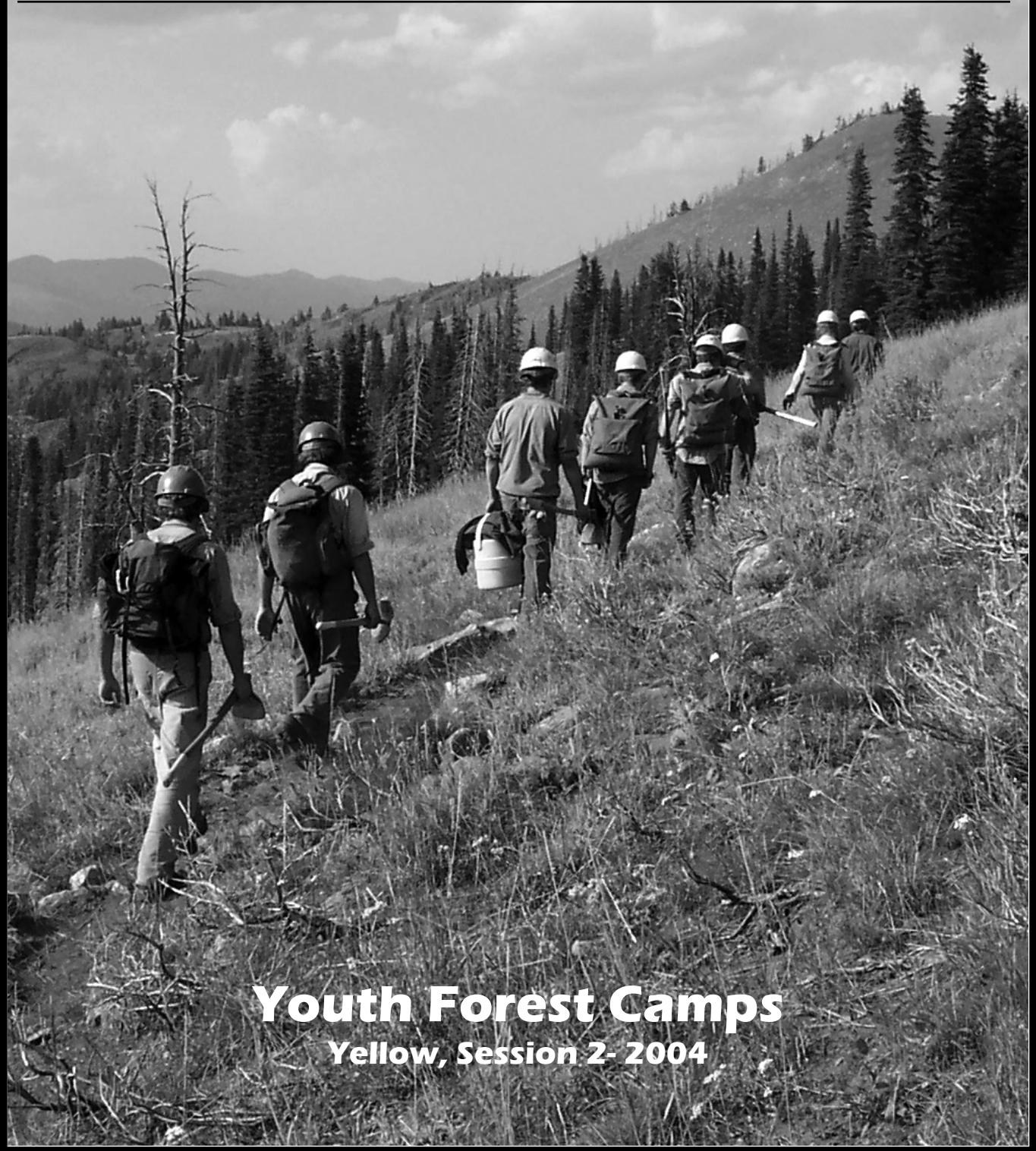




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camps
Yellow, 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



**Bureau of Land Management
Medford BLM
Project Name- Hyatt Lake**

Week 1: Date

Monday: This weekend was the first time everyone met. Saturday was filled with little games and talks about how/what/when we will be working. Today (Sunday) we were split into crews, then, after packing up, each crew left for their destinations. My crew, the Yellow Crew, left for a drive to a higher elevation. We spent the rest of morning and some of the afternoon setting up camp. After the first round of chores we went for a small swim. Then later, once we got dried off, we returned to camp and learned about the other chores that need to be done. Written by Ashley B.

Tuesday: Today we woke up to the wonderful sound of Dave's mandolin. We got dressed into our work clothes, ate some gourmet breakfast and headed out to work at 7 A.M. We got to work site 5 minutes later and did a safety circle. This involved everyone naming a safety tip and a stretch. We also discovered that Dave has a very pretty English woman voice. After safety circle we were assigned to the task of sanding wooden tables. Our tools-of-the-trade was a sand paper wooden-block combo and 3 power sanders. Lunch was prepared, and it was delicious. After sanding the tables until they were 2 inches thick, we were off to construct a cow-pro-of fence. The fence consisted of A-trains and nails, or "buck and pole". We spent many hours hammering, drilling and sawing. Not to mention BICKERING! Rick drilled with the finesse and speed of a fencer, and everyone worked hard, as one big happy family. We completed 8 "backs" and plan on continuing tomorrow. Love, M.

Wednesday: At six AM we were awakened by the sounds of crew leader Dave singing about Mountain Dew. (I am beginning to think this guy is crazy). We got suited up for a long day's work just before we choked down our pancakes using our hands as plates and silverware. Then we were off to the facilities in which we produce fences, pride and sweat. We began with a safety work on the cattle fence. We worked until 4:00 PM, stopping only twice for breaks and once for lunch. We accomplished enough to convince the crew leaders to take us swimming in the wonderful Hyatt Lake. We now work on chores and wrap up night relaxation. WE had a hard but fun day and pulled out of it with only battle wounds, stench, and a chainsaw mark in Crew Leader Sarah's hard hat to show for it. Written proudly by Marie F.

Thursday: We awoke this morning to the lyrics of Neil Young, in his smashing hit "The Heart of Gold". It was, of course, remixed by our own crew captain Dave, along with his mandolin. WE then stumbled from our nightly slumber and whipped the crust from our sleepy lil' eyes, to feast upon a Max St. Brown's patent pending breakfast of bagels with melted cheese topped with cream cheese and sliced oranges on the side. Once all of us scarfed the last crumbs of food, we piled into the van like one happy family, to only arrive moments later. We formed a safety circle and were given tips on safety for the day's work. Hours later we finally finished the fence which took us 3 days to complete. We snapped pictures and capped the night off with putting on our bathing suits and dive into the beautiful brown Lake H.

Friday: Today is Thursday, our last full day of work this week. And boy, did we work! We had to make up for temporary loss of our crew members we all had to work a little extra. After a healthy breakfast of bagels and hash browns, we started by working on some picnic tables. Then we moved to a camp site to make some renovations. WE first worked on taking down a wooden coral. And before lunch we had a race to see who could remove one of the coral's supporting legs first. Needless to say, after that we were really hungry and ready for lunch. Many sandwiches and some gorp, later on we were back to work. Bear and Lou got a chance to show off their cement working skills, when we poured some concrete for a new barbecue that was going in. Then, as the day winded down, the park ranger came by to offer a few tips to help finish up the barbeque grill. After work we all picked up our tools and headed out for a much needed dinner!

Max St. B.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Project Name- Howard Prairie Lake

Week 2: Date: August 2nd

Monday: This morning started with French toast and packing. All the crews prepared and headed out to their new job sites, accompanied by new rovers. Our crew's destination was Howard Prairie Lake, a front country location that came bundled with trail work., camp was set up and we all went for a swim in the nearby lake. In the midst of Matthew's quadruple back flip off the high dive, our beloved Ashley got kidnapped by chipmunks. Dave and our new rover Amy briefed us on the proper way to conduct. A search and rescue. We searched the campground and found Ashley with a broken arm. We fashioned her splint using a towel and a magic chair thing. We also learned a lesson on NYC first aid. Chores were up next and this journal entry is finished. Love, Matthew

Tuesday: Last night we had ham, mashed potatoes and salad. It was so good that some of us had seconds. Today is August 2nd, and we awoke to David playing a song. We woke up, got dressed, had breakfast and then we started to walk to the foot path. We walked, and Amy and David talked about what to do with the path. After a while we had a break, and then got back to work. We worked and worked until lunch. We had a good lunch. We worked and had some arguing, but we still worked hard. We had an-

other break, but it started raining and thundering. After we had talked about a problem, we went back to work. We worked a little overtime, but it was good. We walked back to camp and got changed into different clothes. We did chores and my chore was to write this journal entry.

Written by Tifani

Wednesday: Today our day started as every day does – with Dave playing his mandolin. After Dave woke us up, we had a few struggles getting up. After we did our stretches we hit the trails. Some of us cleaned the trails, the rest cut branches from the trees. After the branches were cleared and our lunch was over, we split into two groups. Some cleaned trails, and the rest chopped logs. After our work day was over, we loaded up, came back to camp and met a person named Joe.

Our goal for the week is to clear as much of the trail as possible before we run out of time.

Lou A.

Thursday: Today we returned to the lovely and grueling work of trailing. Joe also joined us. He was visiting for the day to make sure Dave was not slave driving us. As we awoke half an hour later than usual, we found delicious peach pancakes. MMM, Yumm! But we were quickly rushed into the van for work. After safety circle, we set off and conquered the land. We went a long way and had loads of fun. Joe brought some different/new entertainment and kept us going. Towards the end of the day, we came across too many fallen trees and a cow on the beach. That was strange stuff. A couple people wanted to eat it, but it ran away. R. P.

Today is Thursday, the last full day of the week. We got up at 6 – the same time we do every day. We ate and started going to our job. This is the first time we weren't late. Today was an all right day for work; we started on time and ended 45 minutes early. We worked hard but we got almost done with it. After work some of us went swimming and some of us just relaxed. ½ hour before we started our chores we played two little games. They were pretty cool. I guess, now the rest of the crew is doing their chores and I am doing writing. So I am outie.

National Forest: Rogue River
Ranger District: Prospect
Project Name- Huckleberry CG maintenance

Week 3: Date: August 8th

Sunday: Today is Sunday, August 8th, 2004, and this morning we set off for our new camp site - we arrived just moments later at the beautiful Jim Creek Campground – only to NOT pitch any tents, not set up any tables and definitely not unload any trailers.

In fact, we stayed at home base for 3 hours and a whole lot less work. Later we returned from the river and then jumped into chores. Now I am once again writing our daily journal. So, you all better love it!

Love always, Holly C.

Monday: Today is Monday, August 9th, 2004. This morning we woke up at 5:30 and we set out to meet our new contact by 6:30. We ended up receiving bad directions, so we didn't end up meeting our contact until 9:30 or so. We sanded, painted, took apart and rebuilt picnic tables, we also shaved some trees. We stopped working at 4:30 pm to make up for the hour that we lost in the beginning of the work day. We arrived back at camp around 5 or so. We took a 15 minute swim, and then we began our chores.

Kayla A.

Tuesday: Today we awoke to Dave and his mandolin again. We ate cereal and left for work 15 minutes early. The 30 minute drive went fast for me because I read the whole way. We did numerous jobs today, varying from painting, sanding, building and demolishing picnic benches to stripping long skinny trees of their bark. We also held a competition of who could strip their tree the fastest. Rick, Dave, Tim and Max started this. The victor was Rick smoked his competition with ease. We worked overtime to finish off two picnic benches that were in need of painting. Overall, today was hot, sweaty, fun and exhausting.

By Ashley B.

Wednesday: Today we woke up with no more than 45 minutes to get in the van. We dressed, choked down food, and piled in. Half an hour later we arrived at Huckleberry campground to destroy a fence containing water pump. Right after we finished, our contact arrived to inform us that it was the wrong fence. Once again we piled into the van. About 6 campsites later we found the correct water pump. Then we tore down the fence in order to keep cows out of the water. While some were buried in pot holes from head to waste, others were off chasing cows. All in all, it was a great ultimate hump day. Linda F.

Thursday: It was August 12th, and the trouble was brewing. The yellow NYC crew had finished their bridge work, installing grills and unclogging a stream. The happy-go-lucky crew unsuspectingly strolled into their base camp. Little did they know what a foul and powerful force awaited them at their local swimming hole.

The corpsmembers eagerly got changed for swimming and safely walked with haste to the creek. As they approached the inviting blue water, one of the corpsmembers screamed. They lay on the ground in agony, clutching at their big toe.

:"Aw, shoot! I stubbed my toe!' Max exclaimed. Max opened his mouth only to be silenced by a giant wad of mud. Max choked in disgust and screamed as brown, hideous powerful arms grabbed him from under the water. And so it came to pass that the mud warriors triumphed over the weak yellow humans. The strong and proud mud warriors populated the known earth. TRUE STORY. Matthew S.
P.S. Scott is cool!

National Forest: Rogue River NF
Ranger District: Prospect RD
Project Name- Rogue/Umpqua Trails

Week 4: Date:August 15th

Sunday: Today we found out what our project was. It was "technically backcountry" but it was front country camping. Meaning the work was backcountry, but we were camping front country. It wasn't bad at all. The work was supposed to be so much harder than all the easy work our crew has gotten stuck with. We unpacked the camp stuff. Then we went swimming in the coldest creek EVER!! Crater Lake [is] nothing [compared] to this creek. It basically numbed you into pain instantly. Today was pretty awesome, I can't wait to work. Ashley B.

Monday: Today we finally got some harder trail work. We were supposed to meet our contact early here at our camp, however he proved to be late. The start of the trail was basically 2 feet wide. To start off, I was put on trail work and I was on trail work until after the third/last break, which was fine by me. The start of the day was rocky, because everyone had to get into the rhythm. Today we basically went less than our 2 miles. And this was because in a lot of spaces the trail was good and in some spaces it was bad. All day long we bumped our tools and water further up, which was in itself tiring. At the end of the day we hiked a little ways to the van, while some of us played "not it".

Tuesday: Today is Tuesday. We started working not too well, but ended up alright I guess. Today is the first day that I got written up. It is not cool at all. I was kind of upset but life isn't fair, so I can't really do much about it. . Alright, let's stop talking about me, let's talk about the crew. The crew got a lot of stuff done in no time, had a good day and finished strong.

Wednesday: Today is Wednesday – we worked for a full 9+ hour day. Between leaving camp and returning to camp we spent 13 long hours hiking and maintaining the trail. There were many unpaid hours because the hike back was so long, but there was some nice scenery to observe. Getting back into the van and finally getting to sit down was an amazing feeling... Every muscle ached and burned. But hey, if it doesn't kill ya' it will make ya' stronger! Max B.

Thursday: Today we woke up by David playing the mandolin. We got dressed. We went out, ate breakfast. We got the yellow tops ready and loaded in the van and left. We went to the work site and circled up for safety circle. Afterwards we went hiking to the place where we are working at. It was uphill and down hill. It was tiring but we made it. After work we went home, did chores, and my chore is writing this journal entry. From Tiffany

Area that the work took place: National Park Service
District: Crater Lake NP
Project Name- PCT

Week 5: Date: August 22nd

Sunday: On Sunday we awoke to a torrential downpour. All the crews at base-camp put on their rain gear and packed up for their new locations. Every crew found out when and where they were going, and it just so happens that our infamous yellow crew was heading backcountry! All was joyous in the forest village of base camp, as the rain had stopped and all the crews had excellent locations. Yellow crew headed out to the trail head and tragically had to pack their backpacks in the rain. After waiting for two hours in the cold wet rain, yellow crew met their contact and started the trek to Crater Lake camp they would soon call home. Yellow crew did, in fact, make it, and it was beautiful

P.S. Got new Rover. NAME: ERIK the VIKING

Matthew S.

Monday: Once again, yellow crew awoke. Rain pitter-pattered and splittersplattered across the circus-like tents. Yellow crew worked hard on a trail. They had fun. They built fresh tread and did stuff whit ROX!! Love, Virginia

P.S. Scott, help!

Let me elaborate...

Yellow crew had to clear a new trail, and to build a rock retaining wall for it. They were also challenged with the task of taking out roots of fallen trees in the trail. Rain poured and the crew worked on. Love, Matthew

Tuesday: The day started out like Monday and Sunday: rainy, wet and bitterly cold. The beginning of the day was super slow. After the first break the day went into a fast mode. The day zoomed by while I worked on uprooting tree stumps,

building a trail and erasing false tread. Our work site is really close, not even a mile hike, which is a nice break after the rough and steep uphill hike of the last weeks' project. When the day was over, we hid our tools, hiked out the 2 empty yellow tops and the 4 Pulaski's. Also the coldest part of the day was when the clouds broke to reveal the beautiful golden sun and the blue, blue sky.

By Ashley B.

Today is Tuesday. Started working hiking, about two miles and was very tired and wasn't in a good mood because I hate hiking. So it wasn't fun. This camp is getting a little harder and harder. It is not too bad because I don't really like back-country and it is not really fun. When you get up in the morning, it is so cold you can't move, and I hate it. Today we worked hard and had an alright day.

Your crewmember, Bear

Wednesday: Today

Yes, yet another day when I am on chores Journal Entry. You all don't even have to say anything-I can just tell by the looks on all of your faces-that you've been waiting for this moment nearly all week! But, as I was saying, today is August 25, 2004 and it was yet another day. With holes here and there to trick the pathetic, unaware hopeful people, into thinking that the day would turn around -only to crush these people's hopes into soggy pieces-but over all, it was a good day, full of work and wall-building.

We had fun. Peace out - Holly C.

Thursday: Hello again!

Today is August 26th, 2004. We finally did it - we eventually finished our project! Sad to say, I didn't think it would ever end. Well, now that it finally has, we are stocked. 5 weeks out of our mid teens are now devoted to NYC. I hate to admit it, but I am not sorry - nope, not one bit! I've learned a whole lot - from cat hole digging to proper tool storage - and the list goes on and on. But since I've already bored ya'll to death, as I always do-I'm gonna cut this one short.

Love, peace and chicken grease! Holly C.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Bear: My most challenging day was in the 5th week when we had to hike about two miles with a backpack that weighed 35 pounds and the hike was all uphill. When we got to our camp site, it rained really badly, and the whole way of the hike was raining bad and very cold. So we didn't get much done.

Max: My most challenging day was the Sunday of the last week. It was our first backcountry trip, and it was raining hard. We had to transfer our clothes into our backpacks while it was pouring raining, then hike 3 miles uphill to camp. We had to avoid puddles while carrying 40-some pounds of gear. But by far, the hardest part was arriving to wet tents and wet sleeping bags! Also, it was very, very cold.

Holly: In my opinion, the worst day this whole session would have to be when we had to work a whole day with conflicting instructions from both the contacts and our crew leader. It stunk! The entire day we would do something for a while, then the contacts would tell us to do it another way - [it was] very confusing. Other than that one awful day, the rest have been awesome. Also, there have been a couple of gray days (so to speak), but the rest of them have been awesome, and I am not lying!

Lou: My worst day would have been the first day at base camp, because I only knew two people. Now, that we are about to end our 5th week here, I know everyone here and will miss them all.

Linda: my most challenging day at NYC was Monday of the 5th week. We hiked about 7 miles, one of which was in the Dark with 40 lbs of water on our backs.

Matthew: It was Sunday, August 22nd, and it was raining. WE were challenged with the endeavor of packing for backcountry in the rain, and sitting in the cold, windy, rainy weather, waiting for our contact. Camping in the rainy BC was hard too.

Ashley: Sunday was pretty cool, because we finally got BACKCOUNTRY!! The only bad thing was waiting in the rain for our contact, due to the miscommunication. We hiked 3 miles to our camp site, that went pretty fast on account that Erik, our Rover, told us we had about 1.5 miles more to go when we were close, so it was closer than it seemed.

Ric: My most challenging day at NYC was the backcountry trip of week 5. We hiked 3 miles to our campsite. I had never backpacked before, so it was hard and different. Before the hike started, we had to pack everything in the van, phew. Tough day, yes, but rewarding.

Linda: My most challenging day at NYC was the Monday of the fifth week. The crew leader, two other crewmembers and I hiked 6-7 miles to get water. The last $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the hike was in the dark and extremely creepy.

Tifani: my most challenging day at NYC was the fifth week. We went backcountry, and the first day it was raining. It was difficult but it was fun, cold but fun.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Lou: My three favorite NYC experiences were camping, working in the woods and helping the environment

Bear: Nothing really, because I already know how to do most of it, trail work is new, but I didn't really like it. Besides that, nothing really

Max:

1: The first week, because we worked at a resort with flushing toilets and showers. We also got to swim and run around the playground almost every day.

2: Our Friday laundry trip to Shady Cove. It was over 100' outside and the sun felt great! Plus, I got French bread at the store!

3: The rec trips! Highlights were the Crater Lake gift shop with pizza, the Sandy Beach at Lost Lake, and the Prospect Timber Festival, which included crosscutting, chainsaw races, and corn on the cob, Indian fried bread, and Bingo!!

Tifani: My three favorite NYC experiences were the people, the rec trips, and the store stops.

Ric: My three favorite experiences at NYC areas are as follows:

Going to Shady Cove to do laundry by hand. It was super fun. They cleaned pretty well, and it was free.

The rec trips. Oh, yeah: Crater Lake, Diamond Lake, Lost Creek Lake, and the Prospect TimberFest. I've never been to a Timber fest but boy, was I impressed.

Hanging out with people I don't know. It was a lot better than I thought.

Ashley:

The recreation trip to Crater Lake. The hike was long but awesome.

Sleeping in my sleeping bag. It was the first time out here that I slept in one, or owed one.

Meeting new people and becoming great friends with strangers.

Holly: I would have to say that I had a lot of favorites - but the 3 that really stood out are:

Getting to give advice to old times about the tent they were setting up
Getting to know my crew mates
The rec trips were truly awesome

Matthew:

Store stops were fun and refreshing every time
Rec trips
Free time with my crew!

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Bear: That I finished strong

Ashley: I will always remember my crew, the people I've met, and that I finished with satisfaction of hard work.

Holly: I will always remember my fruity crew leader and dorky steel kicks; also my crew members will always be my homies.

Max: I will remember all the great people that I met, and the good friends that I made. I will also never forget the awesome jam session that yellow crew had at the basecamp with a guitar and garbage can lids for drums.

Linda: I will always remember how nice a shower and a bed can be. Also, how to wipe with pine cone.

Lou: I will always remember all the fun I had with my new friends.

Tifani: One thing I will remember is how hard and difficult this program is. But it was fun.

Ric: I will always remember how to have good times and how to work hard.

Matthew: I will always remember laughing and working with my crew, and pushing through challenges together.

From Now On I Will Always...

Bear: Work harder, and, once I start something, I will finish it.

Ashley: Try my hardest, even if it is hard.

Holly: Succeed in all my endeavors and never fail them if I can help it.

Max: I will always enjoy car rides. Getting back in the weekend van and listening to the music is a much unappreciated thing. From now on, a 10-hour car ride will be something I look forward to.

Linda: I will always remember that I have a home away from home with my crew members.

Lou: From now on I will always put my heart into what I do.

Tifani: From now on I will remember to think positive.

Ric: I will always appreciate the small things in life.

Matthew: I will always recognize how nice a warm shower is.

At NYC I Learned...

Tifani: At NYC I learned now to use tools, different types of plants, and how to breathe while you are hiking

Ric: I learned how to do laundry for free, go weeks without showers and not mind it. And how to build an awesomely good - no, great! Trail

Max: I learned how to do free laundry and dry my clothes on the pavement. I learned important woodsy stuff, like: how to cook for a large group, and that vesper is really good. I also learned how to dig that trail... and sing a hoe-down song about digging that trail!

Bear: I learned how to build trails, cooking for a lot of people. [I learned that] when I get mad, I need to let it pass and not to make a deal about it.

Ashley: I learned now to appreciate common things that are among the civilization, how to cook and how to depend on others to get their work done.

Holly Cosgrove: I have learned a lot from NYC, but I can remember 3, in particular:

- how to live at Mt. Mazana for 5 days
- how to dry my clothes without a dryer

Linda:

- How to eat three times my own body weight.
- How to use all my body strength at once
- How to live with 11 strangers for 5 weeks.

Lou:

- how to live with 11 new people for 5 weeks
- how to make trails

Matthew: At NYC I learned that I really do have a work ethic; to appreciate the small and simple things, and how much work goes into trails around the country.

