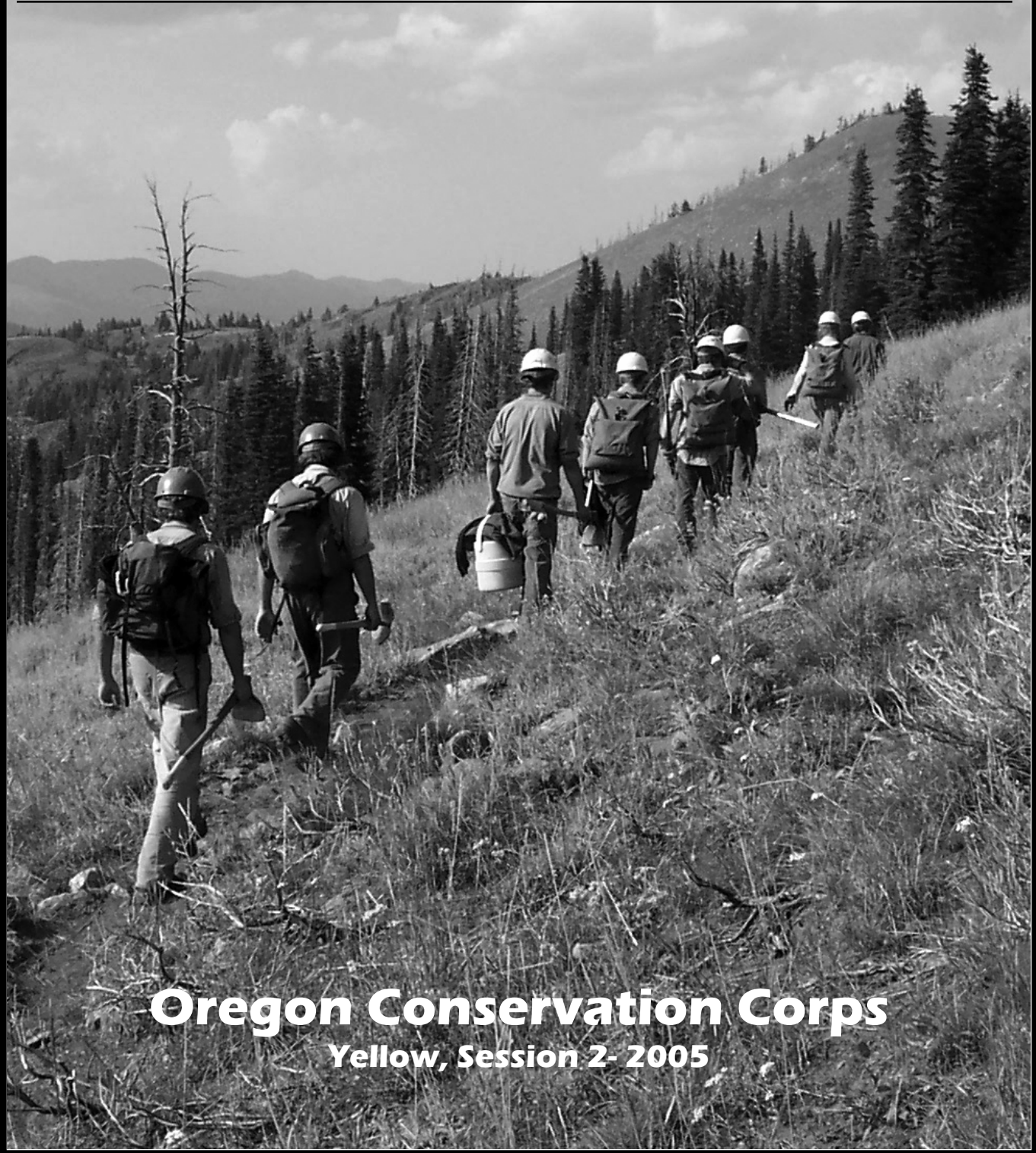




# *Crew Journal*



**Oregon Conservation Corps**  
**Yellow, 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



**Klamath National Forest**  
**Scott River Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Siskiyou Crest PCT**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: We met up at Elijah Bristow State Park to split into our crews. There were close to 40 corpsmembers alone there; it was a lot of fun. We learned to run a camp, cook, etc. The following morning the crews were announced and I was put in the Yellow Crew with 8 other teammates and two advisors. Afterwards the Yellow Crew was told their destination for the next two weeks; the Pacific Crest Trail. Our team left early to get there. So far all my crew members and the leaders seem like they're full of energy and will power. NYC seems like a blast! –Sean P.

Tuesday: Last night the SUPERIOR (cough, cough... hehe) Yellow Crew slept painfully at Bearground Springs. But at least we slept—until our rude awakening at 5:15am. Clothes, helmets, bagels, boots, and peaches flew as we scurried into our grand transportation vehicle. Shortly after arriving at the purest, most supreme, bug infested, and rock-laden work site we have ever laid our eyes upon, we set to work. Many long, sweaty, gruesome hours we put into the “PCT.” Between brushing and re-distinguishing the trail hinge, we rightfully earned the approval from our current contact, Sue. After rushing through the last several hours, the crew hiked back to the oh-so-wonderful van, which we all collapsed around. Then we gathered enough energy to walk the last couple of feet to the interior of the motor vehicle. The ride back to camp was relaxing as we thrashed through the woods along a very uneven and rocky road. –Anna O.

Wednesday: We worked 9 hours and my feet are killing me. At least it's the middle of the week, so soon I will be able to relax. We finished the first mile of the four miles ahead. Our goals are: (1) get through the meadow before it gets sunny; (2) finish 2 miles; and (3) get free time. –Matt

Thursday: Through the many endeavors of the week, we seemed to accumulate a mess of knowledge. We learned everything from how to purify water to how to sharpen tools. We learned all the parts of a trail. Also we learned that a 9-hour day is actually doable, but by the end your feet will be sore and your armpits will be smoking... lots. The days are long but we keep up. –Jesse D.

Friday: Our challenges this week have been diverse; ranging from getting up early (at 5:15am); working in the hot sun; and just plain working for nine hours a day. Our crew seems to have a problem focusing in general. At times during SEED and even work some of us get distracted. The other big challenge has been cooking so that all of our 11 crewmember are excited about what they're eating. We have 3 vegetarians, 1 lactose-intolerant crewmember, and 7 very picky eaters. Dinners, in my opinion, have been one of our accomplishments too. I would go as far as to say that these meals have been worthy of a five-star restaurant. Our menu has consisted of tofu stir-fry, gourmet burritos, spaghetti, and turkey and Spanish rice. Our work-oriented accomplishments have been finishing about 1.5 miles of trail, putting stepping stones in a bog, and building a rock-retaining wall. The bog was right next to the creek and it was so muddy! We had about five people working on it for 3 hours. The rock-retaining wall, though, took two days. It ROCKED when we finished it all! (no pun intended) Hopefully this coming week will offer our crew new challenges and new opportunities to succeed. –Briana O.

**Siskiyou National Forest**  
**Scott River Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Siskiyou Crest PCT**

**Week 2: August 7 – 13**

Monday: This weekend our crew took a luxurious and well-deserved rest. On Saturday we drove in to Ashland. We stopped at a small Laundromat located next to a quaint little book shop. We stayed at the Laundromat for around 1.5-2 hours. Before going to the Laundromat we stopped at PC Market of Choice to buy personal goods. Then we went to a lake located near Ashland, Emigrant Lake. Then on Sunday we hiked the PCT and at night the Mafia attacked.

Tuesday: Today my crew was pleasantly woken up by the sweet sound of a harmonica being played by our rover, Stef. After getting up and ready to hit the trail we did our oh-so-lovely Safety Circle. This week our crew had to finish what we started on the PCT. We worked so hard and very fast yesterday that we made it close enough to hike to work. It was a positive and a negative all in one. Negative being it was really early and we had to hike about 1.5 miles just so we could start to work. The day was slow and tiring but Yellow Crew did its best to pull together and finish the day strong. We worked a total of 9 hours today and were glad when we heard the two greatest words: “Tool count!” In all the day was chill except for a crew member’s disappearance for a while. There’s no telling what tomorrow brings but I am sure Yellow Crew can pull together and work through it. –Rob P.

Wednesday: Our goals are to get in 4 miles minimum, impress our contacts, and to have a lot of fun... and candy, lots of candy. I like candy. Candy is good, very good. Just like my computer. My computer is good. I like my computer. My computer is 1337 <4111 v 51>341< 1337 1 <41/I D\_344 +I/15 v 12 4 I/14v1012 I/131217,,,,, I/13121)5 12v131.1.1. –Brandon S.

Thursday: This week during SEED our crew learned about weather, how to read maps, and to tie different kinds of knots. The bowline, the clove hitch, the fisherman’s knot, and taut-line (not “taunt” as Heather and I thought) were all practiced this week by our crew. We also had the opportunity to make a cairn, which is basically a pile of rocks to mark our beautiful trail. –Briana O.

Friday: My crew’s challenges were to finish the 4 miles we were assigned to, which we did, plus a little over 5 miles we finished. Another challenge/goal for the week was trying to get everybody on the crew less “lazy.” –Chenoa B.

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

**Week 3: August 14 – 20**

Monday: Well, we took rec. trips [this weekend]. I went to a river. The others went to Crater Lake. They said that the lake was really cold. But so was the river. We played soccer. Saturday Circle was sad... if you had 10 minutes to live, who would you talk to? –Matt R.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to fix up and maintain parts of the Stuart Falls Trail and the PCT. We are in Crater Lake National Forest, about 3 miles in the backcountry. Our camp is small and has no wa-

ter for at least 3 long miles. As far as trail work goes, we are just clearing brush, rock, and trees out of the trail, so it's smooth and wide enough for hikers and horse packers. –Jesse D.

Wednesday: This week our crew must not only impress the contact even after Brandon ran away. But we have to work additional hours and fight the low morale resulting from Brandon's desertion. The long hikes in the backcountry is always an ordeal. But we strive to become a stronger unit and gain the respect of all who encounter us. The crew wishes to change its color from Yellow to Golden Crew. – Phillip

Thursday: This week we lost a crew member. We learned that even though we are each individuals and we make our own decisions, those decisions can and will affect everyone around you. This taught us that we should think about every consequence before we act upon our thoughts. –Rob P.

Friday: Our biggest challenge this week was dealing with the loss of a crewmember on our first work-day. We were all exhausted after Sunday with the 3-mile hike in and then after work on Monday. The search party was out for about three hours after work looking for our lost crewmember. Although this was a challenge for our crew, it turned out to be an accomplishment as well, because the three crewmembers that stayed at camp stepped up to finish our bear hang, make dinner and the shotgun, as well as sharpening the tools. Even without our crewleaders there to tell us what to do, we knew what had to get done. Due to this upset in our crew, we struggled to keep a positive and energetic work atmosphere, although by Thursday, we were assigned to work on taking out HUGE rocks, and it boosted our team spirit. This backcountry project was a very challenging project in unexpected ways, but also proved to draw our crew closer together as we overcame each obstacle that was thrown at us. –Yellow Crew Girls

**Fremont National Forest**  
**Paisley Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Gov't. Harney Pass**

**Week 4: August 21 – 27**

Monday: During the day on Saturday our crew split up to go on rec. trips. The rec. trips included: going to the redwoods, the caves, viewing *It's A Burl* (a wood shop), and various swimming stops. In the evening our crew worked together on dinner, making a nice table setting, and a brownie baking competition. After dinner we worked together to create a mock exercise video for the talent show. On Sunday we packed up and had a very long drive to our next destination. We got Emily as a rover and won both the Love Boat and Fat Bear awards. When we got to our campsite we set up camp, ate dinner, and went to bed. –Heather J.

Tuesday: This week both Yellow and Red Crews are at the Fremont National Forest. We are doing mostly trail work and possibly building a few cairns. The Fremont National Forest is in southern central Oregon. It is very desert-like where we are working, and the view overlooking the vast amounts of sand reminds me of my hometown, Boise. We are working on this trail so that it will be a beautiful sage-brush-free experience for the *many* hikers that pass everyday. –Briana O.

Wednesday: Our goals were to make it through “leader(s)” of the day. Being “leader(s)” of the day is very hard (I haven't been one yet) but the leader(s) give us goals to reach at a certain time of the day, so we would be more energetic and get the work done. –Chenoa B.

Thursday: Today was rough, morning started out slow and by lunch we all had something in mind that we disliked. Leaders or leader was spending more time on trying to get the other “leader” motivated. I could see lots of frustration in the strong leader’s face. After lunch I went to the back to sledge and it flew by really quickly even though I was alone most of the time. The day ended sour ‘cause we didn’t meet our goal. –Rob P.

Friday: I would have to say that there were some challenges this week. We are working on another two-week project in the Fremont National Forest. Although I like two-week projects more. Also our crew leaders introduced “leader of the day.” Two corpsmembers are chosen to take over for the leaders for the work day. Heather and Renee went on Monday and did well in my opinion. Tuesday Bri and I took up the challenge and saw a ton of enthusiasm and hard work nearing the end of the day. I think all that yelling and screaming paid off, LOL. But on Wednesday Rob and Jesse were leaders and probably did one of the best jobs of the week so far. Phil and Matt followed on Thursday. I could see them trying but I’m not sure if they could get it to the crew, but I was feeling it. And today Bri and Chenoa took over. They too did a good job but didn’t show as much enthusiasm as I had hoped. But overall I think the whole crew did well at their duties and pulled it all together. I think this 4<sup>th</sup> week went well and smooth. –Sean P.

**Fremont National Forest**  
**Paisley Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Gov’t Harney Pass**

**Week 5: August 28 – September 3**

Monday: What we did this past weekend: On Saturday, we went into town (Lakeview) to get gas, do a store stop, do laundry, take showers, and go swimming. Sunday we slept in until 9:30am and went to Dead Horse Lake for the rest of the day to relax. After about 2 or 3 ½ hours of that, we did SEED. We came back to camp around 5ish and made shotgun and dinner, then did 2 personal histories and another SEED. Ten minutes before bed time, Emily read us our bedtime story. –Chenoa

Tuesday: Yellow crew is working on Fremont National Forest trails. Mostly we are cutting new trail through an area that was burned in 2003. We are also building cairns (to mark the trail) and moving rocks/downed trees. We are continuing Red Crew’s work. The area is very burnt and the ground is very sandy and dusty. There is very little vegetation but many rocks. –Heather

Wednesday: Our wonderful, burly, vivacious, and talented Chenoa led us into the great beyond today, after claiming her rightful role as “leader of the day.” We were tired and weary but managed to build 17 cairns, making that a total of 45 cairns for Tuesday and Wednesday. Since our crew lacks communication and since no one has yet to present a challenge this week, I will create our weekly goals out of thin air and hope that they are at least semi-accurate. It’s our last week, so I guess that one of our goals is to have the most fun possible. Our secondary goal can be to finish strong and unharmed. I personally do not want to press my own thoughts upon the crew so I guess I’ll stop here. –Renee

Thursday: Our crew has learned a lot over the session. But in our last week we learned what our bodies can do when we push ourselves to our full potential. We also learned that teamwork is far more efficient than working by ourselves. –Sean

Friday: The week started off right. We were all in a super mood ‘cause we had a little R&R all day on Sunday. We got up on time, ate fast, and piled in the van. Everything was going well, then we got to

the work site and burr! It was so cold that by the time we hiked into the worksite, our muscles and bones were frozen. On top of that, the wind was whipping around us, making every tip in our bodies numb. So we started waking up an hour later to avoid the bitter cold air. Our crew leaders were very sympathetic. We worked in a burned-down forest that still had tall dead naked trees standing and a lot of the time they hung over the trail so we had to knock them over by wiggling them back and forth. Once they fell, we would all grab a side and walk them into the forest. We accomplished all these obstacles 'cause Yellow Crew has great teamwork.

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

Out of the many moments I have experienced at NYC, there is no particular one that stands out in my mind. But each day I consciously try to create a challenge for myself to overcome.

Renee O.

My most challenging moment was the second I was with NYC. I had to haul in water with the woodsboss to a crew by Crater Lake. It was a 6 mile hike with 40 lbs of water on my back and a killer pace. At times I felt I was sprinting/dying. Later I was told my face was a lovely Barney's shade of purple. Heather J.

The day when we worked all day and then I got into an argument with a member who walked off the job. We couldn't find him and after a long day of work we had to form a search party. It was hard physically and tore me up mentally because I was the reason for the argument.

Robert P.

I feel that each day I spent at Crater Lake in the backcountry was a challenge. The long days filled with work and hiking and the cold nights were especially physically challenging to me.

Briana O.

The initial day of work, and the challenges of meeting my crew were the most challenging. The first and second days with the crew were very difficult, not only physically, but interpersonal relationships were being formed—something that must be done with care, because initial impressions will affect others' views constantly. Phillip F.

The most challenging day was the first day. I had to get used to all new people and situations. Also this was right after already being gone for a month. Jesse D.

My first day was my most challenging day, because you're not used to the work. So that's about it. Matt R.

My most challenging day was Monday, Week 3, at Crater Lake. We went backcountry with much heavier packs than I was used to. The work was about the same but conflict arose during our PM break. Our crew had to send out for a search party for a missing member. Overall it was more mentally strenuous than physically. Sean P.

After an emotional weekend (Ben's accident), we hiked into Crater Lake. I was doubting myself, my pack was painfully heavy and awkward, and I was emotionally drained. I felt I had

nothing left to give to my crew. Kelly C.

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

It's not really fair to pick only three but if I have to: (1) working in the wind with our rover Stephanie; (2) fulfilling our daily work goals (in general); (3) hiking into work while we were in the backcountry. Renee O.

It is very hard to pick just one favorite moment out of all the great moments. Three that stand out to me are: (1) the mini-Olympics we held at a weekend site, who knew passing an orange could be so entertaining; (2) the car rides when you can relax and get to know people; (3) staying up late and playing Mafia. Heather J.

My 3 most favorite moments (gee), that's hella hard. Ummm... (1) working with Stephanie of course (I love that chick); (2) rec trips (always a blast); (3) just working with my crew and challenging ourselves or others for the better. Chenoa B.

Well the rec trips were the best 'cause they always took me to places I hadn't been before. Robert P.

Oh, so many good memories in these 5 weeks. Of them, I would have to say: (1) every morning that our rover Stephanie woke us up with her harmonica; (2) the relay races at the weekend site—we had to pass the oranges and walk on cardboard; (3) taking showers at a YMCA after the first two weeks. Briana O.

The experience that I will treasure is the overall experience, and all of its components. The work was a physical challenge that bolstered my personal work ethic. The chores were an exercise in personal experience. Relating to and living with a diverse group of people was a clear difficulty that brought disruptions to the group. The way these challenges have helped me grow me as a person is the best part of NYC. Phillip F.

My first favorite experience was the PCT. I really loved the PCT and the constant change of environment every few feet. Second was the early morning find of the arrowhead and the scorpion. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> favorite thing was everything in the Fremont NF's burnt forest with the wind blowing lightly with a most beautiful sunrise of reds and oranges. Jesse D.

My 3 favorite experiences at NYC? They would be taking a shower for the first time, sleeping in, and the program itself. Matt R.

I had a lot of fun experiences over the session, but I would have to say my 3 most favorite were: (1) watching the sun peek over Mt. Shasta at Safety Circle every morning for the first project; (2) playing Mafia with the crew around the fire after work; and (3) exploring the Oregon Caves for one of our rec. trips. Sean P.

(1) Watching the sunrise over Mt. Shasta every morning on our way to work on the PCT; (2)

watching my crew step up to challenges and becoming self-sufficient... example: the day Katie and I were busy dealing with the Brandon incident and the crew did the bear hang, made the shotgun, sharpened tools, and had dinner just about ready... and all of this was without any direction from me or Katie; (3) evenings of Mafia around the campfire. Kelly C.

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

...is Heather tripping and constantly falling into any nearby water source. Renee O.

I think I was slightly sleep-deprived because I laughed for about 3 days over this one moment. A kid from Blue Crew was drying dishes and accidentally let one go. The dish went soaring and the look on his face was priceless. Also, falling head-first into a nearby creek will probably stick with me. Heather J.

I will always remember the first time my crew got to use the “famous” cross-cut and Rob telling Kelly that he and I had to use it first. Rob was so excited and he was the first on the crew to cross-cut with a lumberjack (me). Chenoa B.

I think Chenoa teaching me how to cross-cut was the coolest and most memorable moment. Robert P.

Mafia. The way suddenly everyone on my crew was suspicious and not worthy of my trust. Especially Kelly. I will also always remember Stephanie and her harmonica! Briana O.

Kelly, Robert, Stephanie, Bri, Heather, Jesse, Sean, Renee, Chenoa, Matt, and even Brandon will always live on in my memory. Phillip F.

I think that I will remember the entire experience, from the trail work to the dish-water sumping. Jesse D.

When Stephanie hit Bri with an orange. That was funny. Matt R.

I will always remember sitting around the fire with the crew at Bearground Creek, talking about stuff. But more in general I will always remember that project at the PCT. Sean P.

Two weeks on the PCT... need I say more? Kelly C.

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

...consciously think about how my actions and behaviors affect others. Renee O.

...waste less. From this experience I realized I need to use less water/heat and throw away less food. Heather J.

...be more positive, not only towards others, but towards myself too. Chenoa.

...try to create challenges and short-term goals in order to reach my long-term goals. Robert P.

...challenge myself—not only physically, but mentally to look past prejudices I unconsciously hold against those I don't know very well. Briana O.

I will try to work to my most full potential and to take responsibility for my actions and follow up on my responsibilities. Phillip F.

...appreciate the world, the people, places and experiences in the world which I live in, and yell “bump” to the people in front of me. Jesse D.

I will respect the tools a little more after working on them. Matt R.

I will always push myself to my full potential and use teamwork instead of working solo. Sean P.

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

What didn't I learn at NYC? If I had to narrow it down, most of what I learned was how to deal with nine other kids my own age. It was almost as if I had been thrown back in kindergarten and forced to re-learn how to be polite, share, and play nice. Briana O.

I learned everything from how to use a Pulaski correctly to how to open up and have fun while still being semi-productive. Renee O.

Out of everything I learned at NYC the most useful and interesting was how not to waste food, how to live simply, and how to become a leader. All this knowledge will come in handy when I go home. Heather J.

At NYC, I learned how to be more positive, thanks to my crewleader Kelly J. Chenoa B.

At NYC I learned how to take the lead and be confident with my decisions. Robert P.

I learned how my actions affect those around me, to be more confident, and that I can work hard and consistently. Phillip F.

The one thing I learned which I think is as good as 3 is the fact that I can do things, I can go places and do things on my own... life got a whole lot easier. Jesse D.

I learned to tie knots, how to get ready in 20 minutes, and a better work ethic. Matt R.

I learned too much to list from NYC, but some include: making and breaking an efficient camp, teamwork, pushing myself to work harder, and the benefit of living simply. Also a lot of the SEEDs taught me new things. Sean P.