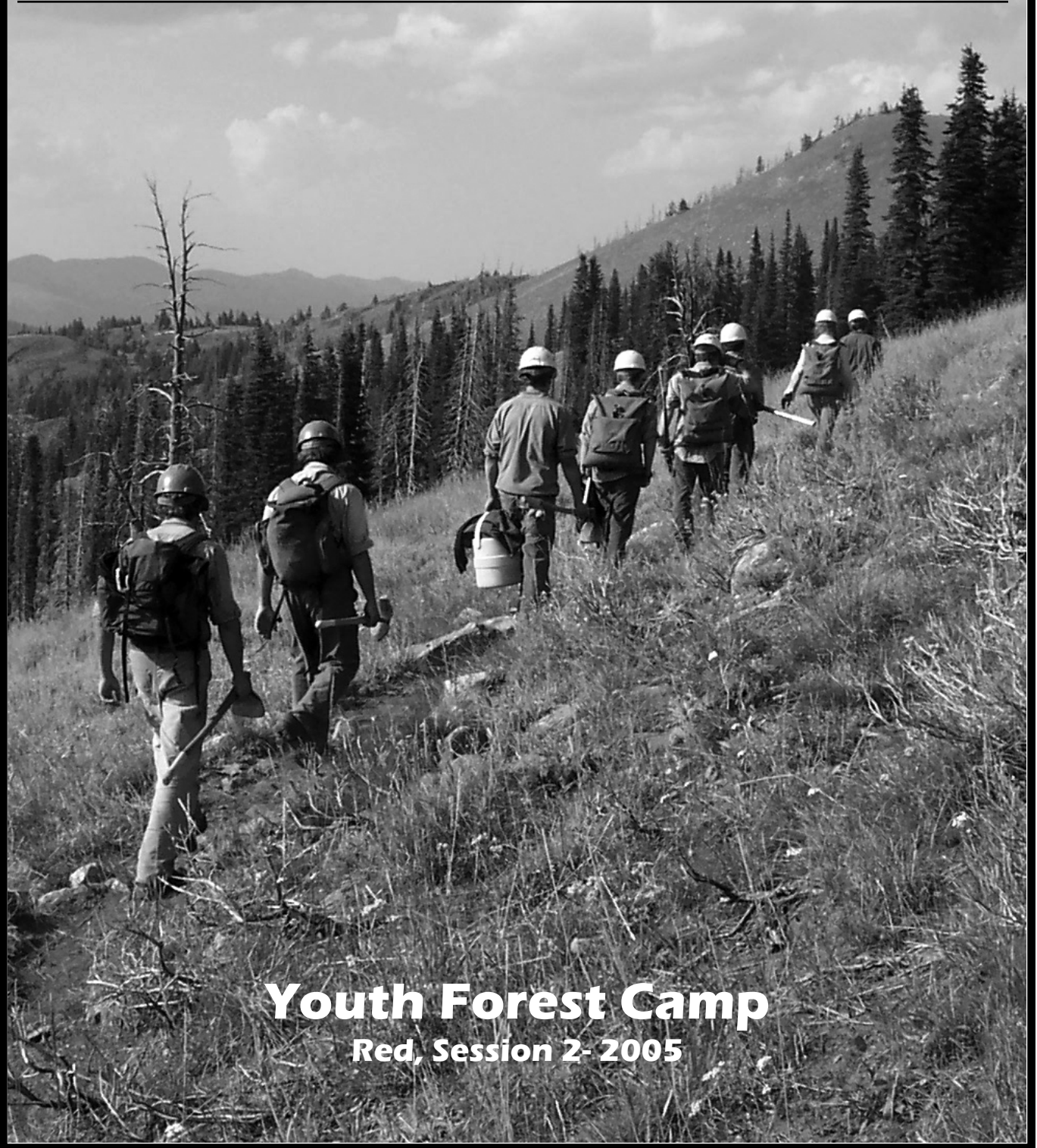




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camp
Red, 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



**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Deschutes River SRA
Project Name- Deschutes River Trail**

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Monday: On Saturday we arrived at Riverbend Park for orientation. There we learned about what we would be doing. We learned to put up 2 different types of tents, packed our duffle bags, rotated a few different times, and had circle time. Shortly after we went down to day camp, changed, and went to the river to swim. We went back to weekend camp and 40 minutes afterwards. We ate dinner, did the bungee (dish rotation), then went back to our tents and went to sleep. –Carmen R.

Tuesday: We did two different things this week. One was working on a trail high in the mountains, making the trail a bit better. It was very hard to get up the trail the first day because it was the first day. The second day was clearing out blackberry bushes out of a trail. No fun at all... well, there was some fun. –Chris (the beast)

Wednesday: Our goals for this week encompassed many diverse aspects. The three main goals were to have fun, work hard, and make money. Other goals that have been mentioned include learning about the environment, gaining muscles, and having fun. Did I mention having fun? Oh, and having fun! Yep. Most of these goals are being fulfilled, but some of the “drama” going on affects a lot of people’s ability to have fun. Drinking water helps as well. –Grey P.

Thursday: Our crew learned how to dig trails, what the different parts of the trails, such as the hinge, cutbank, berm, and tread are. We also learned how to cook for ourselves and how to get along. We also learned how to take good care of our feet, to appreciate washing once in a while, and most of all the value of a dollar. During SEED we learned about diversity and the story of the Lorax. [We also learned] to settle differences between others, and learned how to do a splitting roundhouse. –Blake P.

Friday: So far our crew has bonded and gotten a lot closer emotionally. Each crew member uses the group as a support to work harder. I think one of the reasons we got so close so fast is because of the SEED (Something Educational Every Day)... it gives us a chance to learn useful facts together, and develop our personal values. The SEED in which I probably learned the most was when the instructor wrote “labels” on a piece of tape and placed them on the small of all our backs so we were incapable of seeing what they read. The “labels” said things like jock, prep, nerd, hippy, etc. Then everyone proceeded to talk to me as if I classified under the label I was assigned to. I really feel that I, along with the rest of the crew, have gained a huge amount of perspective on how bad it feels to be treated differently, not because of how you act or what you do, but because of how you look and what you wear. So I hope I can set a good example when I get home by reserving my own negative judgments. –Skye R.

Linn County Park and Rec.

Riverbend County Park

Project Name- Riverbend County Park Maintenance

Week 2: August 7 – August 13

Monday: Our crew hung out this weekend with Orange Crew. On Saturday we split up into two groups and each went to the stores in Sweet Home and the river/lake to cool down and swim. On Sunday, Orange Crew left and Yellow Crew came to basecamp. We did store stops and we went swimming to cool down at the river. That was our weekend. –Hannah E.

Tuesday: Our project this week is to clear out the camp site in time for a grand opening. Right now we are at base camp a little bit outside of Sweet Home, Oregon. Here we are cleaning up the camp sites so people will be able to use them. Today we flattened and took out vegetation. –Carmen R.

Wednesday: Our goals are everybody getting along throughout the rest of the 5 weeks, also that everybody tries to make it through the whole five weeks. Another one of our goals is to finish the project we are currently working on efficiently and in the time we are here. Also, another couple goals are trying to work as a team more and get along better, and to remember to wear the proper shoes at all times, and how to control our emotions. –Hannah E.

Thursday: This week our crew learned “something educational every day,” how to make up new songs—we got tired of all the good songs. We learned hydration, we learned teenagers will be rebellious no matter what, and also when one person is down they usually drag everyone else down, and that people will threaten to go home just for attention to make them feel better. We learned bleach is OK for the ground and that Kevin likes to call people elephant and bob. Mafia is a really cool game but it gets old. And that Red Crew makes the best dutchie meals. –Blake P.

Friday: Everyone accepted me into the crew, they were accepting from the second I met them. We all have gotten along, even though there has been a little drama; we’ve gotten over that. Not everyone is going to make it for the whole 5 weeks but most are trying. We have been working efficiently through-

out this week. We have done a total of 30 campsites this week with only 8 people. Just by accomplishing those 30 sites it proves that we can and are working as a team. Most of our goals that were made from last week we've accomplished, but we're still working on a few. Also we are cutting down and preventing drama so we have a more peaceful calm place to live. –Julia W.

River Bend Park Rockin' Base Camp Maintenance

Week 3: August 14 – August 20

Monday: On this weekend, Red Crew hung out with Blue and Yellow at basecamp. On Saturday Blue and Yellow went on an awesome rec. trip white water rafting, while we went swimming in a dirty reservoir that got deep really quickly, meaning we could only go out about 5 feet. Our group then did some things [that were] really dumb, and had a bad time the rest of the day. On Sunday our swimming trip was not that great, which indirectly led to the leaving of one of our most beloved co-corps members, Chris W. –Grey P.

Tuesday: Our project this week was to clear out the camp sites. We are removing vegetation, and moving around dirt and such. We are at basecamp this week. I have mosquito bites everywhere and it hurts very badly. –Carmen R.

Wednesday: My crew's goals are to behave well and to not whine, also to stay hydrated. We want to be good enough to go white water rafting. My crew says to catch more elephants and feed them. Another goal is to work harder and not slack off as much. Another goal my crew thought of is to get chores done faster. More goals are to listen during SEED better and stay quiet. My crew should listen to the counselors and do the chores correctly, especially shotgun! My crew should not take stuff for granted, like bread crust. Another goal is to not be so picky and whiny. The last goal is to listen to me, Honey Badger Venom/Hank the Hick. –Kevin S.

Thursday: We learned how a pond turns into a meadow using sediments, and also about the succession of the forest. We learned about native and invasive blackberries. I learned how to identify trees such as the Douglas fir and the big leaf maple. We learned about stages and ages of the forest—about shrubs, about Forbes, about Climax, and about nature! –Skye R.

Friday: This week, our crew has faced a variety of challenges. We have fought strife from within—crewmembers quitting, longish hours, etc, as well as external challenges such as acting mature in public, and working hard enough to please our contact. I feel we have overcome these challenges without many problems. Morale is relatively high, and we have acted mature enough to ensure our place in the weekend rafting trip. Other than that, we have managed to work harder and more productively than usual. We are finished with Rockin Base Camp for the second week running (which is awesome) so this next week we will be doing something a lot more awesome than clearing out campsites. – Grey P.

Siskiyou National Forest
Illinois Valley Ranger District
Project Name- IV Trail Maintenance

Week 4: August 21 – 27

Monday: This weekend my crew did three store stops. We also went rafting on a three- star rafting trip. It was not hard at all though. It was still fun though because we got to have water wars and steal each others' bailing buckets and oars. It was also the last parent weekend of the session. It was fun and chaotic but I missed dinner because I went swimming with my family and nobody informed me of dinner, but my family brought me food anyways. This weekend we didn't get any awards at the Sunday circle. –Kevin

Tuesday: We are cleaning and re-doing trails and making new trails. Today we defined trails, lined them with rocks and made them newer and better...After we are done with this session we are working on the other side of the hill. We are working by the Illinois River. It is very fun and I just finished my second day and I think it's hard but cool. –Derrick S.

Wednesday: Our goals for this week are trying not to get poison oak because everywhere we turn, it's right next to us. So far know one has gotten it. Another goal for the girls and guys is to beat each other at setting up and taking down tents, even though the girls have whooped them all the times since we've been here. Another goal is not to get hurt. –Carmen R.

Thursday: Our crew learned that our new campsite has a lot of poison Oak, and how to identify it. We also learned how to get along with new people. We also learned how to write a resume and learn what to do during a job interview. We learned the salmon life cycle and the different characteristics that prey and predators have. That's what we learned this week. –Chad

Friday: Our crew's worst challenges this week were the loss of the two and only girls in our group which turned the red crew into an all-guy group. Our other challenge was the day after that our group started to fall apart and get pissed off at each other. Our group's accomplishments were making it through another week of hard work. Our other good accomplishments were making through two of our members leaving which limits us to 6 guy members. Another one was letting our crew leader do what she wanted without her telling us or assigning us our chores. Our last accomplishment was when our crew went whitewater rafting without people getting hurt or falling off the raft without it being on purpose. –Chad S.

Siskiyou National Forest
Illinois Valley Ranger District
Project Name- Trail maintenance

Week 5: August 28 – September 3

Monday: This weekend my crew and I did laundry and took showers! We also did two store stops. We went to a tree house place, too. It was It's A Burl, I think. We lost our last two girls this weekend and now there are six us of guys and three staff. We also had to work on Sunday and most people were mad about that because our break day would be driving for seven hours. –Kevin

Tuesday: We are at the Illinois River site. We are fixing and making new trail. We are making the trails because the site used to be where the gold rush was. This is the place where a lot of gold was found. –Derrick

Wednesday: Today was a hard day at work. We went swimming today at a river by our work site. I had to cross a bridge today. Today Blake got fired, that was really hard for our crew. –Chad

Thursday: This week our crew had some difficulties. We have lost 3 people and are now at a total of 5 crew members. Today was our last day of work. It was very difficult but we pulled through it. We had a 6-mile hike and the work day was ten hours from start to finish. I don't think I have ever been so exhausted in my life. –Skye R.

Friday: This week our crew faced a variety of challenges. We lost 3 crew members, and had a lot of hard work to do. We also faced the peril of poison oak, vicious attacking blackberry plants, and falling trees hewn by our mighty crosscut saw. Our crew has managed to more than make up for our missing crew members, and we have not had any serious injuries, so all is good. –Grey P.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was definitely the first day! My crew and I were working in the Dalles and it got as hot as 108 degrees! It was also really windy and the dirt was dry and dusty, so when you tried to get rid of the dirt it would fly back at you and at the end of the day I was a giant dust bunny. I also didn't know everyone yet, so I was still shy. –Kevin

My most challenging day at NYC would have to be any and all of the times my fellow crew members got fired our quit. It is hard to say goodbye to your friends. –Grey P.

My most challenging day at NYC was the day two girl crew members got fired. The entire crew was angry and sad at the same time. –Derrick S.

My most challenging day here at NYC was any of the days when people quit or got fired. It really made the crew fall apart. –Skye

My most challenging day at NYC was my first day when I didn't know what was what or who was who. –Chad S.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

One of my favorite experiences was going white waterrafting. Another favorite was getting to work outside. My last but not least was getting to know some cool, exciting, extraordinary people. –Derrick S.

My third favorite experience was taking out three or four stumps. My second favorite thing was finally coming out of my shell and being myself. My first favorite thing was whitewater rafting. –Kevin

... (1) white water rafting (my second day); (2) meeting new friends (Tera, Derrick, Kevin,

Blake, Grey, and Skye); (3) learning new skills (building new trail, etc). –Chad

My three favorite experiences would have to be (1) getting to know and make friend with my fellow crewmates; (2) going rafting on the McKenzie River; and (3) learning from others and discussing issues with people in intellectual conversations. –Grey

I thought getting another chance to raft in the middle of the session was a really good experience for me. –Skye

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember whitewater rafting. I will also remember the whole experience and my crew. –Kevin

I will always remember my first time whit water rafting o my second day here without working yet. –Chad

I will always remember my experience here—working hard, hanging out with my crew, living in the woods, and making beautiful trail. It has been a great experience, and I feel I have taken a lot away from this program. –Grey P.

One thing I will always remember is meeting new and exotic friends, and being able to spend time to get to know them better. –Derrick S.

I will always remember the smell of my crewmate Grey's feet while I'm trying to sleep. –Skye

From Now On I Will Always...

From now on I will always have respect for both my peers and my elders/leaders. I will also work hard and efficiently, even if the job is dull or boring. Most of all, I will always try my best at whatever I do. –Grey

From now on I will always never complain about sitting on grass or doing dishes at home. –Chad

I will be less lazy and more helpful. I will do my chores right when I get home also. I will also be more responsible. –Kevin

I will always remember working hard and meeting people. I will also remember the great time and getting to know new friends. –Derrick

From now on I will try to remember to be positive in situations in which it may be difficult. Something that may help is if I remember to drink lots of water. –Skye

At NYC I Learned...

From my experiences at NYC I learned how to work well with others. I learned how to use all the tools properly. I also learned to make good friends. –Derrick S.

I learned how to make a good trail. I also learned the names of the parts of trails. I learned how to cook also. I will also make a trail at my grandma's when I get back. –Kevin

At NYC I learned how to sleep without a bed for a long period of time. I learned how to build a lot of things. I also learned how to make new friends fast. –Chad

At NYC I learned how to live in the woods and take care of everything that needs to be done. I also learned how to make good trail, and how to work hard. –Grey

I learned to listen better to authority and my crew, and I learned to work better in a group and more communication skills. –Skye