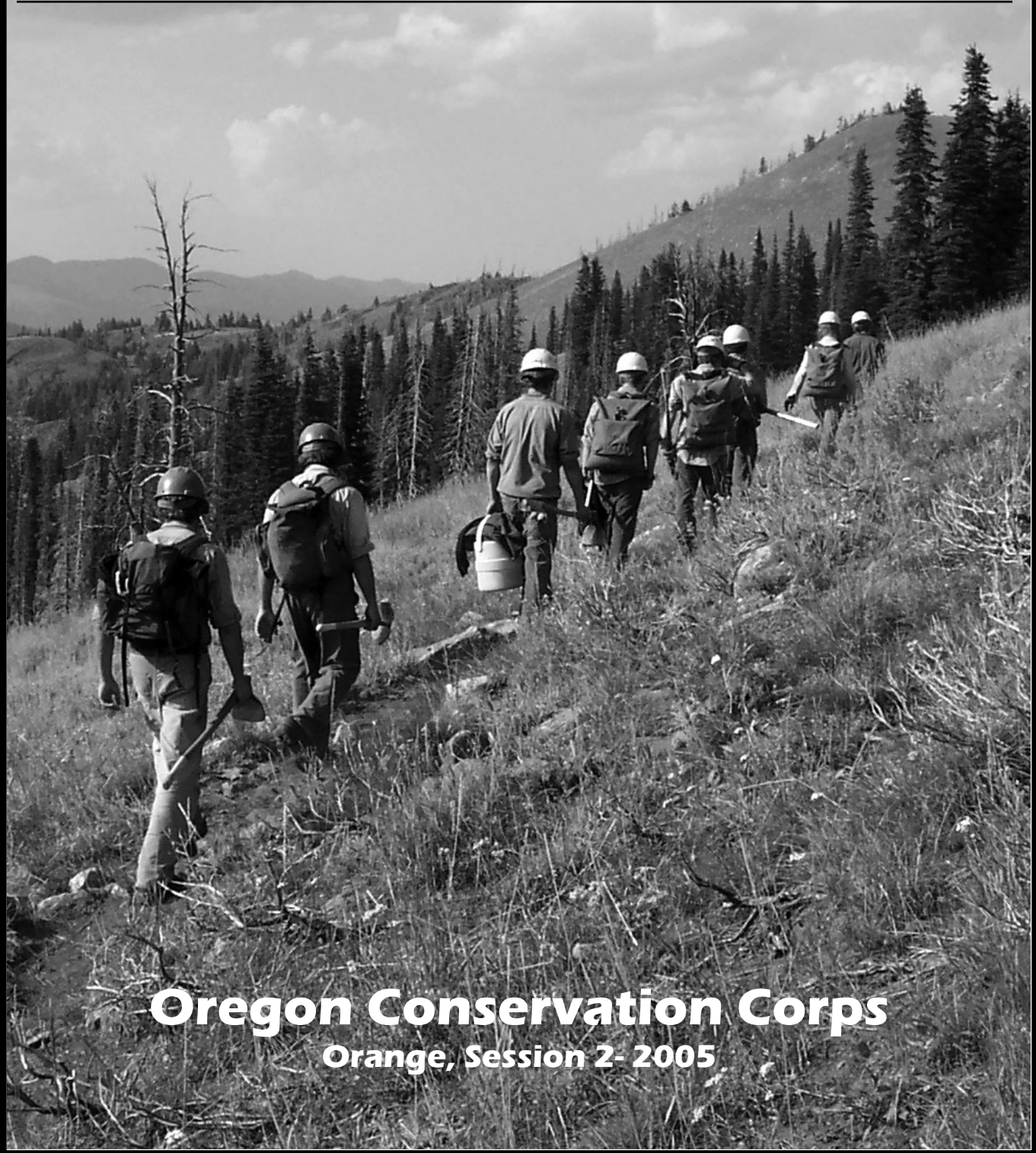




Crew Journal



Oregon Conservation Corps
Orange, Session 2- 2005



Dear NYC graduates,

It is time for reflection; the good, the bad, the highs, and the lows...part of your summer and indeed part of your life. From starting wide eyed and full of wonder to the last triumphant, "TOOL COUNT" these journals represent a five week slice of time in which; friends were made, skills were gained, and trails were built. Look back with pride and honor at the memories which may have slipped away over the past few months. Enjoy the tired and sometimes strange musings of a session spent with the Northwest Youth Corps as you relax back in the world of porcelain and pizza.

Hopefully these journals will bring out the confidence in each of you to tackle the next challenge in your life. Have a great off-season and never forget the wonderful taste of PB & J.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Joe Waks".

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



**Fremont National Forest
Paisley Ranger District
Project Name- Dead Horse Rim Trail**

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: We got together and did orientation. At orientation we learned about NYC and played games and slept with unknown smelly people in our tent. We drove 4 to 6 hours and stopped at stores and spent money on junk food (I spent \$20). We walked up a mountain, built a trail, got our noses dirty, and sweated all day long and didn't get to go swimming. And we looking for Bigfoot! –Damon T.

Tuesday: Well I am getting ready to eat dinner and help Amber sharpen tools, after a very long work day with sore muscles. Today we worked very hard on our trail building and got very far on the trail. The worst part is the hike up and down because it takes so long, but we are doing great! I think that for most of us being our first time we as a crew get along very well. –Will B.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to get stronger in hiking, so we can make it up and down the hill faster. Another goal is to work fast but have high quality work. Also we want to get at least 1 mile of trail built in these 5 days. Another goal for us is to keep our camp clean, including our tents. Our final goal for this week is to stay close and keep on getting along. So far we haven't had any fights and we plan on keeping it that way! –Amber S.

Thursday: During this week our crew learned how to work as a team! Most of us have a rough time during the hiking, but with the encouragement of the crew we all get through it. We have also learned a lot of work skills. Now that we are a few days into our journey, we are more experienced and seem to get a lot more done in a faster time. We have learned that we will all be together for 5 weeks so we need to make the best of it and for right now we are family. –Amber S.

Friday: “Time to get up!” Marta’s voice rings through the crisp Monday morning air. The guys were already up, but apparently the girls were still adjusting to the 5:00am wake up call.

That first day it took a grand total of twenty-five minutes for the girls to surface from their tent. By the end of the week it took ten. The first trip up “the hill” took three hours, and second breakfast was held at the peak. By the end it took one and a half hours; the never-ending back-breaking eight hour days seemed to change until we were flying from second breakfast to lunch, to second lunch, to the end of the day. Everyone made personal gains as we went from building 1,100 feet in eight hours to 1,500 feet in seven hours. As a group we have conquered the mountain, grappled with branches, and inhaled 15 pounds of pasta (thanks to 8 pounds eaten by Nolan).

Through it all we have grown as a group, connecting by listening to “The Things They Carried” in the dead of night, watching the Will and Cory basketball rivalry, and Damon changing form into the wild grasshopper the minute there were rocks to climb. We’ve done an awesome job and will keep up the good work! Maybe by the end of the five weeks we’ll be bouncing out of bed at the instant we hear Marta say “It’s time to get up!” –Carly P.

Fremont National Forest
Paisley Ranger District
Project Name- Dead Horse Rim Trail

Week 2: August 7 – 13

Monday: Friday night we watched thunderstorms and heard war stories, and JT ran into a tree. On Saturday we did laundry. Will and Cory played basketball. We grabbed some munchies and went to the lake. At night we went to the dock and heard more war stories. Sunday we went to the Palisades. I had so much fun climbing the rock. We all had lots of fun and we all hope it happens again. –Damon T.

Tuesday: We are rerouting a new trail and it was kinda different for us to start something new, something that nobody else has done. We are having some difficulties with people getting along, but it’s not that bad, I think everyone will pull together and get everything done. –Will B.

Wednesday: [Describe your crew’s goals for this week:] To finish Dead Horse Rim Trail and the re-route. To have positive attitudes. To drink more water and food and get more super energy boosts. Also to not argue and to stay close like the family we are. –Sergio V.

Thursday: This week our crew learned that while living together for 5 weeks, issues will arise and so will conflict; we learned how to use our communication to solve these problems. We also learned not to gamble with time. A 3 ½ mile hike is better than a 6 ½ mile hike. Another thing we learned was how to make new trail and how to clear brush. We learned that sand and downhill are a lot better terrain to dig in than rough soil with grass going uphill. But it’s all fun. We got a record of 3,050 feet on the trail this week. –Amber S.

Friday: This week our challenge was to work on the Dead Cow Trail. We also started Leader of the Day, which was great fun. Every day we worked harder and harder going farther and farther. Our crew

also made a 700-foot reroute and accomplished that in one day. Orange Crew did about a mile and a half of trail, down the Dead Cow Trail, and how much fun it was. It's time to go to the weekend site and move on from the Fremont National Forest and find out where and what our next challenge is. Orange Crew out. –Nolan W.

National Park Service
Oregon Caves National Monument
Project Name- Oregon Caves NM Trail

Week 3: August 14 – 20

Monday: This weekend was our crew's first time with every other crew at the weekend site. We showed up late on Friday night, so there was only time for dinner, but Saturday was our rec. trip day. Some of our crew went to a waterfall in Prospect, and some went on a hike at Mt. Thielsen. Then we all got back together at the site and some of our parents came. We competed in a relay and got 2nd. Sunday we woke up, packed, and left for the Oregon Caves. –Amber

Tuesday: This week our project was to do trail maintenance and to build a walkway beside the largest Doug Fir in Oregon, but we have no wood or supplies to build a walkway. We, Orange Crew, are at the Oregon Caves, a very very lovely place. We have not much trail to maintain so we are looking and looking but we will manage. Orange Crew out. –Nolan

Wednesday: One of our first goals is to eat lots of eggs and to last the five weeks. Another goal is to finish what trail we started before the end of the week. Also we want to be able to talk to each other with a lot less arguing. We will communicate better with each other. Also we will try to keep camp a lot cleaner than usual and to make our leaders proud. Also we will try to get along better with other crews at the weekend site.

Thursday: I think one thing we learned this week would be that we are all learning more about each other and more about how each other reacts when others do things. Another thing we are all learning is a thing called leadership. We are also telling personal history stories, so we are learning a lot about each others' personal lives. When we go on each day we learn more and more about how everyone is. Today we all went on a tour of the Oregon Caves and learned about caves. –Will

Friday: The Orange Crew made the easy trail. Then on Wednesday we went in the cave. Oh, I forgot I got scared in the cave because of the jaw of the shark. The cave was so cold that you would say "I see dead people." Even the cave was the biggest cave. There were "black bear" bones. –Sergio

Klamath National Forest
Scott River Ranger District
Project Name- Paradise Lake Trail Maintenance

Week 4: August 21 – 27

Monday: This weekend on Friday the crew got their laundry packed and in the van early in the morning. We stopped to do our laundry in Cave Junction after we did our Dairy Q and store stop. We also took showers. Then we drove back to camp and got everything ready for the other crews because our site

was chosen for the weekend site. Saturday we went on our rec. trips. My group that I went with got to go to *It's A Burl* for about 45 minutes to an hour. After that we went swimming. Sunday: headed for our new destination. –Sara

Tuesday: This week we are brushing back the “woody” bushes that have grown into the trail, making it virtually impassable. Every once in a while two people are diverted to help the contacts (who have a cool dog named Scout) make rock water bars—a very muddy messy task which is quite time consuming. Tomorrow we will be building a causeway over a particularly muddy section. –Carly

Wednesday: Our crew’s goals for the week are to blow our contacts away and complete the projects they have planned for us for two weeks, in just one week. Another goal for this week is to communicate more—we haven’t been talking about our frustrations enough and they build up and explode. So this week we are working on that. Also another goal is to keep camp clean and free of trash, so no bears or other animals come, since we are in bear country. So far we’re doing well. Another goal is to learn as much as possible in the little time we have left. –Amber

Thursday: Well my crew learned that we need to make good PB&Js and that PMA is very important for this upcoming last week. We also learned that Dr. Bob knows best. We also learned how to make rock bars and how to make huge corridors, it’s crazy. Dr. Bob also taught Sergio how to make sandwiches. Nolan and Dr. Bob went fishing the other day. They learned a lot about stuff they caught. This has been a crazy summer. The End. –Cory

Friday: Our crew has had some pretty rough challenges throughout this entire session. We have also had some pretty great accomplishments. It has been a great trip this week. One of our challenges was to get through this week without killing each other. We had a pretty rough issue, sort of, in the beginning of the week. JT was telling everyone what to do and it wasn’t Sara doing it. I think us getting through something like that without actually physically fighting was a very good thing and not having any hard feelings with anyone afterwards was even better. I think our accomplishments for this week were fantastic. Sean and Trevor, our contacts, had our project mapped out for two weeks and we were supposed to get to a drift fence about 1 and a half mile down the trail, but anyways back to my story, so the whole crew worked really hard this whole week and we finished our two week project in one week. –Will

Klamath National Forest
Scott River Ranger District
Project Name- Paradise Lake Trail Maintenance

Week 5: August 28 – September 3

Monday: My crew on Friday climbed Marble Mountain in search of the perfect sunrise and sunset. Around 11:30 we hiked down a rocky slip-and-slide hill and rewarding ourselves with scratches and bruises. Saturday the blister-sisters announced to a large traveling group the excitement of NYC. Sunday we hiked up a trail to Bear Lake, where we swam and rolled on logs. –Michaylla

Tuesday: The Orange Crew’s project this week was to brush trees and to somewhat restore a path. We are at Paradise Lake in Klamath National Forest, a peaceful and relaxing place. Our campground is huge and behind it is a small pond. At work we are making rock and water bars and replenishing paths and forestry. –Michaylla

Wednesday: My crew's goals this week are to make it to the end in a couple of days and not get into arguments with each other, to hike up and down the last few days, and to finish as much trail as possible. Another one is to find Dr. Bob in the lake, to make sure all the crew members make it to the end in one piece, to eat real food, to use a porcelain god—oh yeah, a real porcelain god—and to take a nice 30 minute to one hour shower back at home and get into clean clothes. –Jarrett

Thursday: This week my crew learned how to build new things. We learned how to build rock bars and drains. Also we learned how to build a causeway. A rock bar—dig a hole to fit good-sized rocks in at about a 45-degree angle, chink it with small rocks, then bury it with dirt. Causeway—dig a “fat” hole to put your base rocks in, bury it back, lay rocks on top of that, then bury them and crush them to make a nice walkway over muddy areas. OC out. –Nolan

Friday: Probably the biggest challenge our crew had this week was trying to mesh their excitement to go home with their reluctance to leave. It was challenging to stay motivated and try to make the most of the time we had left to work together when we all know that there were only hours left until we might never see each other again.

Tensions were high and we were constantly getting into petty fights that were easily forgotten the next day. There were plenty of times this week when it was a miracle that we didn't try and tear each other apart.

At the same time with all the “last time” realizations we are starting to realize how much we mean to each other and how hard it will be to leave. The fights turn into merely ways to release hidden feelings and ease the pain of parting. As we race down the road back to Elijah Bristow, back to civilization, back home, we can't help thinking how hard it will be to adjust to being out of the little bubble of safety we've called home for the past five weeks.

Can we do it? Yes. The first two weeks will be the bliss of rediscovering our lives before NYC, but after that every once in a while you'll catch yourself thinking back to a person you met or a moment you had; then the memory of the simplicity of life at NYC will come flooding back and maybe, who knows? You might end up coming back. –Carly

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be our first day of work at the Fremont National Forest. We had to wake up at like 5:15 and hike 3 ½ miles uphill. I thought I was going to die. Since it was my first day of work, it seemed like the 8 hours would never end. It only got better from then. My crew pushed me on and I know each and every one of them played a part in what kept me here! Thanks Sista, Hoops, the Brain, Bigfoot JR, Stepmom, T, D, Tweek, and Ducky. Y'all are fan-fricken-tastic; keep it chill. Amber S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day I had the mung. I felt like crap all day and night. Working through it was tough but it made me stronger. Nolan W.

One of my most challenging days would have to be the first day. Just walking up a steep hill for more than a half an hour was so hard to me. I was out of breath. And then I got the hang of it. Shay S.

The most challenging day I've had at NYC was today, August 31, 2005. I haven't really felt too well today. I even had to force myself to take pamprin. I hate taking pills. Sara S.

Every day was so fun for me. Damon T.

I think that my most challenging day was the last Saturday before our last week. I was so excited to go on our backpacking trip and was disappointed that no one else wanted to go, but everyone has a bad day and the other 34 amazing days more than made up for it. Carly P.

My most challenging thing was working with a group and helping them out working with the tools to make trails, and waking up in the morning to get it started and get to work on time, too. Also, making sure the food is hung up on the tree. "That's all folks." Sergio V.

The day that was my hardest at NYC was at the Fremont where I was walking with a five-gallon uphill and it took forever. That sucked, but oh well. CJA

My worst day was at the Fremont the first Monday because I was not in shape for that and we walked the farthest, about 3 miles uphill. That was bad. JT.

The most challenging day at NYC was the first week. It was so hard to get up in the morning because I usually don't get up that early ever! I got used to it after that. Will B.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences would be, first, our first two-week project at the Fremont; we had an awesome crew leader, a hilarious rover Cory (aka Compactor) and a fan-frickin-tastic crew. Next would be our tour through the Oregon Caves (which we got paid to do). Finally, when we hiked up the side of a cliff and slept on top of it, and watching Shay roll down the side on the way down at Paradise Lake. And not to mention my favorite experiences would be with my crew inside the crew! We keep it real and chill. Best time ever y'all, thanks! Amber S.

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were being a returner and taking on leadership responsibilities, learning to build a causeway and rockbars—"rock on"—and doing swamper challenges. Nolan W.

My three favorite NYC experiences would have to be just chillaxin with my new family and friends, and moving every 2 weeks almost, and experiencing new things. Shay.

My three favorite experiences in NYC would be the first project we had at Fremont. Then we went on our first rec. trip to the Palisades, it was so gorgeous. My other favorite experience was at Oregon Caves but also at the Castle Rock at Paradise Lake, it's beautiful up there. Sara S.

I loved the Palisades and Oregon Caves and the hike up Kings Castle. Damon T.

One of the best times was the struggle to get up the rocks at Paradise Lake and seeing the sunset and sunrise because we grew so much as a crew and were definitely in our element. I also loved the night in the Fremont during the lightning storm when we hung out in the tent and read

“the book.” The other time was the van ride back from California. We were all dancing, singing, chilaxing, and having a great time. Carly P.

Being with the group and having fun. Making them laugh and loving each other, and we all know the next day is a new day. I liked that too. My favorite one was that we all had big gas and had fun eating all the food. “Have a beautiful day.” Sergio V.

My three would have to be when I was sitting by the lake and playing music, and the van rides were kickass, and all of those downhill hikes, that was good. CJA

My three favorite experiences would have to be the Palisades, the caves, and at the top of the rocks by King’s Castle—that was really fun to be there. JT

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is all of the fun times and inside jokes our crew had; “Ya, how ‘bout them Jets?” Also I will always remember couscous and broccoli don’t mix! Unless you want mush! Finally, I will always remember that family takes effort and communication is the answer to everything. And the greatest thing of all is the “OC” rocks and keeps the party going. The greatest thing I will remember is Big Foot lives, and small scorpions are sexy! Amber S.

One thing that I’ll always remember is to how push myself past my limits and keep going. I will always remember how to be a great peer leader. Nolan W.

One thing I will always remember are the little cliques in and outside of the group, and the little inside jokes. Shay Shay.

One thing I’ll always remember is the view on the top of that Rock Castle. There’s more things, like never judge someone at first impression. I believe Fremont was my favorite place and that I’ll never forget it. Sara S.

I will remember the crew, the fun times, and the crew leader/rovers. Damon T.

I will always remember singing Disney songs on the side of the trail. Carly P.

What I remember was when Carly sleep-walked to me and said “I love to work,” and that I said “OK, I love to work.” Sergio V.

I will always remember the van rides and that night that everyone was singing around the campfire. That was really cool. And the good times. CJA

One thing I will remember is that nice view on top of that big hill at the Palisades, and King’s Castle, and being paid to go on a tour of the Oregon Caves. J.T.

One thing I will always remember would have to be all the hiking. Not all of it was bad—most of it made us lose weight. And while we walk down the trail and tell stories, that is a lot of fun. Will B.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always expect the unexpected. So the things that come are less than what they are. Also I will always try to push myself the hardest possible, knowing I am capable of anything. I will always use my leadership skills I am so natural with for the good of things instead of the negative. Finally, I will always cherish the times I spent with Orange Crew—it was a blast and thank you all for the fun! I will always remind my friends to go for what you believe in and want. Follow your dreams. Amber S.

From now on I will always appreciate what I have, live life to the fullest, and work past my limits both mentally and physically. Nolan W.

From now on I will always explain how I feel and how to stay somewhat in shape. Shay Shay.

From now on I will always think before I leap into a friendship, promise. Also, I will always stay in shape after this because it makes me feel pretty good about myself. Sara S.

...be respectful. Damon T.

I will try and always appreciate what I have instead of worrying about what I want but might not always need. Carly P.

...be happy and make sure all my friends are happy as well. I will ask people more often. “Love Godzilla to you Marta.” Sergio V.

I will try to not let my body go to crap. I’ll try to eat better and take care of my self and exercise more. That’s it. CJA

I will try to keep doing my push-ups so I can stay in shape and I’m going to try to start running so I can get into better shape. J.T.

Within 5 weeks I have learned a lot of respect. So from now on I will always treat people with more respect than I ever have. Push-ups: I will continue to do push-up to build my arms up. Will B.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned how to be understanding, thoughtful, and considerate of others’ feelings. Also I have learned how to act more like a team with others instead of me trying to take charge at everything. Finally, I have learned how to push myself to exceed my limits rather than just settling at what I know I am capable of. And not to mention that singing the same songs over

and over again never gets boring. Right boys, how about that Star Spangled Banner, best ever
ey! Amber S.

At NYC I learned that I am capable of taking on any challenge, anytime, in any way. I learned
that leadership plays an important role in the crew. I also learned that I have become a better
person in my NYC sessions. Nolan W.

At NYC I learned some survival skills, how to make a bear hang, and how to chop wood.
Those 3 skills I think will do me really good. Shay Shay

Three things I learned at NYC are that communication is definitely one of the biggest in being
in a team; another one is that I learned it can be really changing to be a leader—it's a pretty im-
portant role. My last thing would be that giving up something you want to do and giving the
job to someone else, then doing the crappy job they were doing, makes you feel really good.
Sara S.

I learned what a Pulaski is. Damon T.

I feel like I learned about myself and who I could be when I wasn't worried what people in the
past thought about me. I was able to step up and be more of a leader. Carly P.

I have learned to love and care about people even when they are my enemies. I even learned
how to dig a hole and use rocks, sticks, and leaves, and to make sure that you goof off a certain
level. "Love your best friend." Sergio V.

I learned that living with a group of 12 people is not as easy as it seems, but I've made a lot of
new friends. It's been so fun. CJA

What I learned from NYC is how to build a trail, push myself harder than I thought was possi-
ble, and deal with people and not just get into fights. J.T.

At NYC I learned how to dig trail and how to work really hard. I have also learned a more im-
portant thing. What I learned was on the inside—I learned an inner strength and I have learned
a lot of self-discipline and self-respect. Will B.