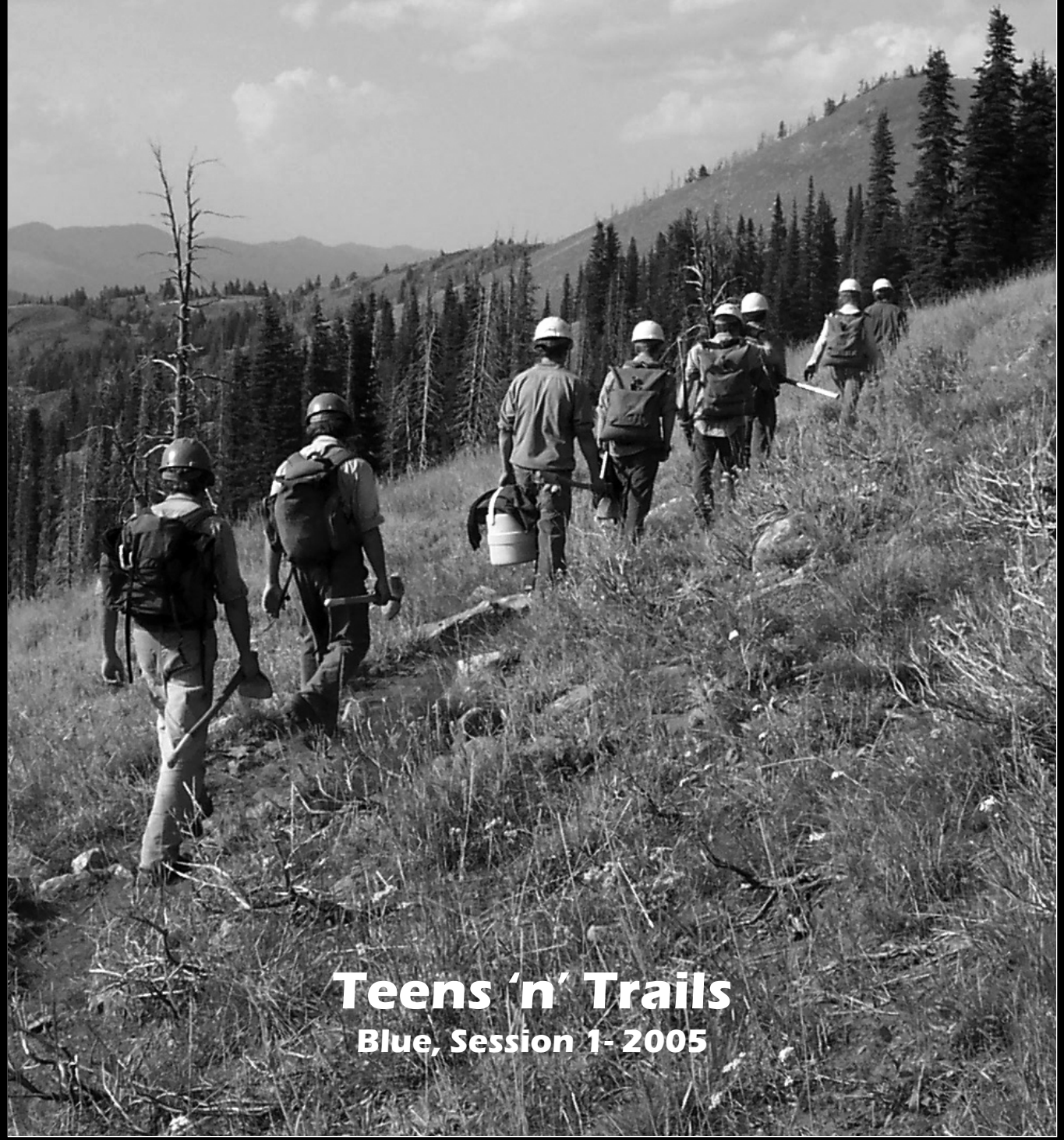




Crew Journal



Teens 'n' Trails
Blue, Session 1- 2005



Dear NYC graduates,

It is human nature that as time goes by, memories fade and our perception of history changes. Tall tales grow taller, and in the retelling details are lost and added. In your hands is a written record of your crew's trials and tribulations during the summer of 2005. It is a testimony of your successes, challenges, experiences both good and bad as well as some that were weird and wacky. As you sit back in the comfort of your home and relive some of those memories I encourage you to add your own notes on how you felt, what you saw and what you did.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ojerio'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



National Forest: Siskiyou
Ranger District: Gold Beach
Project Name: Siskiyou Noxious Weed Eradication

Week 1: June 19 – June 24, 2005

Monday: We woke up today and had some French toast B.J. made. Got in a cramped van and went to work. It was hard because of blackberry bushes and it was really hot. I think all the rest of the day was really cool except for searching for the small scotch broom. But everything was good. Also we lost the shotgun bag. –Cleatus B.

Tuesday: This morning Jess showed up, destroying Blue Crew's two-day streak of pure testosterone. And we were hoping to make it a unique thing. Darn. Anyways, later today, after we got to the work site, our search for scotch broom paid off when we hit the jackpot—BJ's 12-foot weedy beauty was put to shame next to the 20+ foot me, Dan, and Levi tore from the ground. It was a double-pronged trident meant to crush, pierce, and all-around trample the dreams of oh-so-many park rangers. And we made it our gimp (we're Blue because we're better). After that first worksite, and the subsequent search for weeds, we still had hours to go. So... Dan, Jess, and Joe got together and said we should go to tomorrow's worksite. After a tool count we went to the worksite. Guess what? We made THAT worksite our gimp, too. – Jeff B.

Wednesday: Today was really cool, the crew did well today, and since we did so good during the week Joe and Dan let us go swimming for about an hour, and well it was just really cool and the highlight of the day was when BJ challenged DJ to eat all the salt that was left of the bottom of BJ's work helmet from the pretzels that he ate earlier. –Max B.

Thursday: Today was cool, but really short. All we could find was big patches of yellow star thistle and could not find scotch broom. We went on our next site and did not find anything, but went to another and found fennel. We went back and had an arm wrestling contest. During SEED we learned how to use a compass and went on a treasure hunt. The surprise was that Joe is going to buy soda tomorrow at the store stop. –Enrique L.

Project Location: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name: Blue Ridge Trails

Week 2: June 27 – July 1, 2005

Monday: We woke up bright and early today, almost having to do many 8-counts. Next we loaded into the van just to go mucking in mud. We walked through mud all day and got very little done. All we did was build many trenches for drainage and moving lots of mud. Some of us carried heavy cement blocks. It was a hard day. Git-r-done! -Gabe A.

Tuesday: This morning feels like a long time ago. I'm not sure how or when I got up, but I know I did unless this is one frighteningly realistic dream. I'm not sure what I ate, just that I did. I'm not sure if I did 8-counts or push-ups, just that (thankfully) I didn't. Everything seemed so dream-like, so transitory and surreal... it was like living in a Picasso. Already my memories of today's events, happenstances, and circumstances are drifting away and melting together like a half-burned oriental water color. This is what I remember: Cleatus exclaiming Jason's old age, much to Jason's consternation... getting no bug bites... seeing a gray and red snake with horizontal stripes silently slither away... fixing a difficult drainage dip...feeling like I could reach up and taste the sky's creamy blue color. Today was a good day but I'm not sure why. –Jeff B.

Wednesday: Today we wrote the daily journal and went to the beach. Carried wheelbarrows down a steep hill. Woke up, carried bricks, ate lunch. Did chores, filled in ruts, ate breakfast, learned the pirate stretch. Jeff is ill. Jessica made the day long. Git-r-done. –BJ H.

Thursday: Today we worked very hard! Especially waking up. Then we headed out to the work site, to wheelbarrow TONS and TONS and TONS of gravel. Except the grownups, they had it easy. Some funny things happened today, like we found out Dan writes like a girl, and wheelbarrows are fun on vertical hills. We were all sweating and tired. Git-r-done. –Joe C.

Project Location: Coos Bay BLM

Project Name: New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Week 3: July 4 – July 8, 2005

Monday: Today was the usual Monday. Slow and long. But we filled in turnpikes at New River BLM Rec Area, also ACEC. We also removed ugly branches from the trail while Jessica and Dan went on a chainsaw cutting spree, making the trail look great. Then after work we all had a SEED with some guy, he told us about dunes, animals, and plants. Now we're at camp racing chores for a surprise. –Joe C.

Tuesday: Today was the fun usual Tuesday! Dan chewed us out at break, it made me feel like I was at home. After he chewed us out we all put it in rabbit gear and built 2 water bars and check steps. Plus we finished filling in turnpikes. It was a killer day on the back, hillbilly style. –DJ A.

Wednesday: Today was chill. 7 hours of workin', 3 hours of SEED, 8 hours of sleep, 2 minutes of surfing (?). Hope you know what happened to the rest of the day. That's good.

Thursday: Today was really cool, Joe tried to kill me. No, not really. He is just a really good monster. Well, enough about that. Everyone worked very well today, I thought, and we got a good amount of trail done today and I thought it was a good well-paced day. –Max B.

Friday: Right now, gray skies are shining down on me, like the bleary eyesight gained upon waking up at 5:20am. (Thanks, Dan, I REALLY appreciated it.) In fact that's how my day started, thanks to Dan's psycho-sadistic military inclinations. Waking up in the early morning darkness made me feel like breaking out a Noir-detective narrative.

In fact, I think I will.

'At first, I thought a crazed leprechaun had broken into some smashed psychedelic night terror about the terrors of waking up, except it was all too real for that simple mercy. It was Dan, and he wouldn't do his St. Patty's Day leprechaun dance' ... 'I brought my weapon to the criminal's throat, breathing in its terror and sad madness. There was no mercy in my touch as I clipped the stem of the serial trial-killer' ... 'There was a beauty gazing at me through the dreary sky, licking at the rain. Oh, wait, that was a beagle. Jeez do I have some issues.' ... 'A rock-n-roll heavy-metal Korn medley broke into my head and pumped it up to a jackhammer pace. Finally I can headbang...' –Jeff

National Forest: Willamette
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Project Name: Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance

Week 4: July 11 – July 15, 2005

Monday: Today was good for a Monday. The morning started out slow but after break it got a lot faster, mostly because we got to move rocks down the hill. Then after the walk home we got to go swimming and we did a lot of hard work on the EPCT. And from what I heard, Dan and whoever was working with him made a sweet rock wall.

Wednesday: Rock walls, log walls, trail; these have all come to dominate my formerly comfortable existence over the last few days. So far I have worked on and helped build 4 rock walls, one log wall, and over 100 feet of trail. This is nothing when you do not consider it in the context of a spaghetti Western.

Western monologue: I tugged down my straw and rawhide wide-brimmed hat, snarling against the dust. It would not have been so bad, so all-encompassing, if we had not removed all the rocks, roots, and foliage protecting us from the enemy. Ahead of me, Gabe, the resident Mr. Clean, shifted his G-shooters, looking out for more of the fiendish savages (overgrown foliage and rocks).

Fast as lightning, the heads of two savages exploded like taking the pick mattock © to a watermelon (in this case it was a McCleod to two trail-encroaching weeds). Behind us, Dan, our LEPRcon rock architect, worked on a large rock wall, more of a bridge to escape the savages. The hike to and from the rock wall embeds savage-food (dirt) into your skin, making you one of them.

Thursday: Today early in the morning I woke up to Jeff evilly laughing hilariously... it was great. Soon after, we ate oatmeal... wasn't all that appetizing. One hour later... DJ and I were assigned to trail maintenance while Dan and the rest did something. When 5 ½ hours of work were over, the 1 ½ mile hike back to camp was heat-exhausting. To make it short, Dan took us to DQ and got us our blizzards. –Joe

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was in the second week. It was Wednesday, and we had an 8 hour day. It was hot and humid. It was very hard physically because we had to lug 230 pound wheelbarrows a quarter of a mile. It was very fun! BJ.

My most challenging day was Wednesday of the second week when I hurt my back. It was painful, but I got better. Jeff.

My most challenging day was the first day. It was hard to meet new people and make friends. Gabe.

...the 4th week, first day. We had to walk 1 ¼ miles and my leg had a bad painful stretching feeling. Joe.

My most challenging day was the day we were in the forest and it was muddy. Cleatus.

My most challenging day was when we hiked 1.5 miles for one week. Enrique.

My most challenging day at NYC was when I got dehydrated and had to sit down on the hike back to camp. Levi.

...building turnpike. DJ.

My most challenging day was the day we had to hike 1.5 miles to our work site. Josh.

My hardest day at NYC was when I accidentally knocked over the yellow top and we had to walk 1 ½ miles back to camp while we were dehydrated. Max B.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Finishing a turnpike, finishing a huge rock wall, and making it to the fourth week. BJ.

Playing hide-and-go-seek tag the first week, finishing 4 rock walls in a week, and getting through the last week. Jeff.

Building a turnpike, playing tag, and the last day of work. Gabe.

Making friends, weekends, and working. Joe.

Friends, weekends, and free time. Cleatus.

When we built a 27-foot turnpike, picking weeds, and making friends. Enrique.

Finishing turnpike, friends, weekends, and free time. DJ.

Going swimming after work, working on peeling logs, and also going to the lighthouse. Levi.

Finishing my rock wall, building a huge turnpike, and the weekend sites. Josh.

When we finished 5 projects in 3 or 4 days, when my dad and grandmother came to visit and they said they were proud of me, and when I got an EP. Max.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Are the friends I made, building a 25-foot by 3-foot rock wall, and building a 27-foot-long turnpike. BJ.

The great view from our last worksite. Jeff.

All the great places we went. Gabe.

All my crew members and the great places. Joe.

is that I was on Blue Crew. Cleatus.

All the friends I made. Enrique.

All my crew members. DJ.

I will always remember the fun times I had with my crew. Levi.

The one thing that I will remember about NYC is the whole experience that I had, and all the people I experienced it with. Josh.

The look on my dad and grandmother's faces when I told them all the funny stories [that happened] while I was here. Max.

From Now On I Will Always...

Have fun, work hard, and think about this 4-week work camp. BJ.

Make sure to do high quality work. Jeff.

Do good work the first time! Gabe.

Do my best at everything. Joe.

Know how to build a rock wall. Cleatus.

Stay sober and never smoke again. Enrique.

Do a good job on everything. DJ.

I will always stay on the trail and leave no trace. Levi.

From now on I will always practice Leave No Trace camping, and I will always do great at eve-

rything that I do. Josh.

Work hard whether or not I'm being paid. Max.

At NYC I Learned...

About rocks, the formation of rocks, and how they got where they are. I learned about friendship. And I learned how to lead by example, not leading by voice. BJ.

I learned to use my leadership abilities around camp. I learned about making rock walls. I learned about insects. Jeff.

About noxious weeds, how to build structures, and how to work hard. Gabe.

About building turnpikes, how to challenge myself, and how to do good work. Joe.

How to cook more stuff, and how to build a rock wall. Cleatus.

I have learned to be nice to people and deal with my problems, and how to build trails. Enrique.

How to cook, and how to build rock walls. DJ.

I learned how to cope with my problems, how to work with others, and how to build turnpikes. Levi.

How to build turnpikes, how to build rock walls, and how to maintain trail. Josh.

I learned how to work hard. Max.