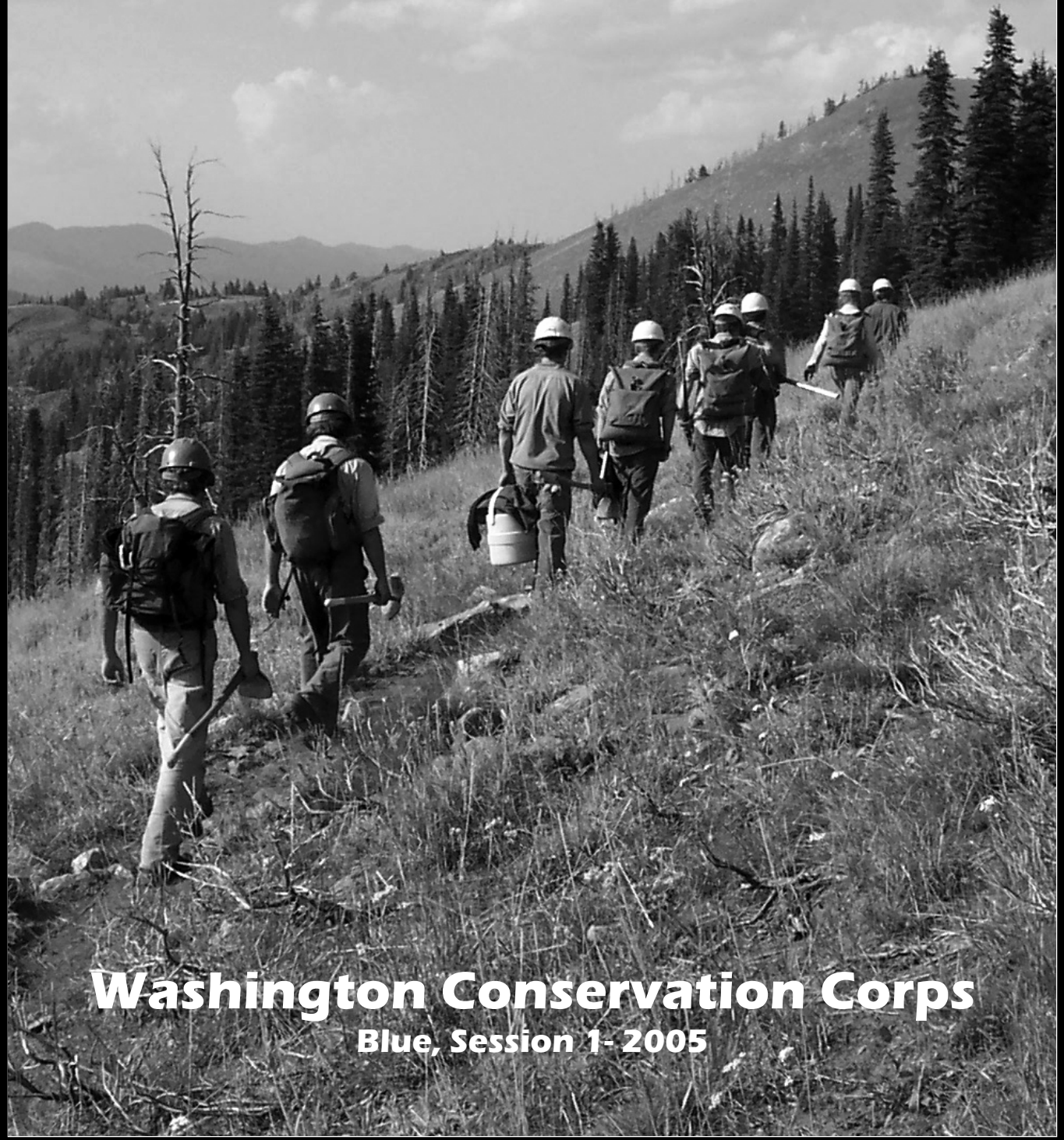




Crew Journal



Washington Conservation Corps
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,

Billy!

Billy Scrafford
Program Manager
a.k.a. "Office Geek"



**National Forest or area that the work took place – City of Stayton Parks Department
Project Name- Stayton River Front**

Week 1: June 12th – June 17th

Sunday: Today, Sunday the 12th we left NYC Headquarters and headed to our work site in Stayton. We found a nice campsite on the Santiam. Just down the road is a great hole for swimming. One of the first major things we did was make a group contract telling the group rules. As a group I think we were excited to reach our destination. Something I'm not going to miss is my parents, but at the same time I'm going to miss them. I think we are all excited to start work tomorrow to find out just how hard it is to remove Scotch broom.

Monday: It was our first day of work today and we started cleaning out all the blackberries and scotch broom. We had a blast!

The Scotch broom wasn't that bad to clear except for the blackberries, which are all intertwined with the Scotch broom.

By the end of the day with our bloody hands and legs with thorns in it we were ready to go eat dinner. Everyone agreed that our first day was the beginning of many hot bloody thorny days.

Tonight we are having bloody and rare cheeseburgers and garden burgers with cheesy garlic potatoes. Yum yum!

Summer L.

Go Blue Crew!

Tuesday: Today was our second day of work. We started with a slight drizzle of rain before we had breakfast of cereal and powdered milk which in my opinion is not milk. After breakfast we cleaned up the dishes in the bump line party. Once that was done we met in our safety circle. Some of the stretches were fun and everybody had a useful safety concern. Then off to work we went. We attacked the Scotch broom and blackberry bushes as a mad-eating crew. Before we knew it our breaks, and lunch had flown by and our work day was over. You know we were able to have fun! Yeah-Ha! Three days have gone since we have been a crew but that doesn't matter for we are able to work as a team in a bush-killing streak. Can not wait till more days go by and become even closer as a crew and family. I can smell Sheppard's pie a cooking for dinner. Till next time, Blue Crew Out!

Stacie C.

Wednesday: Today we had fun cleaning the berry brush, and the Scotch broom. Our goals for the week are to get the job done. For dinner we are having PIZZA mm mm. I hope we have fun work and get cut up, and make it through the 6th week!!! We had fun since it was cold and hot in the same place. I'm having fun and working hard.

Alan D.

Thursday: Alas, the end is in sight! We set a goal last night and with a lot of teamwork we reached that goal and more. Although blackberry bushes sometimes kicked our butts, people fell on sticks, and Mike and Fletch ran out of gas multiple times in the chainsaws, we made it out of this place all in one piece. And as Mike keeps telling us, "this is not the glory job," we don't really care. In this past week we have accomplished way more than I thought was possible. We bonded like we have known each other for years and although we act silly half of the time- we know how to work hard, get a sweat going, and turn the tables on those bushes! The river has never looked more beautiful than when you can see it through a hole, or even a stretch that you created with your own hands. Today we went to Stayton water purification plant and learned about it for our SEED. I couldn't hear the guy who was leading us around half the time, but I enjoyed all of it and it was cool all the same. This will be the last night we spend here, so we are all arguing about what's for dinner, breakfast, and lunch tomorrow, but we all know that in the end, we will all sit down to a great dinner (no matter how it's cooked, what it looks, smells, or tastes like) and enjoy yet another evening in each other's company.

Kate C.

Friday: With much excitement the crew met the end of the week. After liters of rain, long hours of work and short hours of sleep, the group wanted nothing more than to relax at a weekend site. We had a special privilege that no other crew took part in. The crew of blue worked for several hours to pay for the site. After several grueling hours of pruning blackberry bush stub at our week long site, the team left for Silver Creek falls. At this gorgeous National Park our contact took us to some relatively unbrushed trail. There the excitement began. Brows furrowed, we began to clean. The hazels flashed before our crew leaders' eyes as we tackled the challenge of expanding the sides of the trail. Before we knew it, two hours had passed. Caked with mud we went up a winding road, to a small weekend site. Our week was over, and a better ending Robert Frost could not have imagined.

Oleg U.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Rainier National Park
Ranger District
Project Name- Seattle Park Trail Systems**

Week 2: Date: June 19th-June 25th

Sunday: Today Staci had to go to a clinic to get an ingrown toe nail taken care of. We all thought about her while she was gone and are now happy that she is able to sit here with us. Anywho, rain, sun, rain, hail, sun, dripping trees. Yeah, that pretty much sums up our weather experience today. Luckily we were in the van for most of it, although I wouldn't have minded being out of the van for the sunny part.

We had a five hour van ride from our weekend spot to our weekday spot. Which is up at Mt. Rainier near the Seattle area. In my opinion, I wouldn't rather be anywhere else. The sun is out now and if we look up we can see beautiful glorious mountain peaks.

As soon as we got here, it was raining, oh yeah, and hailing, but as soon as Mike yelled "everyone out!" We hopped out, threw on our rain gear, and scrambled to get our gear under cover and our tent up.

Chores were then started and they were completed much quicker than last week because now everyone knows what they're doing. Tents are organized, shotgun is made, chores are done, hot water is boiling and there's a great looking meal on the table. Things are back to normal and going great. Until next time- Blue Crew Out!...Kate C.

Monday: After a hard week of work it was time to head to the weekend site and take nice warm ten minute showers, which felt excellent. When we got to Silver Falls we all unloaded our stuff into a heap of chaos. Saturday was rec.trips which was pretty fun until a big storm hit! On Sunday we all gathered into a huge circle and found out where we were headed to next. Blue crew rocks but we definitely couldn't of won the pig award without little miss piggy, and I'm sure you know who I'm talking about. Blue crew out!

Tuesday: This week we are at Mt. Rainier. Today and yesterday we built a retaining wall made of rock. We finished it by the end of the day. It was very rewarding to see all of our hard work come together and create something great! We are all so tired and glad to be eating yummy chili dogs for dinner. Blue Crew out!...Khiera W.

Wednesday: Hump day. Honestly, the day could not have started out any better. Mike, for "Mystery Madness," gave us an extra hour of sleep. Waking up late was only surpassed by a breakfast of hot pancakes! The daily hike up was a real treat until the rain began. Then, our day changed. We have been having wonderful weather this week with only a little sprinkle at the very beginning. Today we slogged in mud and were caught off guard by the rain. Many did not bring extra clothing to work and were cold a majority of the time. However, not all is lost. Tonight dinner will be hot and tasty. Mr. Mike and Mr. Brian will delight us in a Mexican culinary surprise. The team came back happy. No one got hurt and everyone is dry now. There is nothing more relaxing than the break after a long day of work. Blistered hand and aching feet aren't stopping us from our chores. Finally the chores are done and dinner is done, we are ready to eat.....Oleg

Thursday: This past week our crew has discovered new skills while working in the beautiful forest that surrounds Mt. Rainier. We learned how to build an awesome rock retaining wall. Boo ya! Also, how to properly brush a trail of plants that invaded the trail area. It was (a) long tedious week but we made great accomplishments. We have bumps, bruises, and sores but that didn't stop the Blue Crew from given it our all. Blue crew out!...Staci C.

Friday: Brisk. No other word could better describe waking up at 4:00am and having to adorn a week worth of sweat lodged into a single work shirt. Having spent only several hours asleep, it came as no surprise that no one had prepared hot pancakes. Wearing icy clothing, the whole crew munched happily on cold cereal. Work warmed everyone up and immediately afterwards came an even more heart warming experience. Karl, the trail supervisor for Mt. Rainier National Forest, came to thank us with a gift. Having spent almost half a century building trails, Karl knew what true trails work was. That was just what he saw from us, a group of youth. Being incredibly grateful, Karl gave to us a dozen "Mt. Rainier Trail Crew" pint glasses. Later everyone celebrated with a nice root beer. The trip to the weekend site was long and exhausting. Having spent the better part of the afternoon doing laundry, we then got caught up in a huge traffic jam... There must have been at least 100 cars, or so it felt. We were caught in traffic, however, safely made it to the weekend site. There in an hour close to 10pm we ate hot Ramen, a dinner of Tzars....Oleg

**National Forest or area that the work took place: BLM Salem
Ranger District- Table Rock Wilderness
Project Name- Rooster Rock Trail**

Week 3: Date: June 26th - July 2nd

Sunday: Today we left the weekend site on a four hour trek to our work site near Salem Oregon where we will be for the next two weeks. We will be refurbishing trail at Table Rock Park. We arrived at our new home for the next two weeks and found it at the end of a road we can see where we are to be working on the trail since it is only up the road. Once seeing our new surroundings we got to work setting up camp. Summer and Khiarra built a seat over our latrine to make it more suitable for a longer usage. It is raining right now as we sit under the tarps. People are busy cooking dinner which is spaghetti and garlic bread. Yum Yum! Well that's all so Blue Crew Out....Staci & Kim

Monday: Yo this blue crew speakin. We finished our job at Mount Rainier and 8 hours later we found our weekend site, which was somewhere next to Mount Saint Helens. Around 11:00 p.m. everyone went to the sack to catch some Z's. At 8:00 am we all awoke from our heavenly dreams of sugar plums and fairies and went on our rec. trips to the mongalan death march, the lava caves, the curly falls, the ape caves or mystery or chillin' at the lake. That day we had parent week which was insane but cool and we cooked taco salad. Blue crew out....

Tuesday: We are on the edge of a wilderness area called Table Rock, near Salem, Oregon. Our project for the next two weeks is making new trail on the Rooster Rock trail, which is in an old growth forest that burned down around 1890. We're making new trail for many reasons. For one, the old trail is an old road and it's all vertical so it sucks! Another is that we want to make the trail accessible for horses and to make the trail with a whole bunch of climbing turns! For now Blue Crew Out!.....Summer

Wednesday: Our crews goal is to finish all of the re-routes. Today one of our crew members found a foot that looked like the heal of a dragon. We are now known as the blue dragons. We are no longer called the Turtle Jumping Smurfs. We dug around 200 feet of trail and brushed 300-400 feet of trail. Blue Crew Out....Peter

Thursday: This week we learned how to make new trail out of just hanging. Forest session was a lot of fun also. We learned how to do switch backs and climbing turns, false tread and real tread. Blue Crew Out....Khiera

Friday: Our crew's challenges were to finish trail we had dug. Billy showed up on Wednesday. It was good teaching and help. He kept the crew going strong. Our accomplishments and challenges are to start on the beginning of the trail today. We are going to make a huge retaining wall. We are going to meet up with Orange crew today. Blue crew out!!!....Alan D.

**National Forest or area that the work took place – Salem BLM
Ranger District – Table Rock Wilderness
Project Name- Rooster Rock**

Week 4: Date July 3rd - July 9th

Sunday: Watermelon Pancakes. Pancakes cut by hand, watermelon cut by chainsaw. It may not be what mom normally makes, but in some ways it's better. It's just one of the many things that shows us that we truly are capable of making it out here..

After these delicious pancakes, it was rush time. We all got our packs together and readied ourselves for a nice hike up to table rock. We were able to see and walk on the trail that our crew had built over the weeks and what we're going to be doing over the next week.

We didn't quite make it to table rock but we did get to Rooster Rock, which gave us an awesome view of Table Rock and the surrounding area. We could see Mt. Jefferson, the three sisters mountains, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Washington, and Mt. Adams. There was a pristine meadow below us and clear blue skies above us.

Afterwards we went back to camp and piled in the van. We headed towards the river and went for a swim. In my opinion we couldn't have asked for a better more beautiful day if we got down on our knees and begged. For now, Blue Crew out....Kate C.

Monday: Our weekend site pretty much rocked more than any weekend site. For rec trips we went up our trail and saw the final destination, a gorgeous rooster rock. Today, the whole crew packed in a 9 hour day. The dig was very rocky and we went through many roots. The highlight of the day was one stretch in particular. Baby Shark, do to do do too. In time, while digging. Many happy workers would follow their sentences with do to do do too. We all know the first stretch for tomorrow morning.....Oleg

Tuesday: We are in the Table Rock wilderness area working on the Rooster Rock trail. The blue crew this week is re-routing parts of a trail that leads to a spectacular view towering over the neighboring mountains. We are doing re-routes so the trail won't be straight up for us and hikers with horses. Our motivation for this week is a theme song called baby shark do to do do too! For now, Blue Crew Out do to do do too :-) Summer L.

Wednesday: Our goals for the week were to finish all the re-routes. The first part of the trail and two rock retaining walls. Today we finished the re-routes and tomorrow we plan on starting the rock retaining walls. Today we learned how to make a log retaining wall. Blue Crew out! Do to do do too.....

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to deal with positive and negative peer pressure in skits. It was really fun and hilarious. But the coolest part was that some of us learned how to build a log retaining wall and it was really cool. Blue crew out do to do do...DustinH.

Friday: The mung struck our crew this week. More than anything else, overcoming the challenge of a plagued crew was the toughest problem. On from the poor to the gorgeous. After a long week of sick

people hiking up trail to work our re-routes, we finally finished. Our crew personally did 5 re-routes. On our prime, the crew did 500+ feet of trail in one day. Several other accomplishments included a log retaining wall as well as one of rock. Our rover, Madam Julie, left us Thursday night to join Orange Crew. That same night we took down the tents and slept under the stars. The stars weren't the only event that evening, Along with the stars was a layer of mosquito's. Even with the plague, the hard work, and the flying feeders, our work is done, everyone is ready for showers and laundry. This weekend will be wonderful. Blue crew out. Do to do do too.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette
Ranger District: Detroit
Project Name- Bruno Meadow Trail

Week 5: Date July 10th-July 16th

Sunday: Goodbye Molalla, hello Willamette National Forest. We're doing trail maintenance and we will be brushing for a few days as well as building structures. Hopefully we will see new places and items. Maybe we will even see the strange bright thing in the sky that produces heat and blueness in our atmosphere. We will not have a rover this week, but what we lack in numbers we will make up with a lot of hard work and teamwork. Blue crew takes pride in the quality of their work and we are not about to give that up. This is the fifth week and although it may seem like this session of NYC is winding down, it will never be the end because this has started a number of things; one being a whole line of new friendships that will never die as long as we believe. Another thing is memories have been created here and those are just one of those things that never leave you. In my opinion, I didn't think I could have been chosen for a better crew or to be led by a better crew leader. Until next time-Blue crew out!...Kate C.

Monday: This weekend we drove into camp just in time. We spent most of our time with Orange crew. This weekend was parent's weekend. When it was about time to have dinner we had a talent show where we did all of our cheesy jokes. Then Oleg & Staci showed everyone what talent they have by singing and Alan did his karate moves. Sunday we had an extra long drive. Blue Crew out...KW

Tuesday: Our project this week is to refurbish trail in the Willamette National Forest. This week we started leaders of the day and so far about half of our crew has gone. All who went have learned some stuff about leadership, such as its ups and downs. We are about done with the trail we are working on and are probably moving to the next one Wednesday or Thursday...Blue crew out...PB

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for the week are to learn how to improve on our leadership style. We are learning this by leading our crew for the day and to take on the responsibilities of our crew leader. With the positive criticism given to us, we are learning our strengths and weaknesses' in our leadership style. Our whole crew has learned a great deal this week by having our peers leading us through out the day without having our real crewleader's guidance. Another goal that we have found most needed during the day was patience. As a crew we have learned that patience is never wasted!...Summer

Thursday: Let me preface this journal by saying that Oleg over-slept this morning so as punishment he's sharpening the chainsaw. Instead, I, Mike Scheedel, am writing the journal. An important lesson learned was by Nolan. He was pulling on a snag to make it roll into a pristine meadow. He managed to jump out of the way in time. Next time he'll know not to pull on the snag but use a rock to roll into the dangerous snag. One final lesson the crew learned was that when backing the van a person in back is always needed. Kim was driving and decided to pull a U-turn in a BLM road. She didn't ask for a

backer and hit a deer that was running past. Next time she'll definitely ask for some one behind the van.

Friday: Our challenges were getting along with each other but we got along and now we are all happy. Some others are that we all got sick and I got 3 bloody noses. The accomplishments we had was we made our goal and we got to see a sweet view of Mount Jefferson. Yes that was cool, we did SEED up there. But Summer got her back hurt really bad. Yeah now we are on the road to the weekend site. Blue Crew out!...Dumpster

National Forest or area that the work took place:
Ranger District
Project Name-

Week 6: Date July 17th-July 23rd

Sunday: 5 weeks have passed since we first became a crew. With only one week is left to have fun and make lasting memories. Hard times have come and gone along with the good. As a crew we have faced sickness, injuries, challenge, and each other in good stride. "coming together as a family" some may say we have enjoyed moments of laughter as we kept each other's spirits high through often long days of work. Like all crews we have run into some troubles but ha! that doesn't stop the Blue crew. We have discovered a lot about each other and ourselves that we never knew before. One can only imagine what the last week has in store for us but we are prepared for whatever that may be. Let any challenge dare to think it can defeat the blue crew for it can only dare, but no succeed. Blue crew out!...Staci

Monday: Digging? What's the digging thing you're talking about? We're building and repairing boardwalks! Yay! Okay, so we've done a little cute back work and we've opened a stream bed, but it's still more fun to work on something a little more structural than duff. It's Summer's birthday today and we're glad she's still with us to enjoy it. Her back is hurting her, so she's probably wondering how I could possibly think that she's enjoying any of this. Well, to put it simply there's almost no place on earth that's better than this. Last night we had a discussion about our goals. Many of them were very similar and some were completely different but no matter what the goal is, we all know we are going to rock out and meet each and every one of them. We are after all the Blue crew. This may not be the end of the beginning but it's the end of my journal entry..Blue Crew out!

Tuesday: Today we worked with gravel, wood, dirt and some more gravel. So exciting! We worked all over the trail. Some members went that way and others went the other way. In the morning clouds threatened to rain but by the afternoon the sun came out to shine. Well we had to say good-bye to Summer but just till Friday so her back can heal. She will be missed and we all hope she feels better. For the last Tuesday journal Blue Crew Out!...Staci

Wednesday: Everyone is psyched that only one day of work is left. Not only are we all thrilled but also amazed. These past weeks have flown by faster than the blink of an eye. Today's work included some bridge building followed by a lot of graveling. Our little put put thing facilitates the loads. With it we could also

do several hundred feet of trail with several inches of gravel. Everyone ran to contribute with wheel barrows; Mike and BD had quite a few problems finding people to help with the bridges.Oleg

Thursday: Today was our last day of work. Yes!! What we did was graveling and building them bridge things. As a crew I think we are happy to be done but at the same time we don't really wanna go home. This week I think was our best week as a crew working today and all. Today we also went to this awesome museum on boats and stuff...Peter B.

Friday: This session has been very great because I learned more than last session. I made so many friends from this session and with the leaders too. The things I keep in my head from NYC is the whole experience of learning in the woods. Wow, I can't believe it's over and we're going to big clean well for the last time, Blue Crew out....Dustin H.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day at NYC was the fifth week when we were working by Detroit lake and I was leader of the day...Khiera

My most challenging day at NYC was during the third week. I had seen my parents the last weekend and was just feeling really homesick. It sucked..Kate C.

My most challenging moment or day at NYC was when my parents were going to come but they were late that freaked me out because I worked four hard weeks, but I did get to see my parents...Dustin Hull

My most challenging moment at NYC was when it was the fifth week and I was a leader for the day...Staci C.

My most challenging moment at NYC was staying positive. While I was sick...Kimberly C.

Third day. I wasn't adjusted but was completely sore. On top of it all, illness caught up to me. To add to it all it rained. Life was hard...Oleg.

The most challenging day was the job at Mt. Rainier...Alan D.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day I was severely sick and could hardly move....Nolan

My most challenging moment at NYC was leaving my crew and staying positive, because I knew I would be coming back for Big clean and graduation...Summer L.

My most challenging day at NYC was the 3rd day of the 4th week because I was really sick and it was raining. It was really hard for me not to quit...Peter B.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Big fun! Van rides, rec trips I always have so much fun with my crew..K.W.

Probably big fun because there's always time to burst out laughing. Also recreation trips because you always learn and see something new. Lastly, there was right after work when you pulled your boots off and your socks and scratched your legs and feet...Kate

It would have to be the weekend site because I get to see everyone else and I get my mail...
Dustin H.

My favorite NYC experiences are Big Fun, Rec. Trips. And free time when we can just hang out...Staci C.

My favorite experiences are Big Fun, People, Free Time...Kimberly C

When I wasn't ill and could swing hard. Then playing guitar in the evening, during the sunset, last night, wrestling with my whole crew, mentally and physically...Oleg

Van rides, Rec. Trips, working...Alan

My three most favorite experiences were seeing all the great places I was able to go to, working with a great crew, rec trips...Nolan

My three favorite NYC experiences...Number one would be stepping it up to finish the dinner or green beans. My second one is having a SEED on a view point of Mt. Jefferson, 3 sisters and 3 fingered Jack. It was very peaceful and relaxing. Another one would be playing pigley wigley with my crew because you get all close and touchy with people and also because I'm the master at that game...Summer

Some of my best experiences were one hanging out with some really cool people that I have never met before for six weeks. Second was going to the places we went to work. Last but not least was pushing my self to work harder...Baumgardner

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

One thing I will always remember is the beautiful scenery out here. It was really beautiful...
Dustin H.

One thing I will always remember is the people I've met and the places I've seen ...Khiera

I will always remember looking up at the glacier on Mt. Rainier with my friends....Kate C

One thing I will always remember is when we had a Saturday circle on sunset beach and watched the sunset go down...Staci

One thing I will always remember is the people and places I have seen...Kimberly C.

Waking up in the morning to see all of our stuff wet. Then, having to get up and work...Oleg.

The places I have seen...Alan D.

One thing I will always remember is my crew leader Mike S. and how he lead our crew into and out of a very very great experience...Nolan

One thing I will always remember are the good and bad times our crew had, and getting through them with teamwork...Summer L.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will cherish the showers that I get and be thankful to God that I got to see his creation that is almost untouched...Dustin H.

From now on I will be more patient with people...Khiera W.

From now on I will always jump up when I hear "tool count!" and sleep in my work clothes. I will also never take things such as showers and pillows for granted...Kate C.

From now on I will always be more appreciative of what I have and how easy my life is...Staci

From now on I will always be more appreciative of what I have...Kimberly C.

Shower 5 times a day....Oleg

I like Showers...Alan

From now on I will always have confidence, work hard to my fullest extent and beyond and be able to work with other people...Nolan - Life's short, ride hard.

From now on I will always have more patience with people and I won't sweat the small things in life...Summer

From now on I will always take rain clothes when I go camping...Peter

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned more about leadership, friendship and patients...KW

The things I learned from NYC is the way of making friends, using tools properly that I didn't use last year....Dustin Hull

At NYC I learned leadership skills, communication, friendship and hard work...Kate C.

At NYC I have learned responsibility, patience, and hard work...Staci C.

At NYC I have learned, hard work, responsibility...Kimberly C.

How to work with various people for six weeks in a row, trail building, working in the rain...
Oleg

What I learned was communication, camp for six weeks, using tools...Alan

At NYC I learned how to work as a team, self discipline, and how to clean up trail, make trail
and build boardwalks...Nolan

I have learned many things at NYC but the three most important ones would be learning to
work with various people and to have patience with them. I have also learned to have better
leadership skills in leading peers...Summer

At NYC I learned how to except people that I did not get along with at all and how to work
hard...Peter