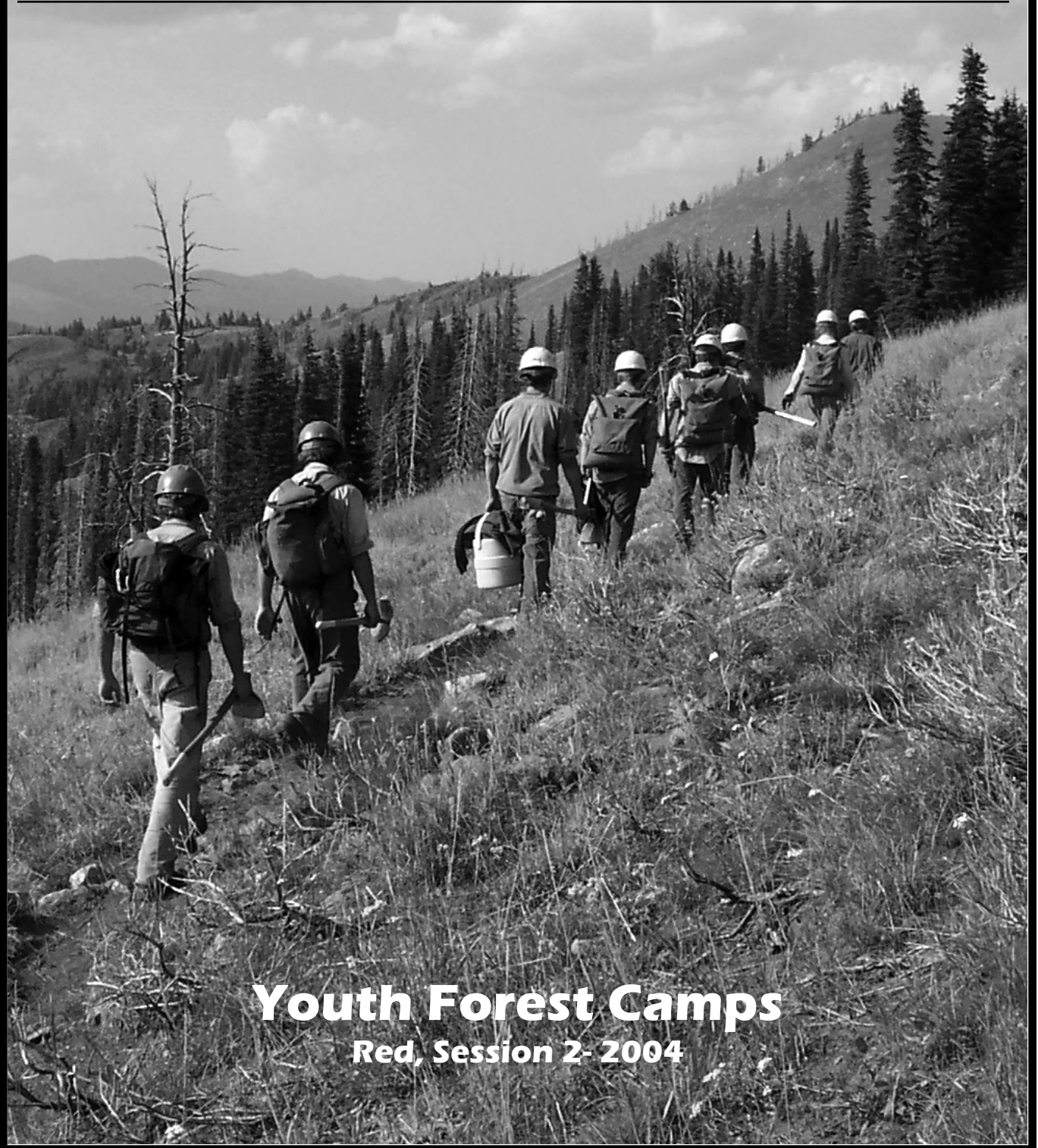




# Crew Journal



**Youth Forest Camps**  
**Red, 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



**Area that the work took place - OPRD  
Joseph Stewart SP  
Project Name- Upper Rogue River Trail**

Week 1: Date: July 26<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Excerpt from the life of the “Ruthless Red Crew”, day one. Beginning at the hour of six, we arose sleepy-eyed after a restless night of anticipation. We shoveled down some breakfast, packed the van and commenced trail repair at the Upper Rogue River Trail. In short, we pulaskied, hog-hoed and hazelled our dirty, sweaty arms off and got our first taste of what was to be the next simultaneously sweet and sour five weeks of our lives. Rachel R.

Tuesday: Today we arose at 6 and after a quick breakfast we were off in the vans. When morning stretches went over, we started the short hike to the rough trail. Trail work today included much tree/poison oak clearing, along with the ol’ trail building routine (described adequately in yesterday’s entry. Our work will certainly be helpful to those adventuresome hiking falls. Sam H.

Wednesday:

When you go to work, make sure you work hard  
Be nice to others’  
Be safe

Do stuff you need to do when needed  
When working, help people as needed  
Pick up your stuff and don't leave it there for someone  
else to do

Yolanda M.

Thursday: We awoke and learned that mornings are cold, days are hot and the night is always shifting in between the two. We also learned the vital lesson that when playing in leaves of trees, poison oak will come to thee. We unfortunately learned through "Yo-Yo" (Yoplanda), that too many bee stings can lead to a dangerous allergic reaction. We also learned about anger management and conflict resolution, which came in time for me anyway. It helped me to analyze and disarm my anger triggers. Anyway, this work was pretty awesome, and we're almost done Yeah! Kyle W.

Friday: Though the week our group has gone through many challenges. Running into two bee nests, and many on our crew getting stung, one of them had to use the Epi Pen and got taken to the hospital. We ran into tons of poison oak, 10 out of 12 people getting poison oak all over their bodies. We had rocks almost fall on some of our crew, (but didn't). The hike back up the mountain was cruciating and became harder everyday. We also lost a crew member due to poison oak. Although we had a lot of trouble, we were able to make one of the rangers really happy, and were able to get up to our third section of the trail.

**Area that the work took place –Bureau of Land Management  
Medford BLM  
Project Name-Hyatt Lake**

Week 2: Date: Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Monday: Dirty and diseased  
We headed out  
Looking to wash our clothes.  
We took the long route.  
With 27 minute showers,  
We felt new, clean  
Ready for the public.  
This time we did not make a big scene  
When we got back to the base camp.  
We got to see other crews  
Then had a big dinner  
And went off to snooze  
Rachel liked to talk  
Mindy liked to snore  
Kyle and Paul  
Were in for the poison oak war  
Then came time for the rec. trips  
But two boys were in doom  
No fun for them  
Just a trip to the Emergency Room!  
Then Sunday morning brought good news:  
We got rid of ???, the cheater  
And got ourselves a hairy troll  
As our new leader!

THE END

Minette H.

Tuesday: OK, this week we (the Red Crew) got down and dirty, working with sanding and painting tables. We also had to stack wood and we took out a lot of fire pits from parts of Hyatt Lake camping places. We cleaned up two Hyatt Lake signs. We are doing this because the camp and animals are happy. Cody M.

Wednesday: (describe your crew's goals for the week):

- To kill all the poison oak on our bodies.
- To improve on getting our after work chores done faster
- To have more free time
- Chip&Dale cleansing
- No paint fights (RACHEL and MINETTE)
- Be ready for work on time

Paul S.

Thursday: This week the hard core red team had a not-so-hard core assignment. Here at the Hyatt Lake Resort, we ripped out the old grills and replaced them with the new ones. [We also] tried to take out gate posts and move the fence, so nobody else would sprain their ankle in the cow guard. We learned that it is not good to stay up late telling each other scary stories, because then it is hard to get out of your sleeping bag to go to the restroom. We probably inhaled a few too many fumes while painting the BLM building. It has been pretty low key week, and we are looking forward to our next assignment being a little more 'hard-core'.

Friday: This week we encountered rigorous tasks. We were forced to paint the Forest Rangers' station in a lovely color that resembled baby diarrhea. While malnourished, we worked in the boiling-hot weather of South Oregon. The paint fumes did not make it any easier on us. Due to them, we were getting dehydrated regularly. Other than all this, the week was splendid. We also accomplished getting used to the boys' gassy smell.

Along with that, we were enlightened with survival and first aide knowledge. Knowing almost nothing in the beginning, we ended up saving A LIFE! Yes, that's right. Well, in general we had a pretty laid-back week compared to the previous one. But we still had our challenges and the new things to learn. Mark

**National Forest: Rogue River NF**  
**Ranger District: Prospect RD**  
**Project Name- Upper Rogue River Trail**

Week 3: Date: August 9<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Our crew enjoyed a lovely and relaxing weekend on three separate but equally fun rec. trips. Some of us took in the mind-altering view of the Crater Lake and relaxed in its ambiance. Others ate breakfast de bueno and swam the day away while sunning themselves on the beach. Still, others stayed at base cam, relaxed in the sun and napped in the heat of the moment. All in all it was great! Kyle W.

Tuesday: This week we are working on trail work. We are working on trail work. We are working in the forest. We are doing trail work. We were working on one, and then finished another one and now we are working on another trail that is even harder. We have to walk awhile to get to the trail we pick. It is fun compared to the last week. We all like it. Yolanda M.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are to finish the nine miles of trail that we are currently working on. Another goal is for all of us to keep hydrated by drinking lots of water. We all are trying to keep everything safe, so that no one gets hurt. We would also like to get all of our required hours in. We are going to defeat all crews in all of the eating contests over the weekend. Jeff W.

Thursday: This week we had our first experience with making and using the latrine. For some of us it was easier than for the others. We have also learned that kicking but on a nine-mile trail (upper Rogue River) takes a lot out of you. We learned by experience that if you don't drink enough water you go a little loopy. Blisters hurt like crazy, especially when walking back to van uphill. We also have to stay in groups of 3 so that no one gets lost. Yes, we actually experience this first hand. Red Crew is doing good, and we are ready for some more! Mindy S.

Friday: As we started another cruciating week of trail work, some of our crew became a little less hard core from the last week's stay at the Hyatt hotel. We had some run-ins with a family of cows, but the cute little baby cow made everybody happier. We also had to cross cut five big trees! It was horrifying. Towards the end of the week one of our crew members got lost on the trail. As we made our daring search, we found the crew member safe but tired and got him safely back to camp. At the end of our crazy week we finished the whole 9 miles and got free pizza. THE END (or is it?)

**National Park Service  
Crater Lake Nat'l Park  
Project Name- Crater Lake, PCT**

Week 4: Date: August 16<sup>th</sup>

Monday: This weekend on Friday we got to do our laundry, showers and store stop. Saturday was rec trips and everyone went on different trips. I went on the rec. trip with David. Sunday we got packed and ready to go to the next work site. We found out where we were going to go, then got stickers and left to go to the Crater Lake. Yolanda M.

Tuesday: Our project this week is building new trail on the PCT at Crater Lake. WE stared out with a 3 mile hike to the junction which is close to camp.

This week we are out to show up the 'non-bomber' blue crew. WE have done plenty of sprinkling this week. We also have had the chance to try out building the retaining walls and camping in the back country. Oh yay!!

Wednesday: The goals of the week are building retaining wall and getting along with each other, working together and getting the day done quickly and effectively. Our goal is also to build a new trail nice and smooth to the hikers' wants and needs, also making it at the end of the week nice and sane is a huge deal. Sam H.

Thursday: We learned that hard work and perseverance pay off on the trail. The trail we built is a very high profile one, and we needed to do a good job on it. The red crew really rocks. We learned how to make a really good retaining wall, which was the highlight project of this week. We also learned our skills on trail work.

Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week:

Well, this week the Rockin' Red Crew busted out and completed 100 ft of Rock-Retaining Wall and tons of trail. As usual, we had trouble keeping people hydrated and fed. Trucking water into camp was difficult, especially when we had to backpack it in 3 miles after a hard day's work, a small lunch, and a dinner consisting of a bowl of lukewarm Ramen (Friday). Yeah, and mosquitoes sucked. Peace out.

THE END!                      Kyle W.

**National Forest: Rogue River NF**  
**Ranger District: Prospect RD**  
**Project Name- PCT maintenance**

Week 5: Date: August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday: We went out on rec trips. I went to the Lost Creek Lake with Sam. Then we had a store stop. Then we had dinner which was chicken. After that we played a crew game or something along those lines. We came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place after blue, only because they can drink water faster. And the night ended with Kyle getting hit in the eye with rope. As you can see, our last project has been pretty wet.

Tuesday: We are working on the PCT reviving it (or you can say "restoring") by lopping and brushing the whole trail. We are doing this to keep the trail nice and crispy clean for all the PCT hikers, who enjoy hiking this trail year around. We are also restoring the trail, so that people walk on the trail instead of walking on the wild life and killing it.                      Tiffany F.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week are for everyone to complete this week feeling good. And to finish 8 miles of trail. We would also like to have no injuries and we do not want anyone to quit or to get fired [during] the last week. We are now noticing that the 8 miles of trail is a bit un-reasonable. We are going to try to get a couple of miles the next day-and-a-half.                      Jeff W.

Thursday: Our red crew thus far learned the wonders of lopping. It sure can sexy up one heck of a trail! We have also learned a lot through this week's SEEDS, like about past organizations and [about] people that have made programs like this one happen.

Above all, we have learned how fabulous and helpful good ol' PVC (Polyester Vertebrae Crocodiles) can be! We sure beat Mother Nature in this round! Red Crew vs. Mother Nature: 1:0! Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!                      Holliday

Friday: This week the red crew had had quite a few challenges. We were hit by rain and after rain cloud. We learned the joy of working in our bright yellow rain gear. WE also had our one and only crew fight. I guess it could be called our storming faze (we were lucky to never really have one). Anyway, we got through that and are now one big happy family again. Staying dry and warm has a bit of a challenge but we managed by putting up rain tarps and scooting close during SEEDs and in sleeping bags. We are enjoying working on the PCT and even seeing a few hikers. Mostly, we lopped and lopped some more. Our backs ached and our feet were wet but we made it through because we are the hard core red crew! Always and forever,                      Mindy Smith

*My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...*

...When we were out on our Backcountry and I had to carry 80 lbs of water to our camp site after working an 8 hour day. Paul S.

When we were backcountry and we had to hike in our food and gear. Brittany F.

When we were going to the Crater Lake and had to carry water and food and other personal things on our backs. Yolanda M.

When I jogged 2 yellow tops for 11/2 miles to hydrate everyone. Sam

Packing in water with two people [who were] unable to carry their packs, while also dealing with other frustrations and trying to stay optimistic and helpful.

Ninette H.

My most challenging day at NYC was when I had killer blisters on both of my heels [during] the third week. We had to hike out up a bunch of hills, and when we finally got back to the van, we realized Cody was missing. Crazy, crazy day!

Mindy S.

The first day of the last week, because the work was boring, and the time went by slow. Jeff W.

The first day was hard because I'm shy and I have hard time meeting people.

Cody

The Saturday after the first work week, I was physically and mentally drained.

Kyle W.

Working on a day that was hard emotionally for me, and trying to put it aside and still help my team out, as usual. Rachel R.

*My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...*

My first was one of the rec trips, we went to a really tight swimming hole. The second would just be all the funny stuff we would talk about on the trail. And the third was backpacking 140 lbs of water with my Woods Boss Scott 3 1/2 miles in a little over an hour. Paul S.

One was the rec trips to all different places over the weekends. Second one was being able to get to know my crew as the weeks went by. And the third was making friends with people from other crews. Brittany F.

When we got to spend time with our crew leaders and crew members. Also, seeing my friends at the base camp. Oh, and the rec trips were very much fun. Yolanda M.

Our Thursday trip to Crater Lake in the backcountry, and simply making friends. Sam H.

I loved the dance parties and tennis matches in our tents, the slumber parties under the stars, and MARK! Minette H.

My favorite experiences were making friends with my crew, the fun times Rachel, Minette and I had in our tent (when we were told to go to sleep), sleeping under the stars, visiting Crater Lake and complaining to Mark with Kyle. Mindy S.

The recreation trip to Crater Lake on my first day; the rec. trip to the "Secret Swimming Hole" and all the friends I made.

My three favorite experiences @ NYC were as follows:

Crater Lake rec. trip  
Hospital rec. trip  
Living with THE BEST crew! Red Crew!

My favorite experiences were bonding with my crew (the BEST one!!), the rec trips to secret swimming holes and such, and van trips. Oh, and Phil's hamburgers! Rachel R.

***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

... Is bonding with people on the trail and talking about home and life. Paul S.

....is how my crew became one of the best families that I've ever met. Brittany F.

I will always remember my crew leaders and crew members, Scott and the hard work I did. Yolanda M.

I will remember when Sarah, Minette, Tim and Jeff exchanged food.

I will always remember the people I got close with in my crew, and all the fun times we had together; all the times we laughed over stupid things and got to know each other better. Minette H.

I will always remember the friendships I have made out here. I have gotten to know some really great people and I hope we all stay in contact! If anyone on red crew is now reading this right now, you better pick up the phone and give me a call!  
Mindy S.

I will also remember my Red Clan family and, of course, Saturday circles. Kyle W.

The friendships I made out here were the most important things for me and I'll never forget how close we got and how much fun we had together. (tear) I hope to stay in contact with everyone as well. Rachel R.

When people ate soup and then put it in five people's mouths.  
Cody

***From Now On I Will Always...***

Think before I act, and do my best in whatever I do in life. Paul S.

Take on any challenge that I think is impossible. Brittany F.

I will do my best at everything I do from now on. Yolanda M.

Find motivation and positiveness in everything I do, even when it's tough. I will have hope that I can accomplish whatever I am trying to do and always push myself to be the best I can be. Minette H.

From now on I will not take toilet paper for granted. I will be positive and know I can do anything I set my mind to, because anything is possible! Mindy S.

Work my hardest and love myself. Kyle W.

Work to my full potential and never drink iodine water again, because bad things happen.  
Rachel R.

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

I have learned to stick with things to the end, and give 100 percent because after a day where you didn't work your hardest it will piss you off that you didn't give your all. The last thing I learned (and most important thing) is that you really need to think before you act.

Paul S.

The things I have learned are being able to work with a team, doing the best you can, and thinking before I act or speak. Brittany F.

I learned how to work with other people and also how to work hard day after day. I learned how to get right. Yolanda M.

I have learned that I can work with a team and make some great looking trail.  
Sam H.

I have learned the importance of water, what Iodine can do to a person, and how great it feels to accomplish big things with 11 other people you really care about.  
Minette H.

I learned a lot about nature and living in the woods for 5 weeks taught me to appreciate the comforts of home. I now know that I can work hard and have fun with new friends while living outside. Mindy S.

I learned how to conserve nature and keep it natural.

I learned that I am a hard worker and that I motivate others, and I can do anything I set my mind to. Hokey I know. Kyle W.

I learned how to work to my full potential, take a leadership role and get along with 11 other people who have completely different backgrounds and opinions.

Rachel R.

