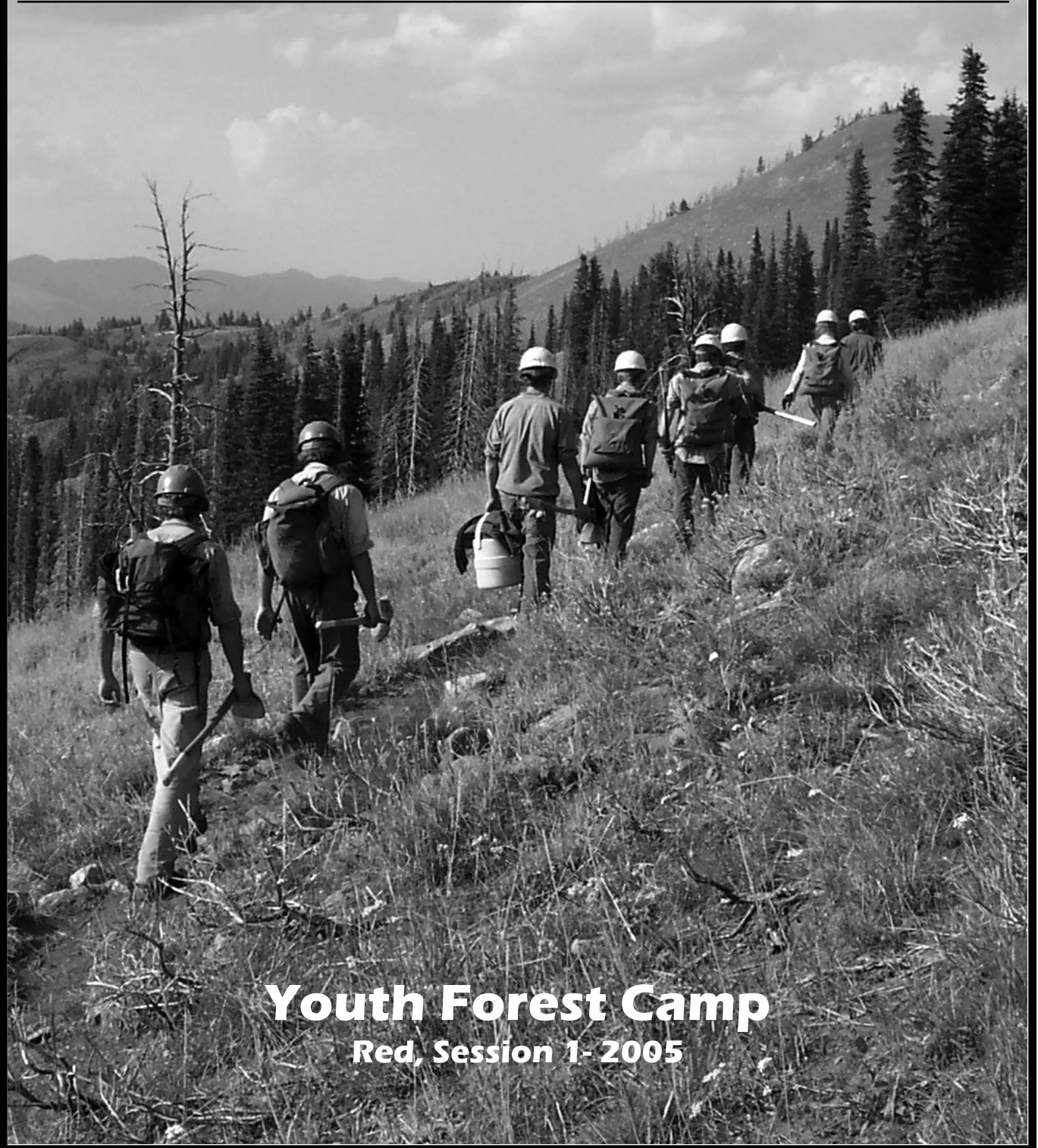




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camp
Red, Session 1- 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



**Rogue River National Forest
Prospect Ranger District
Project Name: Midden Removal**

Week 1: June 18 – June 25

Monday: Today was amazing! We woke up really early (7:00 am), it was freezing. We ate breakfast, did circle, the hardest part appeared before our eyes—we were hiking! Everybody tried hard and did their best. Then after hiking we dug around trees the whole day. The weather was amazing—it was not too hot nor too cold. We also had the advantage of being in shade the whole work period. After work we changed and went to see a bunch of lava rocks. – Katelyne W.

Tuesday: The Red Crew's first week project is removing midden. We are camping and working in the Rogue River National Forest. The exact location is 47201 Hwy. 62, Prospect, OR 97536. The area we are stationed at is beautiful. There is a meadow full of wild flowers and a forest filled with pines, Douglas firs, and some oaks, there is also a small spring flowing through camp. Our job is to remove gathered midden from around trees. The midden or Duff collects under trees and then the root system begins to work upward into the midden. The reason we remove the decomposing material is to prevent the tree rooting in it because if the tree roots in the midden it can more easily fall over or burn in a fire. After the trees are safe from

flammable Midden or Duff on the 36 acres we are to dig a fire line around the land.

Wednesday: Our goals included getting all of the duff out from under the trees, which we rocked!! Then we totally went into the fire line bump line, and dug the top line, raked it out, all that good stuff. Those were our physical goals and we did them awesomely. Mentally our goals were to practice leave no trace camping, practice a positive mental attitude, and have no discrimination. I feel another goal was to become very open with each other, which we practiced through our open conversations about our lives. –Emma W.

Thursday: The red crew learned today that you should not eat too much salt. We learned that it is possible to eat a whole bag of pretzels. We also learned that a bump line is very efficient. When smelling things from foreign containers, don't squeeze it. Baby scorpions are super scary. Be sure to dig your latrine deep enough for a whole week. Overall we learned how to be outstanding workers and excellent fire line diggers. –Ben H.

Friday: Our biggest challenge was trying to get along. All of us crewmembers have really strong personalities and at times we clash. It is difficult to live this tightly with 11 other people, but good at the same time. We were digging fire line around a huge plot of pine trees and the work was really hard. Some crew members had trouble hiking the hills while others had a hard time staying focused. Jon was really sick and used the bathroom every 5 minutes, Richard made us all eat a huge bag of pretzels until we all puked, and I had to eat a huge plate of beans and corn while everyone laughed at me. We accomplished so much this week. We finished our project a day early because we worked so fast and the contact had to search around for more for us to do. –Kazden I.

OPRD

Valley of the Rogue SP

Project Name- Valley of the Rogue State Park maintenance

Week 2: June 27 – July 2

Monday: This weekend was full of drama! Us four girls stayed close together pretty much at all times. The boys hung out with pretty much everybody J On Friday we did our laundry and a store stop and a lot of people called their loved ones. Saturday we woke up at 8:30, some earlier, and did chores, then split up into three groups of 10-13 and went on rec. trips. Then Saturday night we did a circle that was wonderful. Sunday we packed up to leave for our work sites and now we are there. –Katelyne D.

Tuesday: This week our project is building trail and laying gravel with bark. We are at Valley of the Rogue management unit. We are staying in a camp site. We have running toilets and showers. The reason why we are doing this project is because new maintenance needed to be done on a trail for people's use. –Ellen K.

Wednesday: Our goals (for the week) were to get to a point where we could get a quarter of the work done and not be too sun burnt, and to have fun through the day and help the environment. –Troy H.

Thursday: We learned so many awesome things this week and I love working for NYC more than anything in the world. The SEEDs were amazing and I love to hear all of the interesting comments by my fellow crewmembers. They are great and I love them all! We learned about map reading, the water cycle, geologic cycle and weathering, and the weather station. I will use these new skills, and hope that the crew does as well, for the rest of my life. NYC rocks. – Richard G.

Friday: We had to complete the gravel for the week. During the last hour our crew progressed towards the finish line, but one kid spoke out and said we can never get this done. Miraculously the crew boosted their progress at the last minute and finished our goal. Today the crew was grateful to take showers. Now we are at the campsite and Richard loves working on the Red Crew more than playing cards. –Richard G.

Rogue River National Forest
Prospect Ranger District
Project Name: Prospect OHV Trail Maintenance

Week 3: July 3 – July 9

Monday: This weekend we arrived at the weekend site at about 6:00pm. We got 2 new crew members—and Red Crew got one, John (Big John). We got to know each other and then woke up Saturday for breakfast and then went on the trips—Crater Lake, Natural Bridge, Lost Lake, and then some stayed at camp and went on a little trip half the time. Parents came and we had a wonderful dinner which Red Crew made. Kids said bye to parents and then had Saturday circle. After Saturday circle we went to bed. Woke up Sunday and moved base camp. And mail came Friday and we had dessert Saturday. Right ON! –Kazden I.

Tuesday: The Red Crew is on an OHV trail. We are cutting down bushes and removing them to the other side of the trees so that people can ride their horses and motor bikes and then they can enjoy the beautiful view, and they could also walk down the trail. The trail is about 6 miles long and very beautiful. It has a very beautiful view. –Ellen K.

Wednesday: Today was a day of unprepared adventures, like running over a sharp rock with a cairn afterwards. It took 2 hours to fix. Although most days there is the good and the bad. The good part was working very hard and trying to do so ecstatically. We went through some haggard bushes that we had to asunder with loppers, including some high branches we had to annihilate with the high-reach saws. We worked 6 ½ hours today and came back to the site to see our flipped upside down kitchen tent that had to exacerbate our problems even worse. We ate a good and delicious dinner that pleased the staff enough to give us free-time. We went to bed and slept well, thinking about the day ahead. –Jon M. (AKA, Mac Daddy)

Thursday: We learned how to work better as a team and compromise when something went wrong, and learned more about the woods, and to take time on our work, and to take ticks out of our arms, and get along with the new crew member, and do more push-ups [than ever] in my

life, and listen to the leaders more, and help everybody, and be more cooperative. –Troy H.

Friday: Our crew came very close to finishing our OHV trail that was just about the most beautiful trail I think our crew has worked on. Communication was one of our biggest challenges. I think we got over the fact that we had to move basecamp. We overcame our frustration with the ravaging of our camp. We had a very successful week and our contact was very happy with us. The hiking that we had to do I'm sure challenged some of us. We received our benchmarks and I think that gave some of us an idea of where we were at. Overall it was probably the most challenging project that our crew has had this session. We made it, however, and we are going to make it through another couple of weeks. –Ben H.

Jackson Country Parks and Recreation
Howard Prairie Park
Project Name: Howard Prairie Lake Trail

Week 4: July 10 – July 16

Monday: This weekend, on Friday we had to drive to Medford to get a new tire and do our laundry and store stop. After that we drove back to our weekend camp that we had been staying at all week. When we got there, everyone was there but us. We hurried to get dinner ready and dishes washed so we could get mail. After mail it was pretty late, so we had to go right to sleep. Saturday we woke up and went on the trips and came back to family and friends. We had a great dinner and a wonderful evening. We woke up Sunday to move camp again. And now we are here—Right ON! Keep on keepin' on. –Kazden

Tuesday: We are currently building and restoring a barbed wire fence around a sewage treatment plant. The Red Crew is at Klum Landing Willow Point. This week we will be building fences, basic barbed wire and T-post fences. Also we are doing fence maintenance. We have a few miles to build. Good communication will help. On Friday we will be working at Emmigrant Lakes Park. The reason why our crew is working on this project is it has to be done to keep people out of the sewer plant. “Always smile, because you never know who is falling in love with your smile.” –Katelyne

Wednesday: The Red Crew's goals for this week are to get along while working with each other, and also to get our job done. We could also grow to be better people if we get along. When we get along we can become good friends. RED = ROCK... yeah! –Ellen K.

Thursday: This week we learned how to repair a barbed wire fence. We learned how to use several new tools like a T-stake jack, a fence stretcher, and a stake pounder. We also learned how human waste is recycled by the U.S.S. Turd Wacker. We also learned to work around sewage and not get sick. We mastered the art of skipping rocks on a green pool of settling sewage. Among barbed wire and wicked tools, we learned more about each other and how to function together... and that Richard can say nice things about his crew and he can do 200 push-ups in a day! –Callie R.

Friday: A lot of our challenges were basic wire fence maintenance. We camped on a lake (Howard Prairie) and we got to swim every day. Abrei would tell us to be good or else we couldn't swim that day, and she wasn't shaming. We worked hard on the fence every day by stretching, tightening, cutting, and connecting. A really big accomplishment was having to deal with working next to a settling pond. It was disturbing. The week went by fast because it was too fun. We worked hard by improvement and I was appreciated by the crew leaders because of my improvement with working, SEED, attitude, and chores. –Jon M.

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

Week 5: July 17 – July 23

Monday: We came to our base camp, we were not last, not first, but we were there; and that is what mattered. Coming together not as 40 strangers, working in the same place, but as the youth who have become friends. We laughed as friends and left for our rec. trips. Relationships were formed and destroyed. Many things were said and kept inside. Whatever happens in the next week will surely decide what kinds of choices we will make for the rest of the summer. With these things to keep in mind I am sure that we will become the best people we can in these last seven days. This being my final entry I can now say “au revoir, goodbye and God-speed.” –John O-C

Tuesday: For our fifth and final week we were camped in the Fremont. The country was beautiful. Our work project was to maintain a trail and then build some new trail. We also stacked rock and dead burnt wood from an old fire. The views were absolutely amazing from Fremont Point. Now with the new trail we built, people can come and enjoy the view too. The old burnt timber we stacked so it can be burnt and new vegetation can grow. –Callie R.

Wednesday: The Red Crew's goal was to get our project done, work hard, have fun, and be ourselves. We had to work nine hours a day so it was really hard. So we just had to keep our cool and stay hydrated and get the project done. We met our goal and finished our lovely project. –Katelyne

Thursday: We learned that birds are cool, and the history of the Fremont from the Native Americans to now. We saw things from ten thousand years ago and coins found from Fremont. We learned that you get very dirty working on trail in the Fremont and not washing off. We learned that when we put our minds together, anything is possible. –Kazden

Friday: The Red Crew's challenge was to finish the trail. We did well. Our crew split up into 2 teams so that we could get done faster. Some of us made the trail and then the other half put rocks along the trail. We also worked as a team so that we could get the job done faster. We did a good job, Red Crew. –Ellen

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was going up and down steep hills, also working for a long period of time in boots. Ellen K.

During the second week I was challenged by misfortunes. Our site and work brought the energy of the whole crew to a low. I was challenged to remember the positive views and keep on keepin' on. Callie R.

My most challenging day at NYC would be the first Saturday. I have already gone through one orientation already. It was very frustrating for me because, well, I already knew everything. Ben H.

My most challenging day was the day I had a migraine and I was sick, and then we had a long day. It was hard because I felt like I was going to die! Kazden I.

My most challenging moment of the day was to not get in a fight with a kid in base camp. Troy H.

My most challenging day was the frustration that followed moving base camp, setting it up, taking it down again. We couldn't get things right and had to keep moving things around. It was a very frustrating day. Emma W.

My most challenging day here at NYC was the first work day, climbing the hill. Katelyne W.

My most difficult days were when people could not cook properly and when people did not cut vegetables right. Richard S-G.

My hardest day (or at least one of my hardest days) was the first day where we had to clear duff from Ponderosa pines. It was mostly aggravating and tiring because it was the first day of the whole session. Jon M.

Challenging? Each day was better than the previous. Even today it was as though my heart would swell a new size for each new breath was a greater experience than the last. Johnny O-C.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

My three favorite NYC experiences were working on the trail, not taking showers for a week, and hanging out with my crew after work. Ellen K.

I have had uncountable times that amazed me at NYC. A few of the most memorable events were seeing Crater Lake, views from work sites, swimming and having mud fights, and the night sky. Callie R.

First was eating that whole bag of pretzels with the crew; second was seeing Crater Lake and Mt. Thielsen; and third would have to be when we worked next to the sewage plant. Ben H.

Three of my favorite NYC experiences were the awesome views, the cool places I've gone to the bathroom, and meeting all the cool people! Kazden I.

My three favorite NYC experiences were UNO—the amazing views he had at our worksites; DOS—the mud fight we had; TRES—3rd day we had straightening fence and playing with the tools. Emma W.

...climbing the hill 3rd week, getting to know everybody, and learning to build a barbed wire fence. Katelyne W.

...cooking, sleeping, eating. Richard S-G.

One was getting to see my Homie my 2nd weekend store stop. Second was camping up at Howard Prairie (next to my hometown) and having mud fights there/swimming. Third was eating a bag of pretzels/handful of salt /laughing. Jon McC.

My tres favorite experiences were (1) the most hard core group ever, (2) the first catch phrase I learned at NYC, and (3) squirting the world with the dreaded mystery sandwich. All of these experiences, and more, make me who I am and I am proud of it. Johnny O-C.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

The one thing I will remember is being with my crew. We always picked on each other and it was fun and funny. Ellen K.

I will always remember the fun times and hard times that I shared with my crew. When this is all over, I will hold all of these memories very dear. Johnny O-C.

I will always remember the way people cook, because they rule at cooking. I also will remember the strange people at NYC. Richard S-G.

I will always remember my crew leader Abrei Cloud. Her spirit and joyous laughter will always remain in my thoughts and her inspiring conversations have helped me grow as a person. Callie R.

I will always remember the fun I have had and all the cool views I have had. Ben H.

I will always remember the mud fights and my wonderful friends I made. Emma W.

I will always remember my new friends and my crew leader and rovers! Katelyne W.

From Now On I Will Always...

I will always appreciate a warm meal for the fact that I always had to prepare so many. I will appreciate being able to always have somebody to talk to. And I will always be fond of the memories I will have from my times at NYC. Johnny O-C.

I will always help others and also cook a great meal for my friends and family, and treat others the way they want to be treated. Ellen K.

I will try my best to be impeccable with my word. Callie R.

I will always be less judgmental! Ben H.

...be more aggressive when making dinner, and be more conservative. Kazden I.

From now on, I will always remember the experience and friendships I made and will always be prepared for future surprises. Jon McC.

From now on I am not going to judge people before I know them, and put 100% into everything. Katelyne W.

From now on I will always never wear underwear and I will always remember the time I experienced in the woods. Emma W.

At NYC I Learned...

The three things I learned are how to do trail, also about the weather and wildlife, and I also learned how to be a good role-model. Ellen K.

At my time at NYC I learned how to better communicate with both nature and people. I also learned that I don't know everything yet. Johnny O-C.

During my NYC experience I learned and grew immensely. I grew as a person learning how I function in a community and about my reactions toward people. I also learned a lot about working hard and developing new skills. NYC also allowed me to expand my knowledge of the environment. Callie R.

...to be less judgmental; how to make a sweet pizza; and to have more patience. Ben H.

I learned what a Pulaski actually is. I learned how to deal with the same people for 5 weeks. I learned how to cook a turkey. Emma W.

Ben taught me how to properly tie a knot. Richard S-G.

I learned amazing new things, how to keep a positive attitude, and how to share. Katelyne W.

At NYC, I learned how to work harder and believe in my skills more confidently. I also learned how to cook better (frying meat). Jon McC.