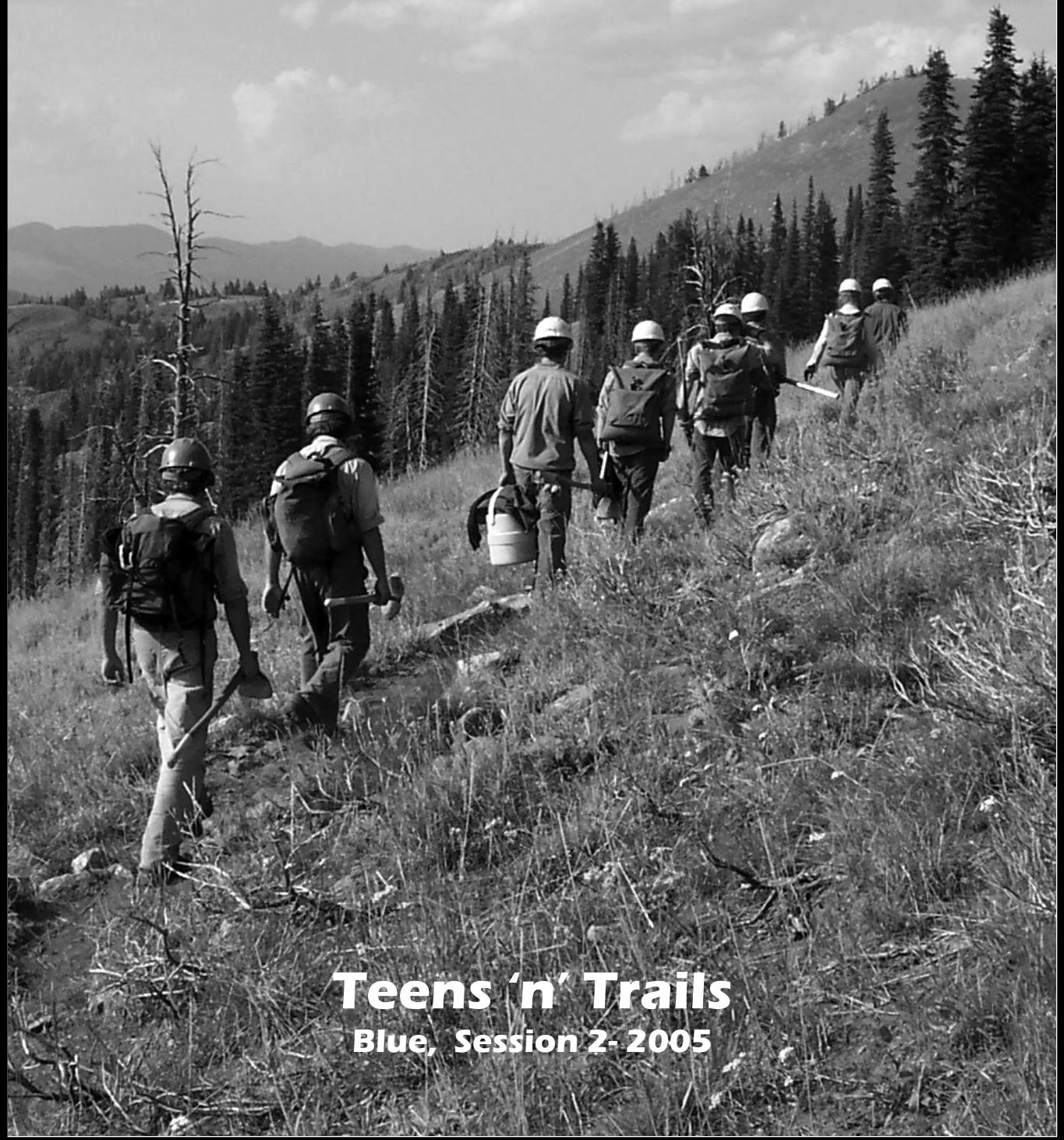




Crew Journal



Teens 'n' Trails
Blue, Session 2- 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'.

Ryan Ojerio
Program Manager



National Forest: Fremont
Ranger District: Silver Lake
Project Name: Silver Creek March Trail Maintenance

Week 1: July 25 – July 29, 2005

Monday: This was the first weekend. We found out our crew and our crew leaders. We spent an insanely long amount of time in the car, and got a chance to get to know these people a little better. The best part of the car ride was when we stopped at the store. I got disgusting instant coffee. Nils says, “we got to know the people in our crew. Just write that and I’ll give you something else later.” This was referring to the car ride, and also me asking for a comment. I really like the pen that I’m writing with, by the way.

I asked some of the crew members to express their opinions on the arrival that day. Nils, who wasn’t asked for any comments, said, “oh God, I hope this is over ASAP.” Elliott said, “OK, well I think you should note everyone really pulled together to help Nils, who had considered taking his own life as a merciful alternative to, ah, sleeping on, no—sleeping IN—this frozen landscape. It’s really touching.” Although this is a wonderfully creative quote, Elliott didn’t seem very enthusiastic about it. However, he says that he thinks this will be a very heart-felt journal entry, and that the crew leaders will be extremely touched by our sincerity. This morning, everyone was uber-tired. Caleb wanted to say a little something about the word *uber*: “Ah... *uber* rates about 9 on the dank-o-meter. Many say *uber* is a slanderous word, but

I say it's not a slanderous word... your mother has a cornucopia of knowledge...bullets...my only weakness...how did you know?" Wow, that was an interesting quote. Anywho, today was our first day of work and I think Jackie has something to say about it: "I thought it was quite challenging and like it was pretty hard work for the first day...but it was fun...I guess." Shantel wanted to say, "Umm...I got a lot of blisters on my feet." I think that's enough talking about the crew. After all, we haven't said anything about the crew leaders... so, I just wanted to say that I think Dan looks somewhat immortal if you know what I mean. Cara wants to say, "information disclosed...the crew leaders are very secretive in a way, and they almost seem intimidating...but soft on the inside...joking." Caleb, referring to our well-groomed crew leaders, said, "they're like a stale marshmallow on the outside, and minty-fresh on the inside." I asked Taylor to say something, but apparently, he has nothing to say... I'll ask someone else. John just mentioned that "they push us hard." This statement was obviously about the crew leaders. Whoa dude! I just realized that it's almost time for dinner, so Elliott is going to give a quick closing statement: "To conclude, none of us have anything interesting to say, and... nothing interesting!" –Shayna Brown

Tuesday: The project that was at hand earlier on this rise was one of length and hefty rocks. We bruised all of the half mile we worked on. In addition to this achievement we did rock work. It was semi-... oh, nevermind. Oh yeah, semi-abrasive. Dan and Tim lost a bet today and will be doing the majority of the dishes tonight. –Nils

Wednesday: Week One... (mystical noises) While hard work has been noted as a goal, the real work isn't done on the trail; it's done at camp. Synergy... teamwork... integrity... morality, ethics... car maintenance. If laboring in the field is the fire-bombing, the emotional wear and tear endured by even the stoutest of crew members is undoubtedly the atom bomb. Yesterday no one made vesper. Today we have a neighboring camper. Keeping the crew together is an ongoing crusade. We may be young but the conflicts are horrendous. Today my lips are chapped. I'm not sure how long I can keep this up. –Elliott D.

Thursday: Today on the work site all of us almost finished a 2-day adventure of building a rock drain; turns out that we are going to have to fight to finish the rock drain on Friday. During the day, Tim, Jackie, Caleb, and I went to work on another rock drain. Jackie said she "was very scared of a cow that went to the path." At the end of the day we had accomplished almost everything we had set out for ourselves. –Johnathan C.

Friday: Our first crew challenge was that we had to make a rock bridge and get around 2,000 pounds of sloppy mud. Now we are riding in the car and munching on cookies. We are trying to find out what to say for two or one word to each other. Dan said that we are passing lightning. Oh, yes, did I say we got to have a shower and do our laundry? Oh yes, another thing, we all called our families. –Taylor M.

Location: Coos Bay BLM
Project Name: Range Management Projects

Week 2: August 1 – August 5, 2005

Monday: Our crew blew away all the other crews with our together-ness. The way we arrived late was soon announced with the whole corps yelling our color, which was pretty funny counting the fact that they were stuffing their faces before we arrived because we were so late. We later had some challenging rush to quickly set up our tents (while being yelled at to “shut up” by the other girls). The next day was pretty eventful as we split up to go on treks. We all (I assume) had a fairly good time. We then later played Capture the Flag, and my team lost horribly twice but won once with Dan and switched teammates. The next day we quickly ate and took down camp and stood in our crews and some of us gave back massages to drown our boredom-ness. We went to Freddy Meyers for our fun and eventful store stop. Moving on, today we eliminated and probably digested some of the noxious weeds (he he) while they rejected our destructive-ness and we came out with some of the gnarliest scrapes. We later went swimming and got a wonderful, eventful, and educational SEED lesson (thanks, Jess!) and as of now we are busily doing our chores. The day was fun and as I’ve said before, eventful. Personally I want to say that “Dude, we so rocked those weeds!” Kinsey—out! (American Idol joke) –Cara K.

Tuesday: Today at work was not as hard as yesterday, but that’s just my opinion. Wait, before I say anything else, this morning was pretty funny. Myself and Johnathan were making breakfast while the rest were sleeping. Then Dan said to us, “you guys should feel lucky you’re making breakfast.” I saw them with pots and spoons. What happened next was something I thought could only happen in boot camps. They were making loud noises, hitting their pots and telling the girls and boys (or should I say ladies and gents) to wake up. Dan was right... I did feel lucky. Oh, if you’re wondering, Johnathan and I made banana pancakes. VERY delicious.

At work we were slow and were very tired, because of yesterday. Then finally it was time for tool count. To our surprise, a tool was missing. We spent almost 20 minutes just looking for it. We still had our break, but not a very pleasant one. I never, EVER thought I’d see Dan so angry. I would understand why. Everyone felt bad and we decided not to make Dan angry anymore. I certainly don’t want to... EVER!

Anywayz, Shantel, Caleb, Cara, and I had a blackberry fight. It was fun. Oh yeah, Nils got stung by a bee. Not fun. Well, I guess it’s time for me to sign off. So, peace out A-Town, as Usher says in one of his songs. –Jackie V.

Wednesday: This week has been absolutely filled with fun and other valuable learning experiences. Our goals were notary. It was very warm. Dan and Jason helped us wake up early and occasionally sang. Sometimes they yelled. We’re using the last of the vesper today. SEEDs are extremely interactive. I lost my cup and was so excited. It feels as if we have drifted into an uneasy calm after the learning occasion on Tuesday. I’m not confident it will last. –Elliott D.

Thursday: We learned about igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks! Also we learned about the water cycle. During the week we took out blackberry, scotch broom, thistle, and other alien plants. At our camp site, we had about 300 feet to a swimming spot. Today the guys' tent has to do all the dishes in under 15 minutes. We got in trouble for not having the tent clean. But in the end, the crew did the best they could. –Johnathan C.

Friday: We had to cut and destroy weeds on a fence to keep it nice and clean. But also we put up a fence because most of the fence was broken. Anyways we had a lot of fun throwing blackberries with each other. Dan and Jason got creamed by 10 little kids. Well that is all I got to say. P.S.—T.T. –Taylor M.

Location: Umpqua Lighthouse State Park
Project Name: Lake Marie Trail Resurfacing

Week 3: August 8 – August 12, 2005

Monday: Blue Crew got 2nd place in the Olympics. Nils is still cleaning pistachio pudding residue out of his nasal passages. We've only gone through a block of cheese. Spirits are low. Six boxes of pudding and lasagna for dinner tonight. Our new rover is wonderful! –Elliott

Tuesday: We were at the lighthouse road and we packed a lot of asphalt. We did at least 500 feet, I'm so proud. But anyways. We are around the camp fire that the ranchers gave us. Plus they gave us a lot of fire wood. –Taylor

Wednesday: Today is August 10, 2005 and yesterday night Dan happened to tell us a scary story. He personally scared the crap out of me. Then after he scared us (of course that wasn't enough for him) he scared me again and made me cry. How mean is that, really? But I forgave him, so it's okay now. Anyways, the people who we are working for are very nice. They gave us stuff to make a camp fire and wood. Then yesterday we had so much food because there were people who were having a party and they gave us pop and chips and salsa. It was so good! At our work site we have to move a lot of asphalt and it's kind of tiring, because we have to move it in wheelbarrows. I almost fell today. It was hilarious. Peace out A-town. –Jackie

Thursday: Well this week has been graced with an abundance of new knowledge. For example, on Tuesday we toured the Umpqua State Preserve Park lighthouse. Then some other random day or night, who really cares, we screamed and yelled and tried to talk softly but couldn't. So basically the ladies teamed up and told Ellis Island, Sweet Squirt, and manly, innocent, valiant, brave, beautiful Nils the issues they had with them. Then we went to the Coast Guard place. –Nils

Friday: Today is our last day at the Umpqua Lighthouse. We have been pulling up asphalt for 5 days now. Sometimes the asphalt was over one foot deep. Also we have accomplished 500 feet of trail, the same amount as yellow. The crew has done a very good job this week and next week I hope we will do better. –Johnathan

Project Location: Northbank Ranch, Roseburg BLM
Project Name: Northbank Habitat Restoration

Week 4: August 15 – August 19, 2005

Monday: Our crew got the hilariously long ride to the weekend site and had to stop at the clinic for the P-Oak, not fun stuff there I tell you. When we arrived at the site we were so late everyone was in bed except the leaders and hurried to go to sleep and got some visits from people. The next morning we were woken up viciously by a CHAINSAW! Scared me honestly, but the laughing Jason, Jess, and so on softened my fear. The day went on greatly as we went to our rec trips and went swimming. When we got back we got our mail and skipped happily (not really) and later the Blue Crew girls made some bomb lasagna with Sarah. And did NYC Idol! (Unfortunately we made 3rd –last—place.) The next day we got our instructions and packed up, later finding that we were short an elbow and had two extra tent poles. We can't dig a sump because we're on an archeological dig site, which is cool. I must go. Ciao! Ich liebe du! (I love you!) –Cara

Tuesday: Today we went to work and it was really tiring. I don't think anyone wanted to get up this morning. Anyways, myself, Shayna, Shantel, and Cara were asking Daniel Brian Winter some questions. It was hilarious how close he was to guessing my "perfect date." I mean he's right about the spoiled part. So, umm... we took a lot of blackberry bushes out. It was hard and stuff. Oh, um, yesterday we were swimming and then there was this real "attractive guy" (I can't say the H word) and I wish we could have talked to him, but us girls didn't want to get in trouble. Well anyways, I gotta go. Peace out A-town. –Jackie

Wednesday: So far, we've had an awesome week. We have a wonderful rover named Grace and we're camped next to a pretty little creek. Grace goes swimming with us everyday. She also sings a bunch and it's really fun, and we all love her. But I'm not going to talk about how great she is because I don't want to sound like Nils and Elliott. So this week, we've spent a lot of time making fun of Dan's accent. For example, he says, "toe-let" and "ole." We also like to comment on the fact that he calls JoJos "tater wedges." I think that's so weird. Now to talk about something much more serious, I'm almost out of coffee. I don't know what I'm going to do if I run out before graduation. But luckily, we only have three days left. I think everyone has mixed feelings about that. I'm personally going to miss a lot of people, but I'm also really excited to go home! Anyway, I just had a really good talk with Grace, and now it's time for dinner, so I gotta go. –Shayna

Thursday: Today the sandwiches were too peanut buttery and jellied. I don't think we can last the last 2 days. I can't think of anyways that Dan sassed us, but I will. "We" as in Nils, Elliott, and I tunneled through a jungle of blackberries and p-oak. Personally I think Nils and Elliott were EXEMPLARY today, I mean uber-hard like Dogs in the November Sun. Well I can't think of any ways Dan sassed us so I'll stop stalling. –Caleb

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

today, the last day of work, knowing today's my last day with friends. Cara K.

probably today, because today is the last time I get to see my friends! Jackie V.

It was today because we all really wanted to go home. Aaron N.

My most challenging day was the first. Nils M.

When both leaders turned bad cop. Elliott D.

It would have to be one of the first days because people thought I was a "know-it-all." Johnathan C.

My most challenging day was the day before we all got mad at the boys. I was so pissed off at everyone, and I was just holding it all in. Shayna B.

The day after we got mad at each other. Shantel D.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Uh, the work; pushing myself; free time; swimming; and meeting people. Cara K.

Pushing myself; expressing myself; and meeting great people. Jackie V.

Pushing myself; having fun; meeting new people. Aaron N.

Pushing limits; waking up; breaking habit. Nils M.

Long car rides; hangin' with Dan; and fighting with the crew. Elliott D.

Working with the crew leader, Dan; pushing myself as hard as I could, so when I finish this I will not have any regrets; finishing everything! Johnathan C.

Finishing the last day of work; talking to Grace; meeting my girls. Shayna B.

Hanging out with Shantel; working; eating Blizzards. Caleb H.

Knowing I worked hard; being in the van and getting to know the crew; living with other people. Shantel D.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

Dan and everyone here. Cara K.

Is messing with Dan, and the wonderful people here who became my family! Jackie V.

Is the surprise dinner. Aaron N.

Are the people. Nils M.

Were the jolly times. Elliott D.

Was the crew and all the fun and hardships we had together. Johnathan C.

Was Dan's dating advice. Shayna B.

Was Dan and his obsession with push-ups. Caleb H.

Are the people that I met here. Shantel D.

From Now On I Will Always...

Use the abilities, experiences, and things I learned here. Cara K.

Get to know people, experiment with other things, and try new things. Jackie V.

Wake up early. Aaron N.

Wake up early. Nils M.

Be self-conscious. Elliott D.

Work harder and get up sooner. Johnathan C.

Take insanely long showers. Shayna B.

Work on being a leader. Shantel D.

At NYC I Learned...

More about the environment, working hard and with tools, and that people are different away from home. Cara K.

I learned about the ecosystem, about the environment, and about trusting people. Jackie V.

I learned about the ecosystem, the environment, and trusting people. Aaron N.

Environmental issues, skills, and endurance. Nils M.

The boundaries. Elliott D.

To trust people in the crew, how to use a map, and to be friends with people that have different backgrounds. Johnathan C.

How to communicate with people. Shayna B.

That work is fun, and that helping the environment is good. Caleb H.

How to live with other people, about the ecosystem, and what happens when you work hard. Shantel D.