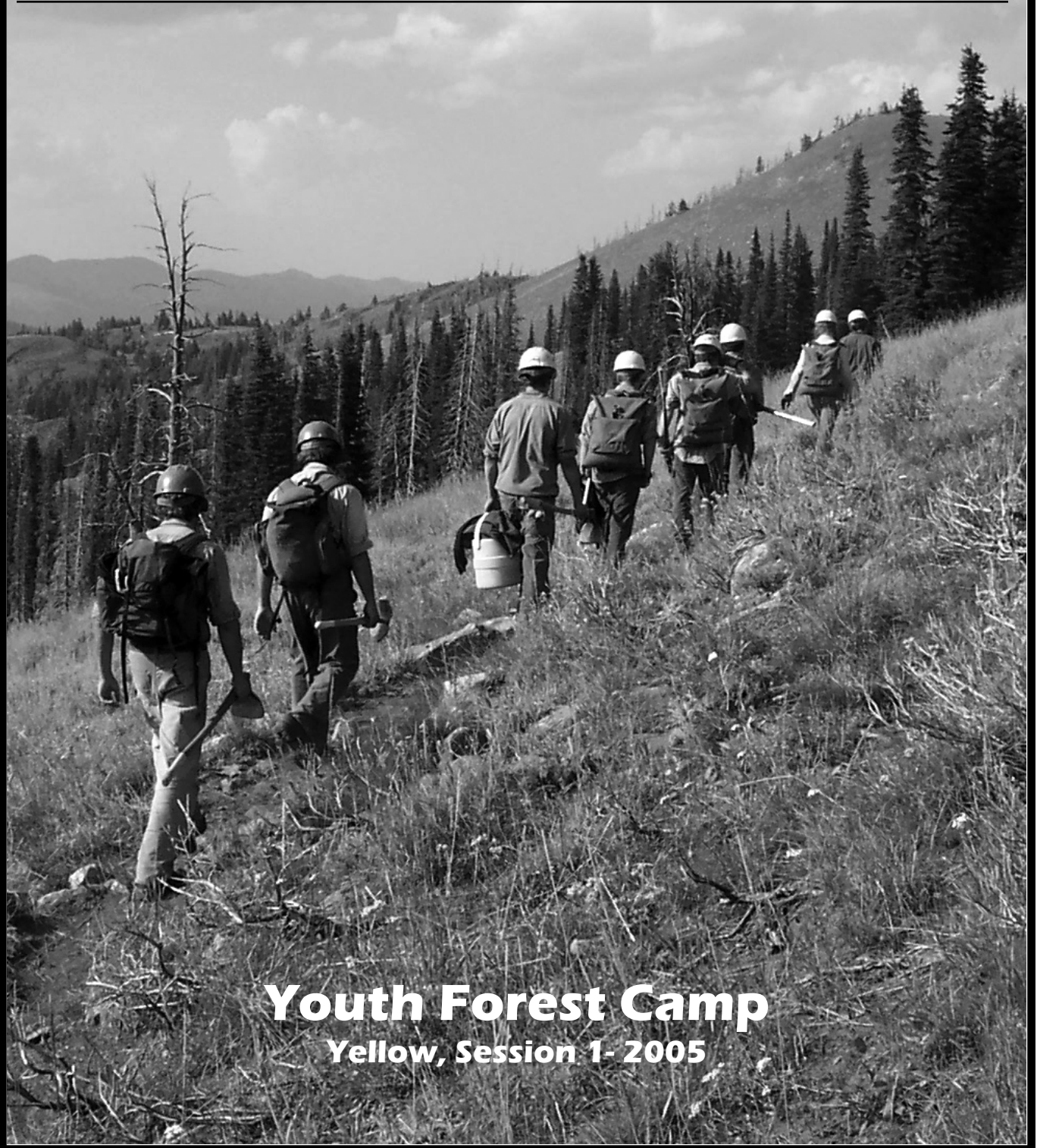




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camp
Yellow, 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".

Joe Waksmundski
Program Manager



**Rogue River National Forest
Prospect Ranger District
Project Name: Rogue River Trail**

Week 1: June 18-25

Monday: This weekend we met the group we would spend the next 5 weeks with. 5 weeks is a long time, 1/10 of a year. After we all met, we went to a store stop in the small town of Prospect. Some people got nice sweaters at a 2nd hand store for only 25 cents. Bill got a keyboard for the same price. At first it sounded really annoying, but he quickly got better with it. The session is off to a smooth start and we all get along. –Walter P.

Tuesday: Today, yellow crew braved the roaring river to reach our destination. Our project this week is to maintain the Rouge River Trail for hikers and horses alike. Today, we continued to dig the trail across the river, lopping as we went. We had a productive day throwing dirt, sawing branches and chopping trees. –Liz C.

Wednesday: The first week at NYC has more than 1 goal by myself and the rest of yellow crew. I want to just see if I really want to stick around. As I see it two (crew members) want to get strong quick, two more because their small towns almost choked them, three more have nothing better to do, three people want to become more intoned with the forest, and the last two

wanted to escape something or someone. These views are only based on what I've observed. Those goals are mostly longer stretched than a week. I think for just this week everyone wants to stay warm, dry, and full, but mostly just to complete their jobs quickly and efficiently while slacking off and wasting time. –Allen G.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to use a variety of new tools. Our crew also learned the names of the plants in the area. Our crew has learned how to maintain trails made for horses which takes a lot of brushing. –Naomi G.

Friday: As it is our first week, Yellow Crew has experience many new situations for those who are attending for their first time. Since we are still learning we've had to overcome challenges ranging from blisters to logs across the trails to basic inner-crew efficiency. Over our short time here we've found most of these can be overcome with understanding, communication and a little bit of duct tape. As it turns out, this is pretty much our biggest accomplishment: working together with minimal conflict to solve our problems. We've gotten off on the right foot and hopefully we will continue to be functional in the coming weeks.

Rogue River National Forest
Butte Falls Ranger District
Project Name: Rogue River Campground Maintenance

Week 2: June 27-July 2

Monday: This past Saturday all the crews came together at basecamp except for Blue crew who is still in backcountry. After hearing all the horror stories about weekend sites, I decided that everybody is full of it. After Saturday came Sunday and everybody was in a rush to get to their new locations for the week and Yellow Crew, being the best, was the first crew to leave. After unloading and setting up camp our crew leader, Casey, took us to town for gas. Later that night we lost a crew member for who knows when, but hoping he'll be back soon. –Derek G.

Tuesday: This week our project is to cut down trees, branches that are invading the trail, and make new barbed wires that are broken. We did barbed wire maintenance. We clean up campsites, we chopped up wood into small pieces. We gathered trees into a big pile to make it look clean. We cleaned out a camp lodge (and) cleaned out the Ash from a fire pit. –Rashauna S.

Wednesday: Today, 2 days before and after our crew hopes to have the best week ever while working hard and trying not to miss Walter too much. So far we are fixing fences, maintaining some campgrounds and natural phenomena's. Everyone is trying to maintain high spirits even though we have to suffer through good weather and great food. Since Walt is gone we have to work a little longer and eat lots more. The End. –Allen G.

Thursday: This week's location for yellow crew was a bit out of the ordinary. We were a little surprised when we drove out of the trees to see a small house in a big field with a porta-potty nearby. At first, we were amazed at our luck even though, being fabulous and hard core, we had to set up tents anyway. Still, it seemed to be good fortune. We realized after the outhouse

took on a personality of its own that our preconceived comfort was in fact, a nightmare. The house was off limits and therefore no fun. By the end of the week we realized that stepping out of a tent every morning after a good night's sleep in a warm sleeping bag to see the sun beams shining through the fog was much better than seeing it out a window. We also made a beautiful latrine complete with a seat and an awesome view. Who needs walls when the wide world is your home?

Friday: This week Yellow Crew accomplished many jobs in the Butte Falls Ranger District. We worked with our contact every day and learned many things about forest management in recreation sites. Our group managed to work at 4 campgrounds, 1 guest house, 1 forest campground, and 3 recreation sites.

Our biggest accomplishment was working as a team to get the job done. We were challenged as a crew by personality differences among crew members, but we talked through our problems Thursday night and agreed to try harder to get along and communicate. –Casey M.

Fremont National Forest
Lakeview Ranger District
Project Name: Lakeview Trail Maintenance

Week 3: July 3-9

Monday: As far as the weekend goes, any crew would agree that it's a much-appreciated time for relaxation. Rec. trips are fun, but the average crew member is just looking for a beautiful spot to sit down and do nothing. This weekend all crews chose between Lost Lake, Crater Lake, the Natural Bridge, or just chilling at basecamp. Everyone also got a chance to go on a town trip to use phones and eat food without having to prepare it first. It was a well-deserved break from the work week and we'll all be looking forward to the next one. –Liz C.

Tuesday: We are at Lakeview. We are reforming the trail for a bike marathon later this summer. We are working 8 hours a day. We are on a roll... we started off slow because we had to drive over 5 hours to get to camp, and then we forgot something so we had to drive 90 miles to the nearest town and 90 back and we got to bed at 10:00pm, and we had to get up at 6:00am and start work at 6:30am. So far our crew has gotten along pretty well. –Jessica H.

Wednesday: Among Yellow Crew's various goals, a couple of them are to withstand the swarming mosquito infestation and to locate our secondary work site. An accomplishment that we as a crew had achieved was re-treading and laying down fresh dirt for a mountain bike track. Another goal met was the installation of 22 excellent rolling dips to re-route water flow. YELLOW! –Bill R.

Thursday: My crew learned that you can use cow poop to cook with. It holds heat so that you don't have to use wood or gas. We also learned the stages of the trees and sage scares mosquitoes. –Don S.

Friday: Today we started building rip-raps but the crew calls them “rock walls.” Since today was our first day on this project, nobody on the crew was prepared for the work. After lifting, rolling, pushing, pulling, and the occasional dropping of rocks all day, the crew was pretty much completely worn-out. Tired and dirty, the crew still managed to get along for the most part. YELLOW!

**Fremont National Forest
Lakeview Ranger District
Project Name: Lakeview Trail Maintenance**

Week 4: July 10-16

Monday: Since we are out for two weeks, we did not go to basecamp. Instead, we hung out, ate ramen burritos, and played Mafia with each other. Also a lot of sleep was caught up on. – Bill R.

Tuesday: Our project is hard, but it is really fun and a good upper-body workout. You have to work as a team because a lot of the rocks we are moving weigh 2x as much as we do. WE are moving the rocks to make a rock wall to stop erosion from the snow melt. We are doing all this work on the Lakeview Trail system in the Fremont National Forest. –Brian L.

Wednesday: Our crew’s goals for this week are to complete all the projects given to us by our contact, Larry. So far this week our crew has built a rock wall, made stream crossings, and re-constructed a small portion of trail. –Naomi G.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to make riprap. We also learned how to make stream crossings. I have been away from my crew for 2 weeks, so I do not know what the crew as a whole has learned, if anything. But I have learned that being in nature is cool no matter how your relations with the people around you are going. –Walter P.

Friday: Our goal was to make trail, a little stream crossing, and a rock wall. We worked hard to complete the wall for the trail not to be eroded and we also had challenges with other people in our crew trying to get through the day without fighting. We did pretty good ‘til Thursday and Friday. Blah blah... –Don S.

**Rogue River National Forest
Prospect Ranger District
Project Name: Upper Rogue River**

Week 5: July 17-23

Monday: On Saturday our crew woke up at 7:00 because we had a long drive ahead of us. After our long drive, we finally arrived at basecamp and we all were excited to see our friends who we hadn’t seen for two weeks. On Sunday we left for our new work site and got lucky

waiting for hours, thanks to a flat tire. We can't wait to see how the week unfolds. –Derek

Tuesday: This week the Yellow Crew is doing trail maintenance on the Upper Rogue River Trail. It is grand. Also our contact, Chris, is the bomb-diggity. –Bill R.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal for the first 3 days of this week is to maintain a ten-mile trail that will be used for a horse race. Our goals for Thursday and Friday are to have as much fun as we can during our last 2 full days together as a crew. –Naomi G.

Thursday: Our crew has learned that dehydration is no laughing matter, and it can be very serious and dangerous. Our crew has also learned how to make rock water bars and to make and maintain bridges. This week we learned how to act in an emergency situation and that the people in Prospect are extremely nice and generous. –Naomi G.

Friday: Our crew has been through a gauntlet of challenges, from a popped tire to a corps-member quitting. Nonetheless, the Yellow Crew will dominate the final week and push out all the mandatory hours. –Bill R.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Probably the first day, leaving all I knew, and adapting to a new lifestyle. Bill R.

My most challenging day at NYC was probably the first day of work, because I was so out of shape. Brian L.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first. Allen G.

My most challenging day at NYC was today, July 20th, Wednesday of the last week, because of a long work day, 10 miles of walking, and a crewmember quitting. Walter P.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day because I was more out of shape than I thought. Derek G.

Today (see Walt's) because of the hiking and heat. My feet have never hurt so bad. Liz C.

Today was my most challenging day at NYC because we had to hike 10 miles to work an 8-hour day. Naomi G.

My most challenging day was when I met two of my crewmembers that I didn't like. Don S.

My most challenging days was leaving my home, my beautiful most loving mother, and then coming to somewhere I didn't even know anyone, anything about the wilderness, insects, using the bathroom outside, sleeping outside, and everything else. I'm not a wilderness person. Rashauna S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Losing Nalgene in wood chipper, being obnoxiously dehydrated, and enjoying beautiful scenery. Bill R.

Eating three pounds of shepherd's pie in one meal, showering after the first week of work, and going on a recreational trip to Crater Lake. Allen G.

Meeting my wonderful crew leader CASEY, coming to the first weekend site with all the crews, building the huge rock wall that we built. Brian L.

Getting back to NYC after 2 weeks of being separated; getting to know my crew, crew leader Casey, and rovers; hanging out with all the awesome people of NYC. Walter P.

Rolling big rocks down the hill to help build the rip-rap, meeting my crew leader Casey and all the awesome rovers, and spending time with all of my crewmates and friends. Derek G.

Getting back after our 10-mile hike, knowing everyone's name on the weekend site and making friends because of it, and Hillbilly Heaven and all the awesome people and places we encountered in the woods and civilization. Liz C.

Sitting in the van after hiking 10 miles, buying a 25-cent GAP sweater at Hillbilly Heaven, and swimming at basecamp during the weekend site. Naomi G.

Cutting down a big pine tree, getting stronger, and going to Crater Lake and swimming in the water. Don S.

Getting to know my wonderful rover Benjamin Beck, especially during his wonderful PH (personal history); enjoying some of the foods that I eat at home—I got to eat them at camp, but nothing is better than home cooking; and I loved talking to the paramedic in Prospect, she was so nice. I am interested in majoring in Nursing after high school. So Pat the paramedic told me a lot of helpful information that could help for my future. Rashauna S.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember to bring plenty of water when I go hiking. Allen G.

I will always remember to keep my shoes tied tight. Bill R.

I will not always remember the times I had, but the people I met. Brian L.

I will always remember the beautiful work sites and the people I met. Derek G.

I will remember the value of nature. Walter P.

I will always remember all the people on my crew. Naomi G.

I will remember what it's like to live in the woods and work hard. Liz C.

I will always remember my crew, rovers, crew leader, and friends in other crews also. Don S.

I will remember all the cows, horses, and the deer that I got to see on road trips and trampling through our camping area. I think they're so beautiful. Rashauna S.

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always stop and think before I throw a piece of trash in the bushes or out the window. Allen G.

Check for bed bugs. Bill R.

Try to get out into nature as much as I can. Walter P.

Respect and learn more about trees. Derek G.

I will always try foods before I knock them. Brian L.

Notice the quality of the trails I hike on. Liz C.

Appreciate home-cooked meals. Naomi G.

I will always be able to work independently. Rashauna S.

From now on I will appreciate toilets and toilet paper. Don S.

At NYC I Learned...

At NYC I learned that no matter where you come from—Big City or small—you can still get along with others as long as you want to. Brian L.

Never underestimate a pocket knife, stay hydrated, change oil when needed. Bill R.

I learned the comforting power of nature, the awesomeness of a hog hoe, and to be careful how you act when the people around you are on edge. Walter P.

At NYC I learned to stay neutral in conflict, to eat the first helping of dinner wildly as to get seconds, and to keep a neat and organized living space. Allen G.

At NYC I learned about nature, especially trees; I also learned the importance of teamwork and the importance of respecting not only yourself but others, too. Derek G.

At NYC I learned how to live in a communal living situation, how to work as a team, and to eat a lot of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Naomi G.

Some of the most normal everyday things can be appreciated. Liz C.

If you pray hard enough, some people will leave; to have patience with people; and to push myself to the best of my abilities. Don S.

I learned that I can do anything I set my mind to if I just say I can do it, and just believe that Jesus Christ sent me here for a reason, because he knew that I can do this. He knew that it would make my mama happy. Rashauna S.