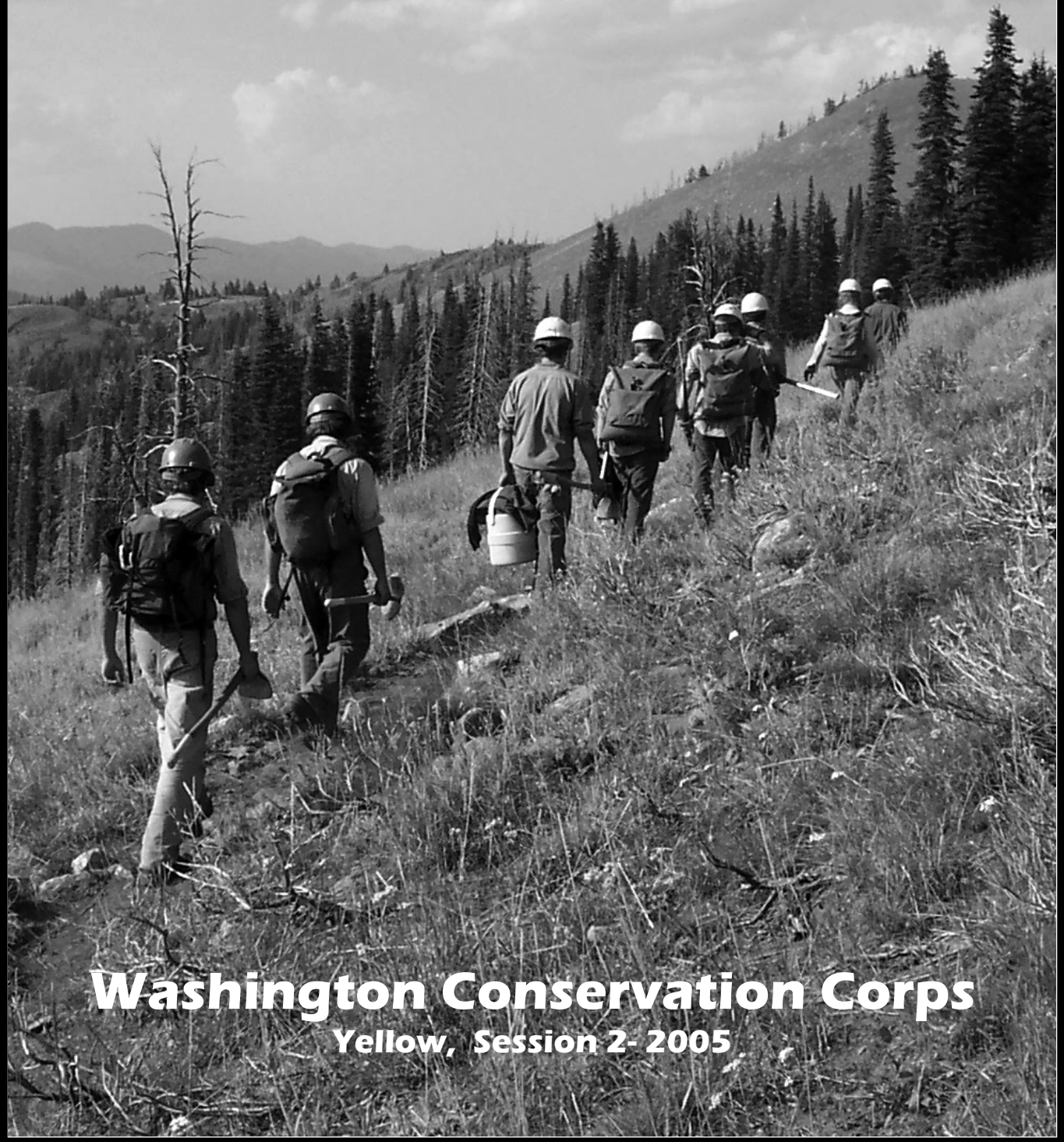




# *Crew Journal*



**Washington Conservation Corps**  
**Yellow, 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,

*Billy!*

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



**National Forest: Ochoco**  
**Ranger District: Paulina**  
**Project Name-Ochoco Weeds**

**Week 1: June 11<sup>th</sup>-June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: Well, we all were introduced to our teams and leaders today...exciting times; all of us wondering who we would be spending the next 6 weeks of our lives with. Well our team "yellow mellow" (or the other way around) is great, diverse but great. People from WA, OR, CA, ID, IL, etc. and the leaders Doug and Matt are awesome! So after the packing up and preparing to leave we took off to Prineville, Oregon to take on the evil Hound's Tongue. On the way, it's safe to say we got to know each other a little during the 3-4-5 hours in the van, numerous wrong turns, endless car games. Being a girl, I am proud to say I only needed one restroom stop! We had sandwiches in the car, listened to some funky radio show...more games....my favorite part was looking at the beautiful scenery, trying to imagine what my life's gonna be like living out in the wilderness for Seis Semanas! Tonight's dinner is gonna be burgers and potato salad...Good because I am hungry. Camp is looking good, everything's set up, dinner's almost ready, I'm sitting by Dan who is playing war in the peanut butter, or should I say "making our lunch tomorrow!" I'm looking forward to our first week, a little nervous, but excited! I think our yellow extreme team is gonna do great! Anna R.

Monday: So, today was our first day at work. Yeah. Work is work. We are going to spend the next week pulling weeds! Wahoo! So, yeah, breakfast was really cold this morning. Really cold. The hand rinse water had ice on it. That and we are missing the fuel tube for the stove and we couldn't start a fire. Did I mention it was cold? Thankfully it warmed up in the afternoon. We had to drink a lot of water. The hummus sandwiches were really good. So, yeah. How was work you may ask? I think it's kind of fun. The dead Hound's Tongue has burrs on it and they stick to everything. The Speed of work could be faster, but it is the first day. I think I successfully convinced the rest of the crew that Ninjas are cooler than pictures. My plan for obtaining cookies is in motion....Meridan P.

Tuesday: Ah...Another day full of the ever invasive Hound's tongue burrs and Dan's eternal internet knowledge of rather useless yet unique information. Sometimes it was a bit of a downer to look at the ground and see hundreds of tiny seeds but oh well! We have Doug, and Matthew and Meridan and Dan to sing wonderfully off key Irish rock songs. The weather has been way better than we could have asked for....minus the occasional ice in the hand washing bucket. Everyone on the crew is experiencing new things, from hummus to Lamb's ear, and they are doing quite well with it. I don't know about Scott and his sandwiches though...he's now heaping the dry powder humus on a slab of jam but hey! Even in making sandwiches creativity is good....Bethany

Wednesday: People are starting to see Hound's Tongue when they close their eyes. Not me. I see it enough when my eyes are open. It felt good to pull the amount we did today, which was a lot. It was cold again this morning. Luckily, we managed to get stove tube from our woods boss and we had hot water. Oatmeal is good. Our energy is really shaping nicely. We seem to go well together, at least, I hope so. I could complain for hours about the Hound's tongue burrs, but I won't. Lucky You. I hope they make lots of dinner tonight. I'll eat it all!! Standing on a rock...I breath firs and burn it all...ha, stupid hound's tongue...Meridan

Thursday: I hope everyone slept well after last night's dinner. Now that was an experience; it was a bonding time. Matthew ate 4 bowls of something and I couldn't stop laughing throughout the entire time and then when we brought out the brownie pudding oh my we were full but it was good! (I think there is still more left now.) This morning was a little harder to get up but hopefully the brown sugar and cinnamon pancakes helped. Then it was off again to kill the "Spawn of Satan" (aka hounds tongue) but today was only a 6 hr. work day so that was better. It started raining the last part of the day and we got to whip out our stylish yellow rain gear, which Desi was so ecstatic about. Upon returning to camp we raced to see the conditions inside the tent, a few puddles, wet sleeping bag, mats...it's an adventure! And it looks like we are about to embark on another one with tonight dinner as well...looks like its gonna be a multiple course dinner to get thru the rest of the food, all I can say right now is let's bring it on baby! We are gonna feast tonight! Ok now my hand is frozen so I'm done!....Anna R.

**National Forest: Ochoco**  
**Paulina Ranger Dist.**  
**Project Name- Ochoco weeds**

**Week 2: June 19<sup>th</sup>-June 25<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: Ok well here we are 2<sup>nd</sup> week and we are still pulling "The Evil Hounds Tongue"...again. We thought we had no tofu but then we found it so we are happy. Not much happened today. We set up camp and we are cooking dinner again. The mosquitoes are monstrous out here. Blah Blah Blah not much to say...um Jacob is now our Rover, he seems pretty cool. But well this is going nowhere so I'm going to stop...Desi

Monday: Well now...today was yellow crews 1<sup>st</sup> day back to work. Oh Joy we got assigned pulling evil Hound's Tongue, yes again isn't it just dandy? No it's not because I received 2 ties, yes 2 of them and in not the best spot either. The weekend has come and gone, it was an interesting adventure but I truly prefer our little banana crew opposed to 40 other people. Rec. trips were pretty cool and I'm glad to have showered even though I am completely grubby again. Today we went swimming or some of us did. It was pretty cool. In a way I'm glad to be pulling evil hounds Tongue again because it's familiar and we didn't have to learn new things, on the other hand it's long and boring. 1<sup>st</sup> week down, 5 more to go. I hope we all keep our sanity well I mean the few of us who arrived here are...Kaylynn "Monkey" Coonse

Tuesday: Today was cool. I thought I would have a hard time getting up to make breakfast but it was fun. I made brownie pancakes then we went off to go work and T. Brex showed up to just go back to O.J. because we know what we are doing on something, the week went by pretty fast and no one got hurt, just a few people got tics it was pretty much just same old NYC day...Scott

Thursday: Last night was insane. I swear that Orange crew is totally insane. They were screaming, yelling, running around, fighting and generally being rowdy. I'm so glad I'm on a quietish crew. Right now I am eating a lemon and goldfish. It feels good after the workday. It was hot again and we had to walk up a really steep, long slope to get back to the van. A couple of us were so pumped at the top of the hill that we did push ups, the girls thought we were crazy. We are making a lot of vesper tonight. It's gonna rock! It was cold again this morning.

Haiku:

The hot sun beats down  
We must drink lots of water  
And must climb steep hills

**National Forest: Wenatchee**  
**Ranger District: Leavenworth**  
**Project Name- Ingalls Creek Trail**

**Week 3: June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Monday: This weekend we went to a camp ground somewhere near Hood River. The rovers had Saturday off and we went on a rec. trip; Doug took some people on a hike, Matt took some people to a few museums and the other two also went to museums. Parents came to visit. And we made a puppy friend...D.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to repair/create new trails. We are also creating drainage for several streams. It is exciting being in the back country for 2 weeks. We only worked for 7 hours yesterday because we got to bed very late the night before. Today we can really see the progress we've made and I can't wait to see what's to come. The Wenatchee forest is so beautiful...Eric

Wednesday: Our work goals this week are to finish clearing the new trail section and brush some of the rest of the trail to clean it up. We drained a pond off the trail into a nearby stream so it can dry off and be made into solid trail. Today a few of us broke off early from the work

site to do some rock work around some streams that cross the trail. We finished that up fairly easily and I think the others did a lot back on the trail. As for everyone's personal goals, I think most of us just want to survive the next two weeks to showers....Justin

Thursday: Our first backcountry week is almost through and I suppose the whole crew is settling in quite well. We've grown accustomed to the constant sound of the giant creek that rushes yards away from our tents and to each other's little quirks. I like how Anna pees more than Doug stinks or how Scott's too crazy to perform basic hygiene chores. This week has definitely required some serious physical man power, hiking all the time, but the views make it all worth it. Today the sky looked like a painting; it was sooo blue against the green. A very excellent week and I look forward to the next. I do wonder if there is a cap on how bad we smell. Pretty sure we won't have to worry about critters in the food- they'll just suffocate...Bethany

Friday: Of all the things in this wonderful world, honey may be the very best. It is tangible proof that even a flying insect with a poisonous stinger has enough compassion to produce an excess of something that is so sweet and with such a smooth consistency. Aren't we glad that bees stop to smell the roses? As a symbol honey has been used through the ages to describe what may be dearest and closest to our hearts. The old testament describes Isreal as "The land of Milk and Honey." I have never mixed milk with honey, nor have I been to such a land, but it does sound nice. "Honey" is also used as a term of endearment for those we love, perhaps to ask them to do something we think they might not want to do. We need to sweeten people up. "Honey, can you do..." "Honey" is also used to put a pleasant façade on something that is anything but sweet, like a "honey bucket." I think that instead of cursing when I become frustrated I will simply say " Oh Honey!" ...Thomas B.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Wenatchee**  
**Ranger District: Leavenworth**  
**Project Name- Ingalls Creek Trail**

**Week 4: July 3<sup>rd</sup>-July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: Since we were not only in back country but also tired from a long work week, we weren't too keen on going anywhere particularly far. After happily doing absolutely nothing for two hours thanks to a timely visit by our contact, we dragged our tired bodies the full 250 feet to the rear by creek where many of us got wet, and two of us got sun burned. Now we're all looking forward to the next weekend when we'll have a real rec. trip and a very long awaited store stop...Daniel

Tuesday: Our project this week (our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of backcountry) is brushing new trail. Yesterday we did drainages. Joyful, today was quite eventful: Bethany might go blind from seeing Justin, and we received visits from Billy and T. Brex. Billy brought real fruit, a cantaloupe, it was tasty! We just went swimming in the ice water again. It was just a tid bit cold. I'm ready for dinner and my second nap of the day. I spent my afternoon break T. Brex style- 15 min of nap time oohh yeah...Kaylinn...

Wednesday: Our crew was happy to work with T. Brex today. It always helps to have extra hands. The shot gun supply is growing thin so it is good we are only here for 1 more day. Our goals for this week are to brush along the Ingalls Creek trail and to cut our way through a new pass on the Falls Creek trail. A rock slide cut off the trail so we started a new one through a dense forest and out onto a huge moon looking field (It is the rockslide.) From there we continued to brush along Ingalls Creek today and who knows what's to come....Ben

Thursday: Today we worked up the Ingalles creek trail doing more brush work. We got a good view of the mountain and we saw where there had been a fire and the forest had reverted back to the Forbes stag. Apparently Eric almost lopped his finger off although I didn't actually see anything. It's a good thing too because I probably would have kicked him for almost losing our safety bonus. Tonight I'm going to pack up my stuff so it's ready for the hike out tomorrow....Nick

Sunday: Okay today is Sunday! We worked ha how awesome is that? Hahaha. Saturday was fun. I didn't have to do much and Rachel let us sleep until 8:30 that was so great. I simply adore sleeping. Anna doesn't adore my sleeping habits though. She says I steam roll her in my sleep. Sorry geez I'm always the 1<sup>st</sup> asleep. Oh well I don't mind much. So anyway we went swimming in the freezing cold. I mostly enjoyed my nap in the sun. So yesterday was superchill unlike today. The work was okay. Dirty, dirty work lots of mud, cool, I love it....Kaylinn

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

**Week 5: July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: Well we packed aid on Friday from our old campsite and had our store stop, laundry, showers in Leavenworth. It felt good to feel all sparkly clean. Then we were 1<sup>st</sup> to run weekend site like always and then we went into Leavenworth Saturday for at scavenger hunt rec. trip. Then we headed for the same trail head on Sunday and hiked in 11 miles in 7 and one half hours. Then we ate went to bed and the end...E.F.

Tuesday: This week we are further down the Ingelles Creek Trail at blue crew's old camp site. We have a lot of brushing and water work to do. Today we hiked ½ mile uphill to go dig in the mud. Then later we all got into a mud fight that lasted a few hours and almost everyone, meaning all but Justin was covered head to toe in dirt. This was the funnest work day ever and Doug really did look like a Yeti all covered in mud..Anna

Wednesday: Our goals this week are as usual. Not to run out of food, not to get too wet, etc. Our work goals are to work hard and get as much as we can get done, done. All other random goals could be to get as dirty as we already are, but that should be easy. My gloves were cold this morning. The bees in my tent buzz noisily upwards and rest against the wall...Meridian P.

Thursday: This week we didn't really learn too much aside from the fact that Brandon is a cool person. We learned more about trail work, worked on a switch back and rolled a few rocks and logs. We moved camp 1 mile closer to the trail head. That makes for a lovely 9 mile hike out for re-supply and to the end of the session. I learned all about what big clean entails from a fun experienced member and looking forward to the end....Justin B.

Friday: Today was a great day. Brandon had us sleep in until 10:45, then he went around seeing who was awake and offering for us to do something after our day. Once everyone was up at camp, Brandon sent Anna and Nick away to

gather 70 pinecones. While they were gone he told us the rules for a game to have Anna and Nick make up a story about themselves without knowing. They were completely oblivious to the whole game. After that we played a few games of mafia and everyone went off doing their own thing. It was the best day ever until Doug came back from his day off...Justin T.

**National Forest: Wenatchee**  
**Ranger District: Leavenworth**  
**Project Name- Ingalls Creek Trail**

**Week 6: July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: We had quite an eventful weekend. Four of our crew members walked 9 miles on re-supply because we had eaten all of the food and they had a great adventure going on two store stops with phone calls, all well-deserved of course. The rest of us hiked a long but easy 4 miles to Red Crew, who were occupying our campsite from our previous project. There, some people started fun discussions and games before we all went and lazed by the nearby swimming hole. A few people including myself climbed the trail red crew had re-routed that now ended in a beautiful waterfall. When we returned, the re-supply groups had returned and much fun was had by all....

Tuesday: The last week at NYC felt like it was flying by. Yellow crew we are such incredible workers that we had once again run out of work for the day so we filled it with nice little “Jar of Breaks” and Conner’s tips on where to get all the fine ladies in Portland...Bethany

Wednesday: Today was not hard at all. We finished our last re-route and started on brushing. Then our contact Scott showed up, had a chat with Doug and Brandon, picked five of us to go with himself and Doug to learn how to crosscut properly. We hiked back to a re-route we had almost completed and cut pieces off of two logs. We rolled them off the trail and continued to the last project. A huge tree was in the trail and we had to cut it out and roll it off. Doug and Scott (did) most of the actual cutting but all of us were needed to fall it off the trail...Nick

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

My most challenging day at NYC was probably the first day of the program. I had no idea what was to happen throughout the next 6 weeks and was with complete strangers too...Kay Lynn C

The most challenging day for me was probably Tuesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. I was just along and hmmm I don’t know...Desi

My most challenging day was the 18-mile re-supply hike day. It was brutal...Meridan

My most challenging day was the 18 mile re-supply that four of us went on...Justin T.

My most challenging day was the 18-mile re-supply. I came close to leaving....Nick P

The hardest part of NYC was being accepting of slackers...Eric

The most challenging day I had at NYC was probably carrying two gnarly trash logs full of Hound's Tongue up a beastly hill that you could fight standing up straight....Bethany

My most challenging day was today. It was hard for me to walk two miles with a yellow top and a Pulaski at 5:00 in the morning the hike back was a lot harder. Plus getting rocks all day... Scott

Definitely my most challenging day was the hike in to our campsite on our second back country 10 miles is a very hard hike for almost anyone, especially with the tools. ...

My most challenging moment was not working on the day I was locked out and having to sit and watch my crew work for me....Anna R.

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

My 3 favorite NYC experiences were watching Nick, Eric and Justin become one with nature, the scavenger hunt Rec. trip, and getting to be part of the mellow yellow crew....Kay Lynn

My three favorite NYC experiences were: Living out in the woods, getting dirty and working hard, and sitting around with the crew...

My three favorite NYC experiences were reading poetry to my crew, playing cribbage with our project contact, and completing totally rad projects like a river ford and trail re-routes...

My three favorite experiences were the 3 days we woke up late and yelled at Doug...Justin

Getting to dress up with Eric and Justin, swimming and building trail...Nick

Living in the trees, not showering and still having friends, Doug's ridiculous songs...Bethany

Seeing mountains, making trail, destroying a bridge...Eric F.

The beautiful scenery, store stops, hanging with friends...Scott

The massive mud fight our crew had one day during work, napping with my crew while Meridan read us a whole book of poetry, When Nick and Eric dressed up in Pine tree branches and the girls braided flowers in their hair for a "formal dinner."...Anna R.

The people, the work, everything else....

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

I will always remember that three hour dinners are awesome and that Bethany is all stomach, she can eat her weight in food...Kaylynn

I will always remember how good it feels to accomplish something...Desi

I will always remember the beauty of the area we worked in...Mariden

I will always remember Doug singing in the morning...Justin

I will remember dress up dinner...W. P.

My first trip to Washington...Eric

I'll definitely remember how beautiful this part of the country is and how close you can get to complete strangers in six weeks...Bethany

My friends...

I will always remember our tooth brushing and snuggling parties...Anna

The beautiful places we worked

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

From now on I will always do my best at everything and try not to complain when things get tough....Kaylynn C.

From now on I will always try to respect people even those whom I don't like...Desi

From now on I will solve problems before they become too difficult...Meridan

Appreciate other people's knowledge...Nick

I will always respect trails and the people who made them...Eric

From now on I will never put on work boots again...Bethany B.

I will always remember how to make a ford...

I will always be thankful, for free time and running water that doesn't taste like hot dogs...  
Anna

I will always come back to NYC year after year

I will always be thankful for iodine in the wilderness (for water)...Justin T

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

At NYC I learned the closer you get to your tent mates the warmer you'll be, Anna has nice man muscles and the smallest people may surprise you with their beastly strength...KayLynn

I learned that the back country is not that scary, a mile isn't very far to walk and hard work isn't that hard...Desi

I learned tolerance focus and good self-image from the work projects...Meridan

I learned how to make a fire, how to cook and how to wake up early...Justin

I learned team work, tolerance, and better communication skills

I learned that I can hike 18 miles in 1 day...Eric F.

Lamb's era makes excellent toilet paper...Bethany

I learned that I can backpack out 10 miles...Scott

I learned how to tie some knots, push myself far beyond what I thought I could do, and how to make hard work fun...Anna

I learned more knots than tree weasels stuck in a peanut butter jar...