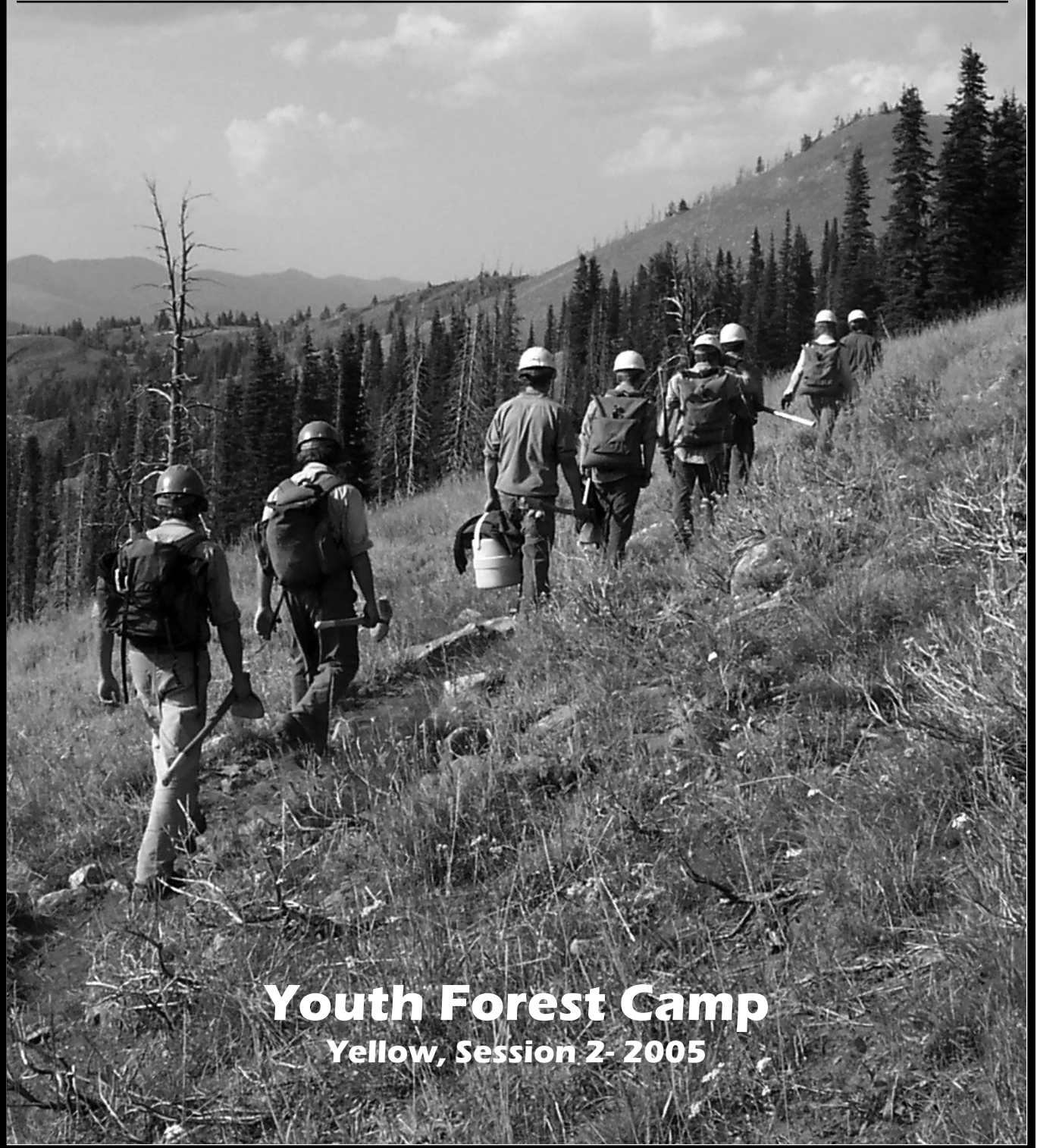




Crew Journal



Youth Forest Camp
Yellow, 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



Willamette National Forest

Sweet Home Ranger District Project Name- Browder Ridge Trail

Week 1: July 31 – August 6

Sunday: Today my group, the Yellow Crew, was assembled. I feel like I totally lucked out in getting into this group. We began our day by packing up and heading to Safeway, where we got some sweet snacks for our first job. Everyone was so generous with their food that I forgot about lunch. Thomas hooked me up with some soda, Laura hooked me up with some Oreos, Ben hooked me up with some sandwich. About an hour later, we arrived at our work site, which is amazing. We started by unpacking, setting up our tents, and building our latrines. After our main jobs for that time were done, me and a few other guys decided to cover the interior of our tent with hot babes. Unfortunately, that fell through, but it was resolved with a good laugh. Dinner was great. I think this is going to be a great 5 weeks. – Silas

Monday: When I think back on today, all the memories seem lumped together in a blob of sweat, dirt, peanut butter, and pulaskis. I don't think I've ever had a more intense or physically demanding birthday, but I've never accomplished so much on my birthday either.

Today was great. Thomas and I got up and made pancakes that were either burnt or still slimy for the rest of the crew. After breakfast, we all piled into the van for our first day of work. The hike uphill was pretty extreme; had I known it would be like that, I probably wouldn't have gotten out of my sleeping bag. The trail work was hard, but a lot of fun. I don't know if I've ever worked with the benefit of such a beautiful view.

After work, Grace, Nicole, and I all ran, slid, and tumbled our way back to the van. When we made it to the tent, all of the girls shared the near-religious experience of taking off our boots and wiggling our feet.

Even with waking up at the crack of dawn and spending hot, dusty hours swinging hazel hoes, it's still been a damn good birthday. –Laura

Tuesday: The events of day 3 were as follows. Thomas and I finished our sweet staircase and I don't think I have ever built something so sturdy. I still just can't get over how lucky we are working with such an amazing view... it's sad we can't sit and look at it all day long. At lunch Silas spilled his goldfish in the dirt and everyone blamed it on me. From what the rest of the crew said, it wasn't my day. It's so awesome that the crew is getting along so well. And I hope we all stay as connected as we are now and possibly get even closer. Love, corpmember Grace

Wednesday: Today we had a pretty good morning. We got up and got breakfast done and were in the van within a reasonable amount of time. Heading up the trail was kinda crazy, because I didn't feel good. Aaron and Amanda also felt crappy. The work day went by fast, though. This has been a really good work week so far. I feel like our crew really comes together and works as "a well-oiled machine." If we keep up the good work, our five weeks will go by surprisingly fast. Great job, Yellow Crew. – Nicole G.

Thursday: This week I learned how to dig a sump and latrine. Everyone's getting to know everyone else on an OK scale, but it's just the first week. I still wish I had my black stove coffee. I still don't get why the guys are so proud of our defecation spot. I learned that NYC depends on teamwork, just like when I was at bootcamp you made sure that everyone else was OK before yourself, just like a shepherd watching over his flock. Today was exhausting digging up roots, trees, and underbrush, but the thing I hope I learn is how to be a good friend. –Michael H.

Friday: Today was Friday and it was awesome. We started out waking up, everyone was completely tired. I was one of the last people to wake up. We piled into the van with our stuff ready to go, five minutes later we were there doing safety circle. After we did safety circle, we started heading up the mountain. I was happy this day because I wasn't one of the last people up. Yeaah. Anyways, we got up there at the worksite, and everybody was at one or another spot. We weren't spread out. There were eight of us on the dirt trail and four of us on the rock trail. We worked for about an hour and a half and then had first break. We had sandwiches, rollups, gorp, oranges, and cookies. It was awesome. After that fifteen minutes we went back to work. But I had a real easy day rolling down rocks, and sitting on my butt peeling trees. Then we had lunch. It was delicious. I didn't get to eat anything at lunch, though, 'cause I ate mostly at break. Whatever. Then we had to go back to work. Before we knew it, it was time to go. We packed up our stuff and hid the tools. But in the end both of our group's projects were awesome, just because we got a great hard-working crew. We came down the trail through the fern. Devan and I decided to cut in front of everyone else to run down. We caught up to Amanda. We talked to her for a while and blitzed to the van. When the rest of our crew got to the van we all congratulated Amanda for being there fast before everyone. We all jumped into the van with aching bones and muscles, sore and out of energy. We all came to camp, put on new clothes, and went to the thrift store and bought some food. Yummy. After that we went to the clinic to get some medicine for Nicole's tonsils. But we found out it would take a long time for Nicole to get in. So we went to Lebanon Hospital to do the appointment. While everybody was in the hospital, me, Grace, Thomas, Amanda, Laura, Silas, Devan, Mike, and Stuart were kicking it in the shady grass. We started talking about a Lebanon elementary/middle school to be a school with barbed wires and steel bars around it. That kind of creeped me out. After that I was getting bored, so I went to the payphone and used it. Stuart let me use his calling card, 'cause he had one-hundred eighty minutes on it. So I started talking to my dad about everything. I asked him for fifty bucks and he said yes. I thought that was pretty phat. Then we went to get Nicole's medicine while everyone else was eating awesome creamsicles. Finally we came back to camp. We fixed up our cooler that Thomas bought. Then we made this amazing bonfire that was really warm. Then it was nighttime and we went to bed. I'm sure we're gonna have more amazing times like today. —Aaron

Sunday: Today was an interesting day. It started out pretty well. The bulk of us woke up around 8 but a few woke up later. Then after a wonderful breakfast we went to go pick up Ben. When we arrived at the campsite he was staying at, we discovered that he had been hurt and sent to the Corvallis Hospital. After hearing the news we rushed to base camp to talk to Molly. Once Molly and Katherine had spoken with each other, we set off for Sweet Home. We stopped at the Safeway, where we used the phones. Nicole and I bought some simply orange juice and chicken strips. After we all piled back into the van, we started to leave to go to the swimming area, when Nicole graciously offered to get pizza for everyone. When we arrived at the swimming area the crew devoured the pizza. After a while, Molly and the Red Crew, aka TNT, showed up and took over our awesome swimming spot. Grey from Red Crew decided to have Silas throw his red bandana in the river so he could look for it. Grey couldn't find the bandana, so Silas went down to the creek and got his shoes he worked on keeping dry all day wet. The bandana was found right next to where Grey was standing—Silas wasn't very happy. Finally Red Crew left; that made a few people happier. About an hour or so later we packed up and headed back to camp. So, even though some horrible things happened earlier, we still managed to have some fun. —Thomas

Willamette National Forest
Sweet Home Ranger District
Project Name- Browder Ridge Trail

Week 2: August 7 – 13

Monday: We got woken up later than usual today. When we got up we ate some bagels. Then we got into the van, then we did safety circle, then we walked up the mountain. We worked, then we came home.

Tuesday: So far this week we've been working on relocating the hillside a few feet to reroute the trail. We cut sections of a large tree and set them into place, then cut stakes from saplings to hold them. I think we're all proud of this project because it was a lot of work. Cross-cutting is my new favorite trail-building activity. Now we're starting down the meadow, cutting climbing turns today. –Stuart R.

Wednesday: This week we have been happy about our project. We have gotten a lot done on the site. We started on the trails on the meadow. Our goal is to finish our project at our site and to have no one quit. We had a half an hour of paid sleep and we loved it. Katherine made us a yummy breakfast, it was so awesome. I felt sick today but as soon as I took ibuprofen I felt better. That is the end of the day. By the way, 9 more days until my birthday. –Amanda D.

Thursday: On a side note, our new crew leader, Tim, is pretty cool. So is our new rover, Lucas. –Silas

Friday: This week has been pretty challenging. On Wednesday, our crew leader Katherine left us and was replaced by Tim. Our major accomplishment during this week has been remaining a strong and united team throughout this ordeal. We all successfully made it through the rest of the work week, and built an excellent start of a new trail up the meadow. I also was taught to chop with a Pulaski by Katherine and honed the art of hazel-hoeing. Tonight is Friday night at base camp, and everyone was happy to arrive, mainly to shower, and because we were running out of food. Tomorrow we get to go whitewater rafting, and I think that this rec. trip is well-deserved. –Laura A-W

Willamette National Forest
Sweethome Ranger District
Project Name-Daly Lake Trail

Week 3: Date: Aug. 7th- Aug. 13th

Monday: Our Crew did a lot this weekend. We first went to basecamp and we spent the night in cots. Then we found out we were going whitewater rafting, it was fun. When we got back we found out we were going on a two week project and we packed up and left the basecamp and set up our yellow crew camp....Amanda

Tuesday: The beginning of this week and project has been a good one for our crew. We are working up at Daly Lake, rebuilding trail and making it wheelchair accessible. On this project, we are doing a lot of rock and log retaining walls. I am getting a lot better at cross cutting and pulasking. Our campsite is really nice, with lots of shade and a small creek running nearby. This is going to be a fun two weeks....Laura A.

Wednesday: Our crews goals are to finish our culverts and retaining wall. Also we have other structures to do as well. We have a re-route to finish and it is a pretty difficult project because it is very steep. Today is hump day of hump week and it went by super fast, but there were some high and low points. This is normal though. It's cool that it is the middle of the session because as far as we have come we only have that much fun time to go....Nicole G.

Thursday: This week we learned about lumberjackitis. Stewart and I were stricken with a severe case on this fateful morning. After a morning of downing small ten foot trees we decided with enough confidence to fall a 65 foot tree within 20 feet of the culvert project. The odds were stacked against us, the tree was on a down slope and had all its branches on one side. As Stewart and I struggled trying to fall the tree the opposite direction, we decided it was futile so, with much reluctance we went to Tim to confess our plight of lumber jackitis....Thomas

Friday: This week the biggest challenge we faced was getting adjusted to a new camp and a new project. We were able to get a lot of trail dug as well as most of a rock wall over a culvert built. We got to swim in Daly Lake-cold, but refreshing. It's been a good week, and we are excited to finish this project next week...Tim

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

Week 4: Date: Aug.21st-Aug. 27th

Monday: Our crew went to the weekend site and got a store stop on Friday. Saturday and Sunday we got all the people together. A couple people went rafting then we got our stuff together and went back out....Nicole

Tuesday: This week is the same project as last week but this week we are finishing up the retaining walls then working on the camp site. Our crew has been getting in to a lot of petty fights but today we had to go into the town of Detroit and on the way there we got to listen to music and every one started to get into a better mood. When we are on our way back we listened to a lot of awesome music and every one was like first week but better....Stuart

Wednesday: This week has gone pretty well. Our goals have been building a culvert, which we have pretty much finished. Some of the other goals and projects that we have are the rock walls which we almost completed and the next we will have at least one of the campsites wheelchair accessible as well as doing the finishing touches on the trail...Michael

Thursday: This week our crew learned to get along. Everyone's been arguing a lot, so that's tight. We also learned how to collate positions, which is cool too. Some working skills we learned this week are to work together when we pull up the log with the swedes. We also learned how to communicate better. This week has been a great week. We only have one week left...Aaron

Friday: We had some arguments and conflict this week. It was difficult at times to stay positive at work and push thru to get things done. By the end of the week though we had resolved conflict and found ways to stay positive at work also, hydration is way up! Last week we laid the foundation for a lot of retaining structures and it was fun to see all that work come to fruition...Tom

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

Week 5: Date Aug. 28th-Sept. 3rd

Monday: Our crew went swimming and hiked to see some old hieroglyphics as well as stopped at the store. On Saturday we got the privilege to go swimming with mixed crews but one of the other crews have suffered losses. I am proud to say that we are the only crew that has the original ten corpsmembers...Michael

Wednesday: This week we are staying at basecamp where our main job is to move gravel around. We want to finish strong and make respectable progress. More importantly our goals related to the reality of this being our final week. We want to finish out the session without an excess of bickering and arguments and leave with a strong bond between the crewmates. We also want to leave with a positive mental image of NYC. Finally we want to prevent anyone from getting hurt or written up. This includes no shocking each other in the the butt with high voltage capacitors and things of that nature....Silas

Thursday: Our crew didn't learn much this week due to our efforts being concentrated on doing simple tasks to finish up the River Bend County Park. We're all just coasting through the week with good moods, keeping on task and enjoying the time we have left together.

Friday: One challenge we faced this week was staying focused and keeping the energy level up, even though it's the last week and we all can definitely smell the barn at this point. We really kept our contact on his toes this week, constantly finishing in hours what was supposed to take days. I feel that this session ended on a good note, both at work and in camp. Everybody is definitely ready for a shower....

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was when Katherine was taken from our crew

My most challenging moment was after my first week when were hiking the Browder Ridge trail and it was so difficult, but we got through it...Nicole

My most challenging moment is when we were working up at Browder Ridge Trail and I was super dehydrated. I was grumpy and yelling at everyone. I got in trouble because I started swearing. It was very hot. I did not have a good day...Aaron M.

The most challenging day that I had to endure was hiking up Browder Ridge coughing up my lungs and feeling like crap...Grace A.

Everyday at NYC is a new challenge, but my most challenging day was the day that our first crewleader, Katherine was taken from us. It was extremely difficult to maintain the unity and positive mental attitude our crew had previously had...Laura

My most challenging day at NYC was the day at Browder Ridge when Stephen and Jeff took Kathrine...Thomas L.

My most challenging day at NYC was making a switch over from Kathrine as our crew leader to Tim. As well as apologizing to Stephen for being a real jerk to him and Jeff...Mike

My most challenging day at NYC was when I was hiking up the Hike at Browder Ridge. It was physically challenging to me and I was so ready to give up and not worry, but Katherine made me a deal if I didn't like it by the 3rd week I could give up. Well I stayed and by the third week I loved It...Amanda D

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Some of my favorite experiences here were swimming in Daly Lake, building our 50-foot retaining wall there, and both telling my "personal history" and hearing other's. I'm really proud of the wall because I spent two days, one with Molly and one alone, planning it and laying foundation, then a solid week wheel barrowing stuff down and carrying multiple-thousand pound logs, and it's awesome and about the PHe's, it's just something I wish was more common in life, sharing childhood memories and such.

My three favorite moments were when we were in the lake and swimming around. Also when Tim came to our crew, also during fourth week when our whole crew had a really good work day....Nicole

One of my favorite days at NYC was when we first swam at Daily Lake. The water was so refreshing. Another day was basically any day we went to any source of water....Grace

Of all the experiences I've had at NYC, three of the best stick out in my mind. My first was our first laundry and shower stop after two weeks of trail work. The whole crew was so happy and excited, it made the whole day amazing. My second favorite was the day that my crew got to go whitewater rafting. That was awesome. My third favorite experience was the work we did and learning so much about the environment and myself while doing it....Laura A.

My first favorite NYC experience was when we went whitewater rafting. My second favorite is hanging out in our tent after work, my third favorite experience was nature dinner when Devon and I dressed up as Amazonian warriors...Thomas L.

My favorite NYC experiences were white water rafting, the nature dinner when I dressed up as last of the Mohicans as well as the last day were we busted out the trail we were working on... Mike

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

I will always remember how rewarding it was to follow the impulse that got me out here in the first place. I think that will be an inspiration in the future for helping me decide to get out and do things instead of letting my doubts overcome that.

I will always remember the green hats coming and taking Katherine. Also when Tim came and made everything better...Nicole

One thing I will always remember was when we all found out about Ben, it was a very slow day...Grace A.

I will always remember the friendships that were forged during the session of NYC. Many of these people I know will be in my life for along time to come...Laura

I will always remember all the friendships that were made. I will also remember the stuff we did...Thomas

I will always remember Tim Black's personal history...Mike

From Now On I Will Always...

Appreciate writing and receiving snail mail letters and try to keep contact with people through that as much as possible.

Try not to take advantage of the small things that I normally take advantage of. Things will be that much more important to me...Nicole

Take time to step back and watch what I say and take advantage of clean clothes...Grace A.

Something that I will always carry with me from this session is the realization that I love to hike, work hard and get dirty....Laura A.

From now on I will always stake time to experience what is going on as fully as I can....Thomas

From now on I will be an NYCer for life...Mike

At NYC I Learned...

One thing is I finally got to see an obvious correlation between stretching and muscle soreness; in fact as everyone knows I wish we stretched more thoroughly every day instead of dancing around. I learned a lot of peace of mind aids other than being alone and using beer and pot since there's none of that here. A third thing is using the cross-cut saw, which was awesome... Stuart

I've learned leadership, independence and patience...Nicole

This session at NYC I learned patience and leadership...Grace A.

This experience at NYC has taught me self motivation, the value of hard work and certainly helped me practice my communication and cooperation skills. These are all things I can use in real life...Laura A.

I have learned more about the environment, leadership and patience...Thomas

At NYC I have learned patience as well as opening up to people...Mike