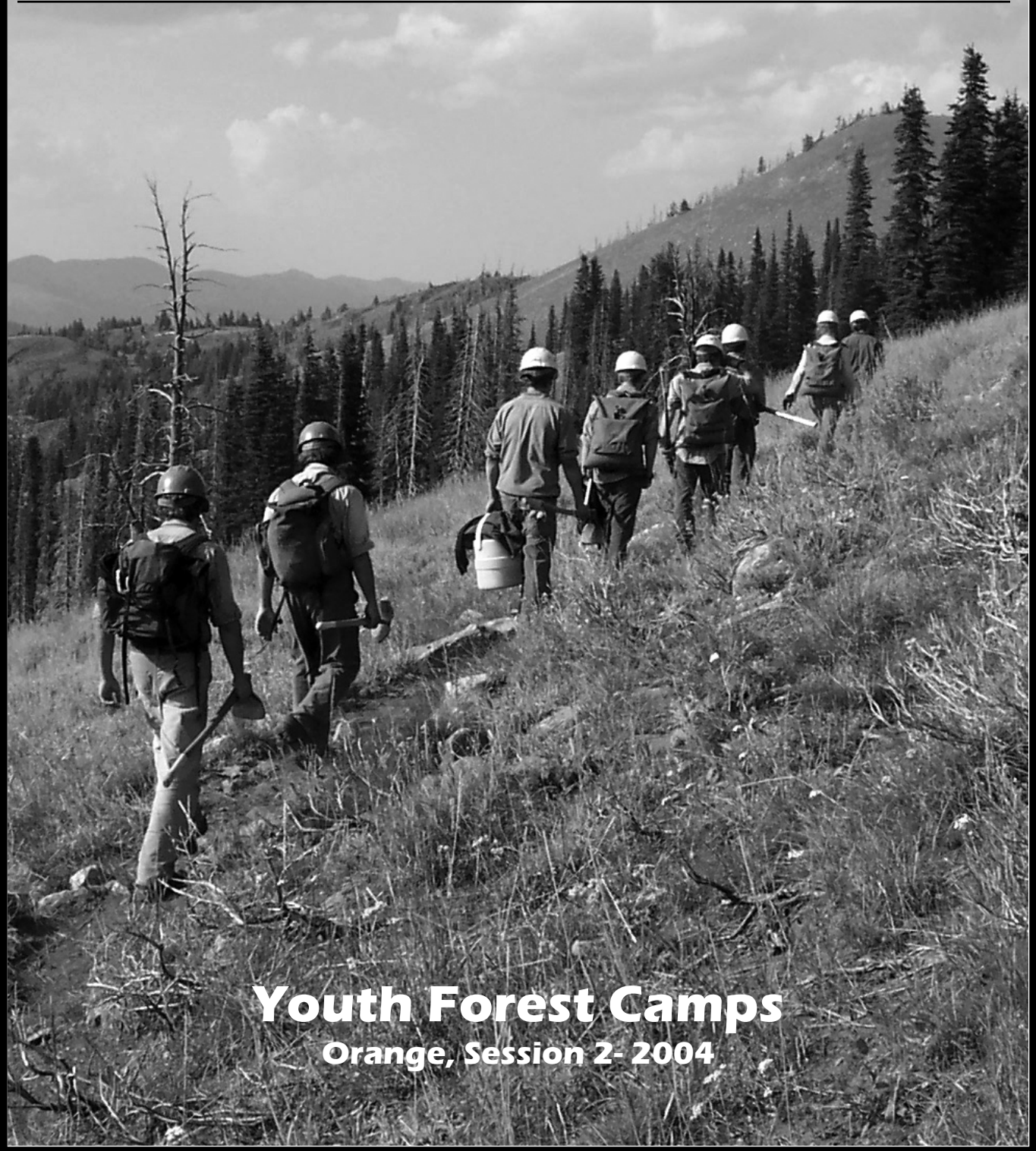




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Orange, 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



Jackson County Parks and Rec.
Project Name- Howard Prairie Lake

Week 1: Date: June 26th

Monday: Getting up really early at 6:15. Everybody was ready to work their butts off. First thing, we went out to the forest and cut off the log with Pulaski. We did a good job. Everybody was working together. It was a great team work. I noticed that everyone was working hard and wasn't ready to quit. One thing that I think I'll remember from this first day is that my boots were hurting [my feet] so bad I had to drag my feet after myself. In conclusion, getting exhausted is to see if being sore and aching would make me stronger. Luci C.

Tuesday: We've been working at this monstrous swimming pool of the lake called Howard Prairie Lake. We were assigned to a pedestrian trail that connects two campgrounds (If you can call it a trail). I connected five logs fallen across the path which itself was incredibly uneven. The whole team took out the first log in the way, and then we split into two groups and took turns to clearing the trees, flattening the foot path and removing rocks. I think we did well. Daniel L.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week include finishing the trail, but also getting to know each other, teamwork, getting everywhere and to circle on time, staying safe, keeping hydrated, growing personally, getting along, staying

healthy, but most of all we have to make the trail look perfect. For the next two days we are going to be making the trail smooth and wonderful – smoother than baby’s bottom. Matty

Thursday: We learned how to use tools, how to make cut bonks, and other trail techniques. We also learned that tuna doesn’t mix well with iodine (?). We also learned that we have a cool crew. Our excitement about the store stops is at fever pitch. Everyone is looking forward to fast food and onion rings. Yesterday we exercised our foreign capabilities with International Day. Phil

**National Forest–Klamath NF
Ranger District–Scott River Road
Project Name- Canyon Creek Trail**

Week 2: Date: August 2nd

Monday: Orange crew was given the two-week backcountry project in California. We are in the Marble Mountain wilderness area. We took off from base camp with Hannah and the new rover Erik who replaced Amy. We drove to a small campground below the trailhead and spent the night on tarps. We met our contact Sue Tebbe and her dog, Star. Sunday morning we hiked 4 miles to our campground and set up the camp. It was pretty rough day for many of us.

Monday morning we started work around 6:15 and headed back down the trail to work on removing roly-poly, making a few rock bars, brushing and general trail Q.C. We had a great morning. Then in the afternoon, the rain started pouring down and it even hailed. We got pretty wet and our rain gear got pretty drenched. We’ve had a rough time getting the bear hang up, but I think we’ve figured it out. So far it has been a great start for the two weeks. J Eva J.

Tuesday: This week we are working “hard” kicking roly-poly off the trail, hiking up and down over and over again and talking to huge scary animals that smell almost as bad as we do. We are also working hard as a crew, but altogether we are enjoying each other’s company, the weather, our work and the world around us. We have had a lot of fun working with our contract, our crew leader, with rover and with each other. The end.

Nancy B.

Wednesday: Orange crew’s high reaching goals for the week include finishing the trails, perfecting every part of everything and brushing all the brush out of the way. Staying hydrated and full of energy is always tough with iodine water and the food our crew cooks. Staying clean, being happy, getting along, surviving the rain and the intense sun, the hard work, the smell, the boots, the blisters and the hiking are all Orange Crew’s goals for the week. Throughout all the difficult times, the beauty of Marble Valley, and our wonderful leader and rover pull us through. Matty N.

Thursday: We have learned this week one of the most important things possible: how to light our stove. Thanks to Erik, we now know how to cook without bugging Erik or Hannah. We also learned that we need to make lots of noise when going to the bathroom because of the bears around our work site, though, thankfully, we have not seen any of the mother bears. Ross B.

Friday: We began working on the Canyon Creek Trail this week. The hike in was not bad. We got the main work done, with only some DC left. Hiking to the work site with heavy tools and yellow tops was often a challenge. We got the stairway redone, although the horses quickly ruined a lot of it. We got the trail widened and the trees more safe. Phillip

Friday: This week Orange crew embarked on their grueling backcountry adventure in California. The crew set to work building new water bars and making the Canyon Creek Trail look beautiful and polished. Backcountry living was a challenge for some, as they adjusted to latrine use and being far from the trusty van. The whole crew pulled through, though, surviving thunderstorms and the climb “upstairs” from work every day to complete week one backcountry with shining colors. Hannah

National Forest-Klamath NF
Ranger District-Scott River RD
Project Name- Canyon Creek Trail

Week 3: Date: August 9th

Monday: Our crew had Saturday off. And for our day off Erik let us sleep in until 9:30, although most of us were already up about an hour and a half earlier. We all thought it was nice to sleep in a little. For our little rec. trip we hike to 4 different lakes. Gate Lake, lower and upper Sky High Lakes and the Frying Pan Lake. We stopped and had a long relaxing moment at Lower Sky High Lake where some people swam, some just sat around enjoying the view. Some of us got major sun [burn]. About four of us came back with sunburns. The hike back was nice. Lots of views. On the way back to our camp we got to hike along the PCT. That was cool.

The lake that we stopped at was very nice. Not as nice as the ones we saw while hiking back. But-hey!-it was still water. Some of us brought some of our cloths so that we could wash them. While we were there the sky was clear blue, not a cloud in sight. The sun was up and baking us. At least, it didn't take long for our clothes to dry. On our hike to the lake and back to camp we got to stop and take pictures of the beautiful view. I personally thought that it was a good way to spend our day off. Hannah wasn't with us; it was her day off too. But we still had Erik with us. We got to get to know him better and get a chance to feel more relaxed around him. Back at the camp we did all of our chores and had a delicious dinner. No forceful feeding needed! We played a game of tug-a-war and we were given some brownies from our neighbors up the way. As a treat, Hannah let us have s'mores. Kind of. At least roasted marshmallows. And E.J. gave her P. H. That was cool. We got to learn a little more about the girl from Montana. That was our very eventful Saturday. Sarah C.

Tuesday: For the third week of this session Orange Crew is doing the same exact thing as last week during this session. We are in, apparently, Klamath Falls National Forest. California, Marble Mountain Valley. We are maintaining several trails, including Canyon Creek, the trail to Lovers Camp, and the Sky High Trail, which we are going to finish when the VIP's roll in. I suppose we are doing this for the same reasons we do every job with NYC: money, discipline, and love for the wilderness. The beauty of this area is breathtaking, and I think it has awakened a new sense of respect for the wild in many people here in Orange Crew. The arrival of Scott the woods boss, even though I keep thinking of him as Steve, and him passing out the mail, got me thinking of home for the first time since joining the NYC. It is a strange feeling for me, considering my self-sufficiency. Homesickness feels unnatural to me. It makes me appreciate the new family that I've found here. Will C.

Wednesday: Orange crew's goals for this week are to finish the Canyon Creek trail and to prepare the trail for the VIP's who will come through on Wednesday. Another goal is to get through the week and I can't wait to go to a store stop and get some real food. This expedition has been going fairly well. So far, there has been a little bit of bickering but not much. Hannah has given us the crew name of the gickers, and some of us would agree. Frank

Thursday: This week Orange Crew learned plant identification. We learned about the wilderness protection act and how to build emergency shelters in our SEED sessions. WE also expanded our knowledge

and experience with trail work, brushing and camp activities, such as cooking dinners, cleaning camp, securing our food, hanging bear hangs, sharpening our tools and starting safe fires. Some of us learned important lessons like: don't leave personal belongings lying around and don't put bleach in the pasta. Matty N.

Friday: This week orange crew worked another backcountry week at Marble Mountain wilderness. Making the trail look perfect for the visiting group required lots of patience. We completed the special hill project in less than two days, rerouting a creek as well as the trail. We finished Canyon Creek trail and undertook two hillside hiking projects on Sky High Lakes trail. We also removed rocks and brushed the trail up to Gate Lake. We also spent a couple of hours in conference with some important people of the trail world.

Philip B.

National Forest: Rogue River NF
Ranger District: Prospect Rd
Project Name- Chion Creek Face

Week 4: Date

Monday: This week our crew is back at the base camp. We have started a new project. Over the weekend we were still at the backcountry, and we went hiking down here. It was stressful but we made it in two hours. A little later we went to do our laundry and also a store stop. Back in California, where we were camping, we had a store stop – one of the best. We had lots of time, and the boys bought toy guns. We have a lot of fun with those. In fact, we are playing the game called Assaxis. It is where we all “kill” each other [with water guns], at least we try. So far no-body had quit, it gets better and better. It is the best. Luci C.

Tuesday: Orange crew has the pleasure of taking a break from all the other things we've done so far. In fact, this week we have gotten ourselves into doing the exact opposite. Instead of being backcountry, we're at base camp. Instead of working on a trail, we are doing lots (lots!) of woodwork. What this involves so far is entering the Huckleberry Campgrounds, a short drive from our base camp, going into the forest to some fallen trees, carrying them out, limbing them, peeling them and finally loading them onto chucks trailer. Chuck, our contact, is a fun, brawly-looking guy who is very down to earth and laid back. Apparently, the reason for all of the work is to make some sort of fence. Everyone at Orange Crew is itching to build something. This week orange crew has no Rover. Shocking. Sad, too, but, hey, Scott (even though we think of him as Steve) came by on Monday, and Joe came by on Monday after Scott, until 2 o'clock Tuesday, which was fun. I still don't know if beats a good rover. Plus, we got to eat road kill. I mean, our contact accidentally ran into some wild turkey and we got to eat fresh wild turkey and we got to eat fresh wild turkey for dinner. No smell, thanks to Frank. Ah, the joys of the highway. Yeeee-hawww!!

Wednesday: Well, this week our crew is working on peeling logs and building fences. So our goal would be to do a very good job, do our work at a good pace, work together as a team. Another goal for this week is for all of us to get along. One of our main goals, I believe, is to work on our bickering. We need to work on getting along both on the work site and back at the camp. I also believe that one of our goals is to do the best job we can on our building projects and really making an effort to work together as a great crew. Another goal is to have fun. We only

have a little over a week left here. This is our fourth week together. I know we all want to have a fun time. Learn a lot and have an overall good experience here.

I think we have a great crew. We have been very hard working since the first week. We do argue and disagree sometimes, but what crew doesn't. I honestly think that our main goal should be to learn to get along. We really need to learn to put an end to all the arguing. We work way better as a team when there is no fighting. I believe this crew has a lot of potential. I believe we would do great things together, as long as we just clear the tension and frustration from the air. From this week personally, I just can't wait to build more things. I love building things and using my hands. Sarah C.

Thursday: This week we learned how to skin logs of their bark and, [how to] fall and limb trees. We were given a really cool contact named Chuck. He is with the Forest Service employer and is really laid back and down to earth. The second day of work he came in and I was helping him load up logs. He also had a turkey that I cleaned out for the crew and cooked for them. Also, that was the highlight of all my weeks at NYC. Frank

National Forest: Siskiyou NF
Ranger District: Gold Beach RD
Project Name- Lawson Creek Trail

Week 5: Date: August 23rd

Monday: Wrapping up Friday from our week at base camp was a breeze, so we headed to Shady Cove for a store stop, cold showers and laundry. On Friday we were the first group back at the base camp again so we had lots of free time. Saturday we had rec. trips to the Lost Lake, Crater Lake, the Timber fest and one group was staying at base camp. Saturday evening we did the Olympics. Hannah had a day off, so Erik helped to represent our team. The events were a safety relay (which Red Crew won). A yellow top chug, (which Blue Crew won), Orange crew came in second! Then we had tug'o'war, but those brutes on yellow and Red Crew snapped the rope before we even had a chance to school our first opponents – the Blue team! Orange crew was very disappointed that we didn't even get a chance. The last event was the Orange Pass, and Orange crew was going strong, until the blue crew sped ahead once again. We ended the night with a rainy Saturday circle, asking where we wanted dinner and who we wanted to eat with. Sunday was hectic and rainy as the Orange Crew found out about our final project – the Lawson Creek Trail. Matty N.

Tuesday: This week our crew is working on the Lawson Creek Trail. What we need to do is to go back over the brushing that was not done by backcountry leadership program. While we work on the brushing that they left, we will also be widening and Q.C.-ing the trail. They gave us 7 miles of trail and so far we have completed 2 miles. The area we are in is a burn area and when the mist that seems down to this place [is away], we have a very good view of the surrounding valleys. Today was the first day that we actually got to see the great view. Ross B.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals this week are to finish the Lawson Trail and pick up where the Backcountry Leadership Program left off. We also hope to survive the rain and cold and keep up our positivism in adverse conditions. Hannah

Thursday: Today the orange crew finished up our project. We had 2 groups working toward each other on the trail, and they met up with perfect timing to complete the section we had left

to finish today. Then we headed out to the ocean, camping on the beautiful Oregon coastline south of Gold Beach. We are wet and cold, but happy to have finished the job. Both ready to leave and already missing our crewmembers. Hannah

Friday: Today Orange crew got up early in the morning and headed southeast, back into California, passing redwood groves and up into Oregon again to rejoin YFC at base camp. Then, along with the other 3 crews, we began the massive cleaning effort that is "Big Clean": scrubbing tents, vans and dishes to the tunes emanating from van 29. Then we enjoyed a steak, potato and lasagna dinner, followed by strawberry shortcake with ample strawberries and whipped cream. We're sad to leave everyone, but excited for graduation. Hannah

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

I enjoyed the hike we took up to the lakes on our day off in the Marble Mountains and hiking on the PTC. Also, the first morning I woke Matty up by putting my watch alarm across her face. I liked the night I ate the whole plate of onions and beat Gabe. That was sweet, not literally. E. J.

Only three??!! Well, one of them has to be the 4th week's rec. trip I had where I stayed at the camp. Sleeping and swimming after a month of work was great. Another is my crew on the 2nd week back-country, and watching the NYC Olympics was also very cool. Daniel

My first favorite experience was during the first week. The day we finished the trail of our first project was just the coolest experience. My second would have to be being able to hike a little ways on the PCT in the Marble Mountain. I had heard of the trail and thought it was so cool to actually walk on it. My last favorite, which should have been my first, was being able to make my famous Mac & Cheese in a Dutch oven. That was my first time ever using a Dutchy. SarahLou

The first would have to be meeting the crew. The second would be the road kill meal we had of turkey and the third would be each new project. Frank

My 3 favorite experiences were: 1) the first day, meeting everyone
2) playing games all the time
3) and the last day of work, because it was really fun.

Nancy B.

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were:

1) going backcountry, because it was pretty cool hiking up and down. It was an experience that I haven't had before. Then I liked the first week when Amy was here, because she was really cool and I liked spending time with her. And the last was also back country: when we were done working, we gathered around the fire.

Luci K.

My three favorite NYC experiences would be the first night we slept under the stars out at the base of Marble Mtn. My daily make-up routine (Morning Song from Eva Jean) and playing games during our day off at Marble Mountain.

Matty N.

Quite possibly the best sleep in my life was at the base of the Marble Mt. Wilderness. The first day of paid work was incredibly fun, what with the pulasking of a huge log while being cheered on by everyone else. The van rides rocked. Will C.

Just seeing the views of Marble Mountain was good, as was the burn in our last week. I enjoyed the crew Olympics as well. Some of the lake swimming was great.

Phillip

Everyday when I got to sleep in past 7 am was a good day. Ross Burney

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. It was just a rough day for me physically and mentally, but I kept going and pushed myself to the end of the day.

I would love to say that my hardest day was the first on the job. I was significantly weaker physically, and my crew mostly palaskied logs. It was funny but still very hard.

Daniel

My most challenging day I would have to say was Sunday we first hiked to our camp site in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. It was the hardest hike I've ever experienced. Although I felt like going no farther, I wouldn't let myself stop. I had to reach the top no matter how hard it was physically. In the end I did make it and I felt very good that I made it. SarahLou

I think the most challenging day at NYC was the last day of work because of the repetition I have developed. Frank

I've had many challenging days, but I know the last will be the hardest because I will be leaving the family that I have grown to love (even through the hard times) over the past 5 weeks. Nancy B.

I think my most challenging days were all of them because I try my best at everything. Especially hiking up, because I have a hard time with that. Luci

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day at Marble Mtn. Wilderness. We were all tired from the long hike the day earlier, and it was our earliest and coldest morning. Matty N.

During our stay at Marble Mt. Wilderness we had to form a fire line in order to move a large amount of dirt uphill. Because of the erratic nature of the fire, I had two people with helmets full of dirt, back to the people in the fire line, downhill, then uphill, back and forth, in the pouring rain. That was one crazy day. Will C.

I found getting out of bed the last week when it was raining hard outside and really cold, was a challenge. Knowing I was already too late for breakfast didn't help. It wasn't as bad as I thought though, especially when I found out that the girls had standing water in their sleeping bags. Philip

My most challenging day was when I had to get up and work in the rain that sounded like a fire hose on our tent. Ross B.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember Matty and I getting up in the mornings and singing The Farmer Song. E.J.

I will always remember Scott, our Woodsboss. I really look up to him, and he has just the cutest beard I've ever seen! (that's a good thing). Daniel

I will always remember the day I hiked up four miles in the Marble Mountain wilderness with a really heavy backpack on my back. And I made it to the top. I will never forget that long hard hike. SarahLou

The thing I will always remember is the roadkill turkey that I cooked and cleaned for the crew. Frank

I will always remember all of our inside jokes and silly things that were said. Nancy B.

I will always remember how funny it was to find gorp in my backpack. It was really funny. I will always remember the people, the crew leader Hannah and especially Nancy. The people were great. Luci K.

I will always remember the many things I learned about myself at NYC, along with tons of funny stories and memories. Matty N.

I will never forget the cool people I met here, not only in Orange Crew, but at all of NYC. Will C.

I will always remember the people in the crew, because of all the good times we had! Phil

P.S. I will also remember Phil's frosties.

Riding in the back of the van rules. Ross B.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always use a sump when I camp, bring long underwear with me [when going] camping, and I will appreciate trails that I hike on because I will know the hard work that went into making them. E. J.

From now on I will always try to remember how to take care of plants better and how to be kind, to take care of nature. Luci K.

From now on I will always appreciate the simple things in life, like a pillow, running water, my mom's cooking dinner, and sleeping in. Matty N.

When I need to work, from now on I will just do the work with no complications. Will Charles

I will always appreciate amenities available in a real house. Phil

I will always ride in the front of a van. Ross B.

At NYC I Learned...

I learned to accept other people the way that they are. I learned to push myself through hard projects, even though I didn't want to, and I learned how to cook tofu. E. J.

I learned how to do a whole lot of trail work. I know that it sounds kinda cheap as an answer, but I think I'll find it useful. Daniel

I learned to not disrespect people no matter what. I learned how to make a really nice looking tread on a trail. I also learned that getting wet and dirty isn't all that bad. Things could get worse. SarahLou

At NYC I learned many peoples skills and lots of team work. Frank

At NYC I learned a new love for my crew, and that arguing isn't that bad. I also learned how easily I get over fights. Nancy B.

At NYC I learned that I could finish what I start. I also learned that I can open up to people by talking and making fool of myself, and that is OK, I learned how to appreciate things just the way they are. Luci K.

NYC taught me cooperation, teamwork, tons of trailwork skills, and how to cook on a Dutchie. Matty N.

Things that I learned at NYC fit into two categories: things I learned to do more, and things I learned to do less. Back home, if there was a chore to be done, all I had to do was to relax, and someone else would eventually do it. Here at the NYC, if I don't do my chore, it doesn't get done, and everyone else knows who didn't do it. Instead of getting rewarded for laziness, I got punished for it. What a concept! The amount of discipline I learned here is insane. I learned to jump onto doing chores, never do wrong, and use my head. Will C.

I learned to be more organized, because it is diffucult to get dressed in the dark if your clothes are spread around the tent. I learned how comfortable one can get without a real bed. I also realized how fun it can be to meet a completely new set of people. Phillip

I learned that I love riding in the back of the van. Ross B.

