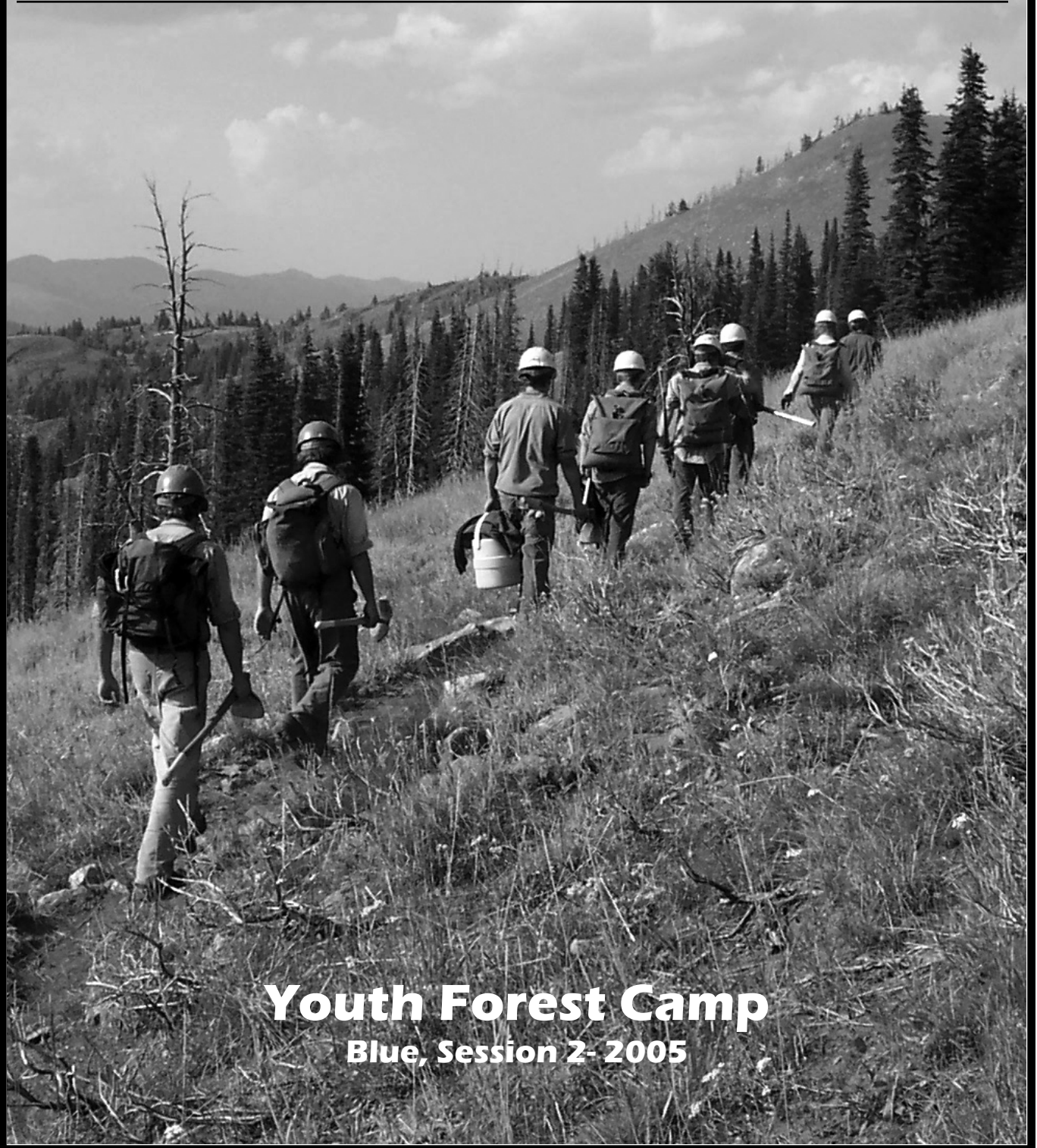




# Crew Journal



**Youth Forest Camp**  
**Blue, Session 2- 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



**Willamette National Forest  
Sweet Home Ranger District  
Project Name- Daly Lake Trail**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: This weekend the crew met at the best camp site that we have ever seen. We started work. We had the first safety circle. We talked about the OSHA called general laborer. We met other people at the basecamp. We did a lot on the trail. We went at least 1/3 of the way around the pond. –Zach P.

Tuesday: Today we had the great privilege to create another burrow hole and fill an erosion block up. We then cleared a trail 'til we hit a small stream. Here we built a few stepping stones into the water. Just beyond this point we built stairs into a steep slope. The rest of the work day was filled with cutting and cleaning trails. The rest of the week will be filled with the same. We expect to do about a mile and a half in the next 3 days. –John

Wednesday: We had to wake up at 5:15am this morning, all because “Erik” had the wrong camp so we had to move all the stuff to a different site. But other than that, Erik and I got those steps put in and Kara and I got a lot of trail work done and when we got back we had to set up camp. Then we went swimming, and now we are about to eat dinner. So love, peace, and chicken grease. –L.J. Davis

Thursday: We learned what teamwork really means. We learned a lot about Kara and her PH. The crew grows closer everyday and with every project. We also learned that singing songs helps us work faster. We finally got Erik and Kara to go swimming. For Those About to Rock We Salute You! – Chris H.

Friday: For Week One the crew was slaying trail dragons at optimum Week One speed. We were caught in the labyrinth of Daly Lake with the help of Gandalf the Gray, a.k.a. Brian, our contact. The trail needed mucho trabajo and we spent most of our time slaying the berm gnomes and the hinge goblins. Other than trail work our crew was plagued by an awful wambulance pixie who instigated the “pass me the magic stick first” debauchery. However, the crew held down on the pixie’s advances and fixed their magic passing skills quarrel. Overall we built the positive polly fairies new stream crossings so their white booties did not get dirty when their wings are not flitting. Week One down, but the magical adventures of Blue Crew are beginning to heat up and folks are starting to pick their own paths through the perilous NYC fight. –Erik the Blue

**Willamette National Forest  
Sweet Home Ranger District  
Project Name- Daly Lake Trail**

**Week 2: August 7 – August 13**

Monday: On Saturday, some of us slept in but Mike layed on me and it was scary for me. After we were all up and ate breakfast, we went to a store and bought some stuff. We called family and friends for a dollar. We went to a swimming hole and caught 30 crayfish. On Sunday we worked 4 hours, and finished cutting the trail. PS—first story was Sat. –Ray C.

Tuesday: On Monday, we worked a 7-hour day and had a lot of fun because we started a new project. We started pulling stumps and boulders, and finished brushing trail. All together we had a load of fun because of all the team effort we put in together. –Mike J.

Wednesday: Our goal for the week is to cut a handicap-accessible trail to the camp sites by the lake. We are building retaining walls, cutting huge stumps and roots, digging out huge rocks and putting culverts in. Our other goals are to get the total hours for the second week in a row. We are also trying to get Erik to like System of a Down and other modern rock bands. –Chris H.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to use the cross-cut. We learned how to flatten the trail. We learned that if we are nice to Erik he is nice to us. We learned how not to make people mad because it happens easy. We are a bunch of angry teenagers. When we play games people get hurt easily when they run. Games are fun. –Brandon B./Ducky

Friday: This week our crew faced several challenges. We had to move a big stump and it took several days of work but the contact finally busted out the chainsaw and got the job done. We also finished the trail around the lake, so that was pretty cool. We had to dig up a bunch of new trail to make it wheelchair-accessible, so that was pretty challenging. We got some of the trail done but it’s still got a long way to go, so hopefully they send some other crew on the next 2 week assignment here because it would suck if we had to come back. All in all it was a pretty good week and we got a good amount done, and I am way happy to be 40% done with the thing. Yeah yeah. –Mike Schlottig

**Willamette National Forest  
Sweet Home Ranger District  
Browder Ridge Trail**

**Week 3: August 14 – August 20**

Monday: Today we got up around 7:30. I'm pretty sure that we were scheduled to get up at about 6:30 or 7:00 but I think Molly and all of the leaders were being nice and let us sleep in a little longer. That was nice but then we were supposed to get to all of the vans by eight with all of our bags and stuff, but we didn't get up there until 8:45. I don't think Molly was too happy about that. But LJ got the puppy award, that was pretty cool. Then to top the day off we got out of base camp first and found the right camp after a dank store stop. –David P.

Tuesday: Our project is to clean trail and build switchbacks so it won't be so hard to climb the hill. We are at Browder Ridge, which is a nice place [with a] good view of the Sisters and lots of trees and mountains. We are cleaning the trail. It is pretty challenging. There are a lot of rocks and roots to take out. –Zach P.

Wednesday: Hey yo what up crew, it me LJ. I had an awesome day because we got to hike up a big hill and we got to jump Jay last night, and after that happened. And me and the tank "Erik McAwhatever" got to tell riddles, it was sweet. Then we got in trouble because we were late. –LJ

Thursday: This week we had the exciting privilege to learn about plants. We learned that different breeds grow differently in different places. We learned about succession. It was very exciting and educational. We dug trail on a mountain and the view was amazing. We have dug through rocks, dirt, top soil, and vegetation. We did very well and improved our trail making and were commended. Things are going better and we all feel good about this project. –Joshua Spencer

Friday: The biggest challenge was climbing up a really steep hill, on the first two days. After that it got easier every day. We accomplished many things: we doubled our trail digging speed, we grew stronger as a crew, we all lost a little weight, and we overcame a near crisis situation when Brandon Butler, who is allergic to bees, was stung. "What you eat today may burn you tomorrow." –Chris Hanratty. "Erik had a cat but his neighbor stole her. He'd have shot him with an AK but the kick hurts his shoulder, he can't pop it, he's got weak" –Chris H.

**Willamette National Forest  
Sweet Home Ranger District  
Browder Ridge Trail**

**Week 4: August 21 – August 27**

Monday: [This weekend,] Our crew first had a store stop, then we headed to base camp and had fun with all the other crews. We had fun swimming while Mike Johnson went rafting. –Mike Johnson

Tuesday: Our project this week is building switchbacks and renewing trail. We are trying to finish the trail. We are having a hard time at work, but we are having fun sometimes, besides the arguing. It stinks that we fight all the time. –Brandon B.

Wednesday: For this week our crew has several goals. One is to finish the trail that leads to the junction. Another goal for our crew this week is to perfect the switchbacks that we have started on, which requires us to make the turnarounds large enough for horses to reverse direction in. Also our goal is to just work hard and stay positive during not only the workday but chores as well because that is definitely not our strong suit. –Mike S.

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to handle a lot of hard stuff. The hardest one was having Josh leave our crew. It was like having a member of your family leave you. The other hard thing was to learn how to get all of our chores done, which never happened and probably never will happen. Well, I guess the good news is that there's only one week left. We were all hoping that our whole crew would finish the thing together, but now that Josh is gone, I guess that we can't. –David P

Friday: This week our challenges were taking out a stump and redoing a climbing corner. We took out the stump after 2 days. We fixed the climbing corner. This stuff was very boring and not that challenging. We chased squirrels up trees. We got stung by bees when we hit the nests. That was fun because I like to see everyone run. It took us 2 hours to do our dinner and chores. –Zach P.

**Willamette National Forest**  
**Detroit Ranger District**  
**Project Name- 8 Lakes Basin Trail**

**Week 5: Date: Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Monday: Our crew did several things this weekend. We worked a short day on Friday and got a store stop. On Saturday we went for a hike and went swimming. Then we went to KFC and grubbed down. Saturday at basecamp we played steal Tim's fish and that was pretty fun. Sunday we did our hike in and it wasn't bad...Mike S.

Tuesday: My group's project is to maintain trail. We are at Marion Lake in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness. The thing we are doing is cleaning up the trail and brushing. We are doing it because it is our job and the forest fire that went through in the past hurt the trail...R.

Wednesday: Some of our goals for the week were getting to Duffy lake from Marion lake that is about 6 and a half miles. Then we were moving a little slow so we made a new goal, we have to go 3 ½ miles to make some good time. We only have one more day to meet our goal and we are almost there, we have about ½ mile before we get done....

Thursday: We learned about carrying capacity in SEED on Tuesday and on Wednesday we learned about the concepts of global warming and the green house effect. We also met Art Pope and learned about how and why he started NYC. We all learned about back country cooking and a lot about how to survive in the back country...Chris H.

Friday: My crew's challenges were to get to Jenny lake on the trail work. Then Molly came we went to Jenny lake and started back to where we left off on the trail. It took 2 days to do that on the 9 second day we made it. Then Erik and I worked on the brushing and finished that. We got to swim after we finished the trail. We got to meet Art Pope which was cool...Zach P.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was getting up at five o'clock in the morning...Zach

The most challenging day I had at NYC was the day we hiked in for backcountry. We had to climb a slight grade 3 miles with up to 80lbs. of weight it was also considerably hot....Joshua

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be when we camped at Daily Lake and had to cross cut a "Huge" tree then lift it up about 3 ½ feet with only people, but once we got it done we felt really good...LJ

My most challenging day at NYC was when my buddy Josh got fired because he was a really good worker and losing him made things a lot tougher...Mike S.

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day when I met everyone at basecamp...Mike J.

My most challenging day at NYC is finding out I had to go back country

My most challenging day at NYC was the first day at camp with blue crew because I didn't know many people...Raymond

My most challenging day was the first day at Browder Ridge....Chris H.

My most challenging day was the first day at Browder Ridge...David P.

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

I had a lot of good experiences while at NYC but my three favorite ones are: working at Daily Lake. While I was there I got to learn a whole lot of things. The ones I thought were the best are getting to help some on a French drain, getting to make a rock retaining wall pretty much by myself and getting to take out a huge rock. My second experience would have to be going whitewater rafting on a rec. trip. I've been rafting once before, but I was really young so I don't remember it a whole lot but this time was the best. I'll have to say that my third favorite experience would have to be meeting all of the new people that I've met so far...David P.

My three favorite NYC experiences are getting to go whitewater rafting, using a log as a boat and getting to go backcountry...Brandon B.

My three favorite NYC experiences are the project at Day Lake, the project at Browder Ridge and the Marion bike project...Michael J.

My three favorite NYC experiences were going on the whitewater rafting trip...Mike S.

My three favorite NYC experiences were working at Daily Lake, whitewater rafting, and working with Blue Thunder!...Chris H.

My three favorite experiences at NYC were building rock walls, hiking, and building trail...LJ Davis

My favorite experience was at Browder Ridge building trail and in backcountry....Raymond

My favorite experience was in week 5 when Sam, Mikulak, and Mike chugged some honey.  
..J.S

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

One thing I'll always remember is when me and Eric cross cut a log like 5 times and it was still snagged...Mike S.

One thing I will always remember at NYC is having to use the stupid stove for backcountry....Brandon

One thing I will always remember is how I felt after our 3 mile hike into the back country..JS

One thing I will always remember is my awesome friends and crew members...Michael J.

One thing I will always remember is some of the cool friends I met...Michael J

One thing I will always remember is that I will never forget the hard work I've done here... Zach P.

The one thing I will always remember will be the good inspirational speech that Stormy gave that helped us pull together...Chris H.

One thing I will always remember is taking out the gigantic rock at Daly Lake...David P.

I will always remember Erik M. Kara and Def...Sam because they are the coolest....LJ

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

From now on I will always remember how to use nature wipe to it's full potential...B

From now on I will always remember how much I hate granola

From now on I will always work harder in life...Michael J.

From now on I will strive to know more about the environment and what effects it...Joshua S.

From now on I will be a leader wherever I go...LJ

From now on I will be more responsible in life...David P.

From now on I will always appreciate the outdoors more and I will appreciate a good hiking trail...Chris H.

I will always respect the forest from now on. I will always keep camp clean when I got out to the woods. I will remember what to use as nature wipe...Raymond

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

At NYC I learned how to do trail maintenance, I also learned how to be a better cook, and how to cook over a propane stove...Brandon B

I learned how to build trail, build retaining walls, how to deal with people I don't get along with for extended periods of time...Mike S.

At NYC I learned a lot about town work and friendship. I also learned a lot about myself which I think is really cool...Chris H.

At NYC I learned how to work as a (team). I learned not to put the ax in the dirt because it will dull it. I learned how to cook in a dutchy like cooking brownies, learned to be a team...Zach P.

At NYC I learned to build a bomb trail, make good friends, and build rock retaining wall plus French drain...LJ

I've learned a lot of things while at NYC but one thing that I've learned that I'll use more than the others is how to cook a lot of good food from scratch...Marine G.