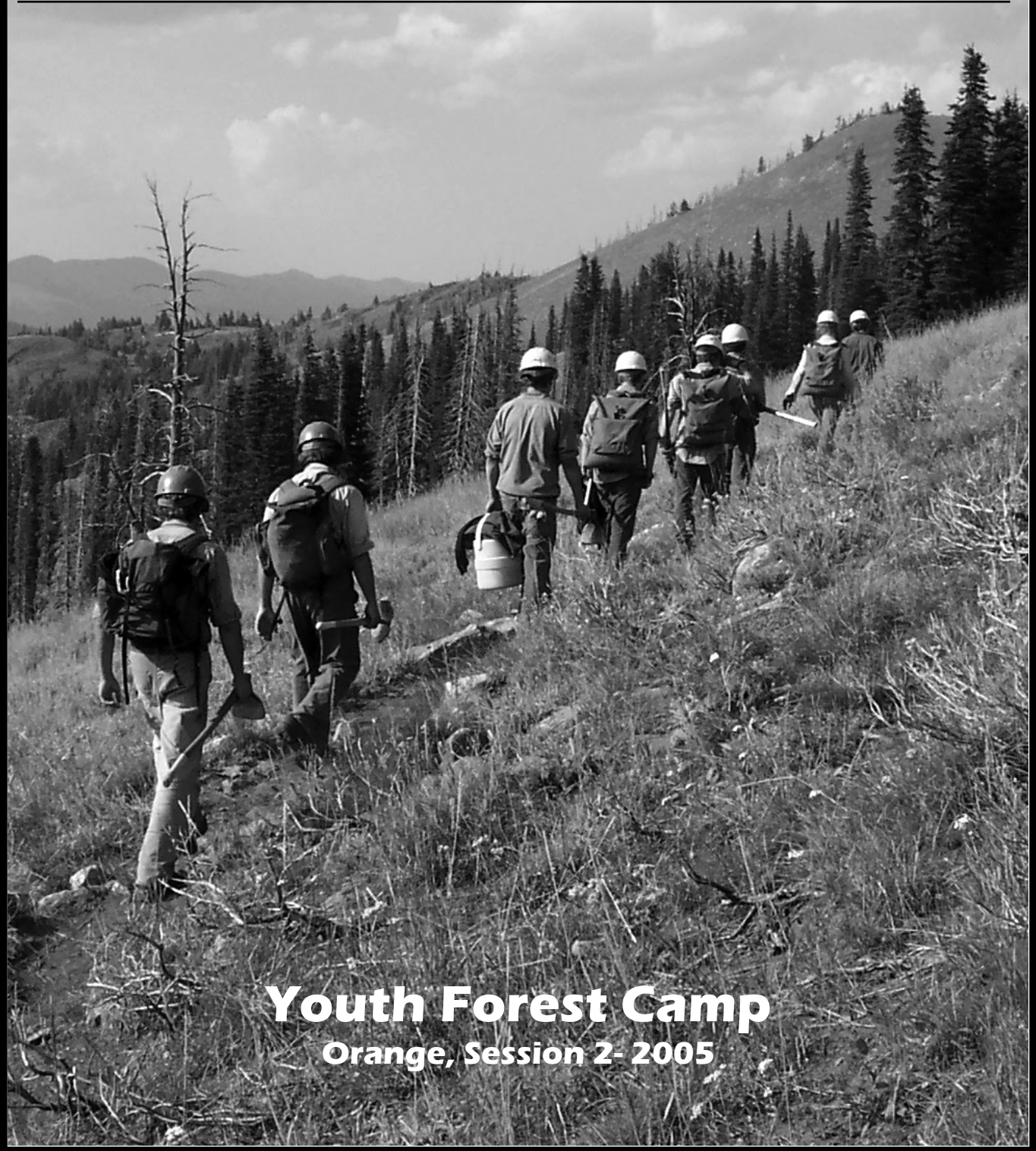




# *Crew Journal*



**Youth Forest Camp**  
**Orange, 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Waksmundski  
Program Manager



**Linn County Parks and Rec.  
River Bend County Park  
Project Name- River Bend County Park Maintenance**

**Week 1: July 31 – August 6**

Monday: First, all of the 40 workers got to camp. We took a really long survey of safety, gave proof of ID, and afterwards we went swimming, met new friends, and had lots of fun playing games. –Eric L.

Tuesday: Our crew, the awesome Orange Crew, stayed at base camp this week. We have been working on a trail running around the campground and putting down gravel so that it can later be paved and made accessible to handicapped people. Today we started clearing campsites. We are trying to stay hydrated and are very POSITIVE! We went for a swim today after work and it was very pleasant. –Mara B.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals this week included many things. We are all building muscles and getting through this week. Everyone is looking forward to our first store stop. All of us want to get to know one another a little better. We would like to complete our OSHAs as soon as we can. It's going to be a swell week! –Hunter C.

Thursday: We learned how to get work done and have fun. We learned that if you are well bonded like our crew then it is really easy to work with each other and time goes by fast. We have learned a few things in SEED, like: how to accept people for who they are, and safety. Remember kid, safety first! –

Virginia S.

Friday: One of the challenges that this crew faced was starting out with only 9 members working in the blazing sun. Our accomplishments for this week are completing digging the rock trail, finishing 13-14 campsites, and covering a half or a quarter of the trail with gravel. We have made friends and finished the first week without losing anyone permanently. I believe that our biggest accomplishment is bonding together so quickly and so strongly. –Stormy

**Willamette National Forest  
McKenzie Ranger District  
Cabin Meadows Reroute**

**Week 2: August 7 – August 13**

Monday: Monday morning we hiked the rest of the way into camp. We were all really tired but after we got camp set up we went to work. It was really fun to see the trail that we'll be working on and the projects that we'll do. We all look forward to seeing the finished project. –Elizabeth G.

Tuesday: This week we are working on a section on the Six Lakes Trail that leads to Spy Lake. We have built retaining walls and river crossings, switchbacks, turnpikes, etc. We are at the Three Sisters Wilderness. –Stormy

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are to finish the turnpike and second retaining wall, and to finish up the first section of the trail we've been working on. We are hoping to get in some extra time this week to lighten next week's workload. –Mara B.

Thursday: We learned to do a stream crossing, turnpike, and a retaining wall, and to do in-slope and out-slope trails. I learned how to crosscut a tree. We had to make stakes to hold the turnpike and retaining wall in place. We had to skin the bark off the trees so when it is in the ground it won't rot as fast as it would with bark on. –Stephen K.

Friday: Together, we stood united in the face of a common enemy. Said enemy was named BADI-TUDE! Against grueling conditions we employed the Number One weapon in our collective arsenal, PMA! Lo and behold, we beat back the vile monstrosity. Much festivity and celebration was enjoyed by all! Wary warriors as we were, general trail inexperience and the repetitive grind conspired against us, but once again we were victorious! Just when we believed ourselves to be indestructible, our worst and most feared adversary attacked... the dreaded bear hang refused to cooperate. It drove our commander to the point of frustration. But with moral support as provided by corpsmembers, even the bear hang stood no chance! In the end, we emerged tired yet better and wiser people. –Hunter C.

**Willamette National Forest  
McKenzie Ranger District  
Project Name- Cabin Meadows Reroute**

**Week 3: August 14 – August 20**

Monday: We had a great weekend. On Saturday our crew got to sleep in 'til about 8:30 because our crew is backcountry. We all got to make rafts out of dead logs—the girls were in one group and the boys were in another. We pretty much had free time all day. –Virginia S.

Tuesday: We finished an awesome turnpike, and we were in the middle of the forest, and we were building an awesome trail going for almost a mile. Why we get so much done is because of our crew and how tight our relationships are. We were doing this for people [to be able to have an] interesting hike. –Kaleb W.

Wednesday: [Describe your crew's goals for the week:] to finish the trails and turnpike before the contact gets to our worksite, and impress him with our utmost best work. To have a positive mental attitude doing all the hard work like building retaining walls, which are very hard but interesting and fun. The best part was building the turnpike, which was our biggest goal to finish. –Eric L.

Thursday: This week our crew learned a lot about building trail, as well as structures such as retaining walls, stream crossings, and turnpikes. We are learning many practical skills of living backcountry as well, such as how to use nature-wipe, light itty-bitty camp stoves, and cope with being filthy. We have learned to make due with less and enjoy living rustically. We also learned some about our surroundings from SEED, including the type of trees nearby (hemlock and lodge-pole pine) and the forest "life cycle." –Mara B.

Friday: We thought we had to finish the whole trail, but on the second to last day, our contact came and told us that we did not have to finish it. We got the trail mostly done. We had to Pulaski a lot of logs out of the way of the trails. Some people had to dig trail. On Thursday we had to pack all our things up and take our tent down, and then the horseback riders came to take out most of our things like small tools and the 5-gallon containers. Then we hiked out in five and a half hours. We all had fun. Then we packed the van and trailer, then we went to Elk Lake and some of us took showers there and washed our clothes. Then we camped there for the night. Then we went into Bend and had a store stop there, then we went back to base camp. –Stephen K.

**OPRD  
Cascadia SP  
Project Name- Cascadia State Park Maintenance**

**Week 4: August 21 – August 27**

Monday: This weekend the kickin' cool Orange Crew drove back from the Bend/Sisters area to base-camp. After going on the usual store run, doing laundry, and showering, we went on a sweet rafting trip on the McKenzie River Saturday morning. That evening parents and friends visited base camp and we all had dinner together in the pavilion. It was great for everyone to see family, friends, etc. –Mara B.

Tuesday: Umm... we were working at Cascade Park; it was pretty much SUPER FUN! We built the most awesome fence ever. It was pretty much the coolest thing ever. We also worked on this pretty cool trail. It was Soda Falls, it was ¾ of a mile. GO ORANGE CREW! –Virginia S.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are to finish the trail to the falls, and we also need to finish building a fence around a ledge that looks like it's going to be difficult. Another goal for the week is to clear some extra area around the trail. That pretty much covers it! –Elizabeth G.

Friday: This week held many surprises and challenges. We completed work on a fence that proved to take longer than earlier expected. However, it was completed by the deadline. The trail crews worked on two different sections over the week. The first was completed by Tuesday, and the second by Friday with time to spare.

**Deschutes National Forest**  
**Sisters Ranger District**  
**Project Name- Patsy Lake/Carl Lake**

**Week 5: August 28 – September 3**

Monday: We awoke to hurricane-force winds, pounding rain, thoroughly soaked bags, and blown over tents while snuggling next to our best friends of the session. The smell did not deter us in an effort to maintain warmth. Fortunately, Eric's gas did not smother the atmosphere. The girls kicked butt and rescued the crew from imminent disaster, building a fire and erecting a tarp. Yesterday's hike was quick and arriving at Carl Lake highlighted the trip, Mt. Jefferson's plug rising above treeline to the north.

Tuesday: We are working a trail project from Carl Lake to Patsy Lake in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area. Everyone has loppers and blue tongues due to enormous quantities of huckleberry on the trail. Lava fields halfway between Carl and Patsy Lakes open up to a dramatic view of Jefferson, bottom to summit. We're in for quite a hike the next few days but hanging out with Park and Kara is so rad, we are excited.

Wednesday: Our crew's goal this week is to maintain platonic friendships without stepping over the line, only toeing it—hope our feet don't grow another size. Aside from that, finishing the segment of trail from Patsy to Carl Lake is of highest priority.

Thursday: Our crew learned a great deal about wilderness areas, camp fire tales, and how all cultures have similar tales to explain life lessons, hazards, and intriguing stories. We exemplified a tight crew this past Monday, coping effectively with unforeseen poor weather. It's been strange adapting to a new leader this week, however, our crew is awesome and we can handle anything. We are all going to miss each other in the upcoming weeks, especially the morning cuddling and spooning.

Friday: Yeah! We finished all the trail outlined for completion while also working all hours assigned, despite loss of a crew member (Stephen was cool, he just made a bad choice) and a shortened work day on Monday because of drying out all our soaked gear. The rain provided an opportunity for our first fire of the session. The fire danger has been at a level 3, buy hey, it's a survival situation. I never knew it rained in August in Oregon. Overall, we've made some great friends, many of whom we'll stay in contact with and hopefully go shopping together someday.

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

When we hiked 10 miles backcountry. It was hard and I pushed myself. –Nikki S.

The most challenging day at NYC was the hike into the Three Sisters Wilderness. It was great though, because we stuck together as a group. –Elizabeth G.

It was when we were backcountry and I started my period and I had nothing at work with me. It really sucked. –Virginia S.

probably when in the backcountry, week 5, the tent I was in with my 2 other friends blew over and it was about 30 to 45 degrees outside with rain and very high winds. It really really sucked. –Kaleb W.

Every single person on my crew was mad at me or quiet to me. –Hunter “Fisher” C.

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

when we got put on our crews, when we were done with our 10-mile hike and we saw the lake we got to camp by, and making new friends. –Nikki S.

My favorite three NYC experiences were the hike out of the Three Sisters Wilderness, finishing the turnpike, and meeting our crew leader for the last week. –Elizabeth G.

One was when we were backcountry and the girls and guys made rafts, another one was parent weekend and seeing my family and friends, and this one night Mara and I couldn't sleep so we talked and Nikki started sleep walking. –Virginia S.

When we got into our crews and meeting new great friends I will never forget. Number two probably was backcountry and when us boys on our crew built a raft and beat the girls around Spy Lake where we were. And third would probably be learning that I could do things that I thought I couldn't do, so that made me really happy. –Kaleb W.

I loved meeting my new friends, feeling proud of myself, and feeling good about my whole experience. –Hunter “Zubza” C.

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

When we got to hike 5 miles backcountry to work by Carl Lake. –Nikki S.

I will always remember our backcountry trip to Spy Lake and the time I had to connect with my leader and other members. –Elizabeth G.

I will always remember my girls Mara and Elizabeth, my dawg Kat, and Hunter. –Virginia S.

meeting awesome awesome new friends, especially one person, but I will always remember my new friends and crewleaders and rovers. –Kaleb W.

I will remember Virginia, Elizabeth, Mara, Kaleb, Stephen, and all those other people on my crew. Also, our backcountry experience. –Hunter “Gerbil” Crowell

Eric doing the truffle shuffle! –Rick S.

The night sleeping in the rain. –Josh R.

Sweet Home affections. –Mara B.

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

From now on I will be simplifying my life and I will appreciate all of the comforts I have at home. –Elizabeth G.

try my hardest at everything. –Virginia G.

I will be more sensitive to the needs of others. –Hunter “Huntah” C.

Practice the truffle shuffle daily, or at least do it for money. –Eric L.

Remain my unique self. –Nikki S.

Wake up and pee in the middle of the night if I have to go to the bathroom. –Josh R.

Remain faithful. –Rick S.

Zip up my fly before work. –Kaleb W.

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

I learned to work as a team, how to work hard, and how to be a good crew member. –Nikki S.

At NYC I learned that I can do a lot of things that I put my mind to and I can connect to all different kinds of people. –Elizabeth G.

I learned I can do anything I want to do, positive attitudes make things better, and hiking can be really fun. –Virginia S.

That I could hike 10 miles and that I could work as a team and get along with total strangers. –Kaleb W.

At NYC I learned much from SEED, like how to tie knots and pack a pack. Also, I am working with people better. –Hunter “FATcat” C.

How to hang in the woods and kick it with a pine cone. –Rick S.

The truffle shuffle is more fun than I thought. –Eric L.

How to make people laugh. –Josh R.