



Crew Journal



*Washington Conservation Corps
Orange, Session 1, 2006*



Dear NYC Graduates,

It is human nature that as time goes by, memories fade and our perception of history changes. Tall tales grow taller, and in the retelling details are lost and added. In your hands is a written record of your crew's trials and tribulations during the summer of 2006. It is testimony of your successes, challenges, experiences both good and bad as well as some weird and wacky. As you sit back in the comfort of your home and relive some of those memories I encourage you to add your own notes on how you felt, what you saw and what you did.

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J, and some good friends. Make it happen!!!

A few of the amazing things accomplished during the 2006 field season at NYC; over 17 miles of new trail constructed, over 328 miles of existing trail maintained, 2,237 drainage structures installed, 3,400 ft. of retaining wall built, 1,222 ft. of turnpike constructed, 323 ft. of bridge built, 208 acres of trees pruned, 381 logs bucked out, and 1,513 acres of noxious weeds eradicated.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Waksmundski". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue, textured background that looks like a stamp or a piece of paper.

Joe Waksmundski
NYC Field Director



**Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District
“Detroit Weeds”**

Week 1: June 11th-16th

Sunday:

So for the first time we found out who all was in Orange Crew, and I can't say anyone was disappointed. So far we're hours ahead of schedule, even though we had to travel a 100 more miles than we were told. All-in-all, it's looking to be a promising time.

Jeff B.

Monday:

N/A

Tuesday:

We are clearing ugly nasty Scotch broom plants from the side of roads and campgrounds. I don't know where we are, but it's a fricken long way away from any people. I'm not really sure why we're doing this, the initial reason was to help other plants grow, but we're not really doing that, so I guess it's just to be pretty and be doing something. We are going to plant herbs when we have completed this project.

Stephanie T.

Wednesday:

We are here to help out the forest and make new friends. And we are kicking butt.

Melissa E.

Thursday:

Today we kicked some serious Scotch broom butt. I think we cleared the most out today. It was crazy, we worked like maniacs for the full 8 hours. Today, in ma' opinion was the hardest 8 hours so far. Hopefully it gets easier.

Justin M.

**Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District
"Opal"**

Week 2: June 19th-23rd

Monday:

This weekend most of our orange crew went to south falls and hike for a while then after our handy dandy hike we played some football and frisbee and chilled for most of the day and all hung out! We said hello to a new friend and gooDaniel B.ye to a crewmember!!!

Freddy F.

Tuesday:

We are cleaning up trails and kicking major butt. We are in Detroit and we brushed out 3 miles of trail.

Melissa E.

Wednesday:

Today we went to an old mining cave. It was about 300ft deep! Julie decided it would be fun to run ahead on the way out and hide in the dark and scare people as they passed. My heart almost jumped out of my chest when she surprised me from the Depths of the Darkness. Good times!

Melissa B.

Thursday:

This week, we primarily learned about building trails. During SEED, we learned about the rock cycle, different types of weathering, our water supply, and reading maps. We continue to learn in our everyday work, and gain multitudes of knowledge through our lovely crew leaders.

Stephanie T.

Friday:

This week was our first week of actual trail work, last week we just pulled weeds. It was hard work hiking up the mountain to get to where we work on the trail, I really hope next week we get to work on a boardwalk and maybe make a few gravel boxes. I also hope our trail is in the Olympic national forest, close to the ocean so we can hike there after work one day. Then I really hope we get to go to Stub Stewart state park, which hasn't

yet opened, and work on a new trail there for two weeks, and maybe three weeks if we don't finish it in two weeks. Our campsite this week was the best campsite we'll ever have, we don't have to drive anywhere to get water because of the huge river we are camped right next to.

Julie V.

**Olympic National Forest
Ranger District
"Cape Alava"**

Week 3: June 26th-30th

Monday:

This weekend Melissa got a day off, she really wanted to stay with us, but she had to go, she cried herself to sleep. Everyone went on different rec trips, most of them involved hiking. Parents came for a little bit and we had a fashion show, where Freddy dressed up like a girl and enjoyed it a little too much. We had a seven hour drive where we all grew a little closer to each other. Freddy has poison oak.

Julie V.

Tuesday:

So today we walked a lot and it was crap. Tyrel and Melissa fought today and Tyrel was victorious. Tyrel and Bryan walked a bazillion miles today. WE all worked hard on this wonderfully amazing beautiful day that was really hot. This week has so far been tiring. Lewis is a frickin wicked genius with herbal treatments. Freddy a.k.a. Fluffy's arm is wrapped in white stuff.

Tyrel K.

Wednesday:

Our crew's goals are to make a turnpike. Treat hikers well and carrying stringers without talking a breath. A stringer is a 10-25 foot piece of wood (ours were 12) that were generally 6" x 8".

Jeff B.

Thursday:

Happy hikers love
Beans, rice, salsa, gorp, water
Olympic N.P.!

Melissa E.

Friday:

So our contact Lynn Bean was awesome. Really great. He'd been working in the Olympic forest for at least 25 years. Before that he had been a brick layer, a barber, a tank driver and had an afro. It was awesome on so many levels because he was a more compassionate, pleasant man. Not only that, but he taught us a lot of neat games and tracks for the trail. But on the work side we kicked butt, carrying stringers ¾ mile down the trail, and carrying 60-75 pounds of decking 2 miles down the trail up and down puncheons just to nail those in the new turnpike and puncheon. It was all sorts of awesome.

Stub Stewart State Park

Week 4: July 3rd – 7th

Monday:

There was a talent show and everyone showed their most applicable talent: drinking cans of Mountain Dew, that is. Later that night we, the orange male tent was noisy as we couldn't sleep. So instead of trying to sleep we joined yellow crew in singing holiday songs into the end of tent-time.

Jeff B.

Tuesday:

This week we are building approximately 0.52 miles of trail (more if we can). We are in a yet-to-be-opened state park, Stub Stewart State Park, which should be opened sometime next year. We are making the trail that will serve the park (hopefully well) until it is rebuilt or maintained, so we are making sure it's perfect.

Stephanie T.

Wednesday:

Today went by reasonable fast. Jeff is insane, he ate a whole head of garlic. We were all split up evenly across our jobs today. We built a lot of trail today. Our grip-hoist broke which was like our main weapon against the stupid stumps. Me and Bryan blasted through a crap load of trees near the end of the day. Melissa is obsessed with the chainsaw and is a beast.

Tyrel K.

Thursday:

Orange Crew made new trail this week so we learned how to use a grip hoist to take out stumps, but the grip hoist broke and we are back to digging them out by hand. Our contact did SEED yesterday and we learned about what the tree rings can tell us about climate and other things. Melissa taught us how to use the chainsaw and we all took turns falling trees that were 10 inches wide (just a joke).

Julie V.

Friday:

We finished our first week on orange tree trail at stub stewart state park. It is beautiful and we get to come back next week to finish it. We have an awesome campsite that I hope we get to have again so everything is exactly the same next week. WE all have a ton of motivation to work really hard on this trail and it will for sure carry over into next week. Melissa has a really hard time getting us to stop working and take breaks. She has to drag us away from the worksite everyday. We all are wide awake and ready to start work in the morning every day and we always have a great PMA. It's amazing how everyone volunteers to do all the hard and less exciting jobs and does such an awesome job at them. Our crew just keeps getting better and better every week.

Julie V.

Stub Stewart State Park

Project Name- Trial

Week 5: July 10th – 14th

Monday:

Today went by kind of slow and we lost Jayson today. I think we are all tired and worn out trying to finish these 6 weeks as quickly as possible. All of the guys are getting coughs and getting sick. We are in the same place as last week doing the same thing which everything boring, hectic, repetitive. We are almost done so hopefully the rest of us will make it.

Tyrel K.

Tuesday:

We are working on a trail at Sub Stewart State Park. We started the trail last week and this week we get to finish it, because we all love to follow through and do all of our projects completely and it was killing us that we didn't have time to finish it, so Melissa made sure we had the exact same project this week.

Julie V.

Wednesday:

Today me and Jeff were leaders of the day which was awesome. We wiped out a bunch of trail and we're all looking forward to the end of the week so we can take showers and start a new project next week.

Brian L.

Thursday:

Today we kick trails butt and Melissa and Aubrey and Freddy entertained us by song. Freddy and Stephanie rocked at being leaders of the day.
Orange Crew Rocks!

Melissa E.

Friday:

Today we had a great game that our crew leader and rover came up with what there was is a flag with every flag there was a challenge you had to complete the challenge to get the flag there were 4 little crews PDA, OPP, POO, and SAP. OPP which was J and B had 13 flags and SAP which was S and me also had 13 flags so for the tie breaker we had a dance-off to 'Step by step,' some people didn't dance so SAP won the tie breaker and won the grand prize! Team POO which was J and T also got a prize for working the hardest! Every team work really hard and all deserved a nice job...but better luck next time. We also lost Jason this week which was really hard on everyone in their own way. I was really sad to see him go! ☹ I also got mauled by a bear in a public bathroom trying to do the butt dance (just kidding)

Freddy F.

Week 6: July 17th – 21st

Monday:

Our crew had the opportunity to spend this last weekend enjoying the different features of Sisters, Oregon. Our rec. trips consisted of hiking, swimming, viewing volcano remains, and of course store stops. Following our rec. trips, we then proceeded to challenge ourselves and each other in the “NYC Olympics.” Although we got last place, we still enjoyed an afternoon of obstacle courses, saw pack races, corn eating contests, and water chugging.

Stephanie T.

Tuesday:

Seconds become minutes, then minutes to hours, and days are just made up of hours strung along like an unending line. Days and weeks pass quickly without much spiritual change or effect. However it is moments that stretch onto eternity changing all in turn. We live in a world of change and eternal entropy. We are bastions of memory, letting fly the twin arrows of thought and experience, flying through eternity by the light of a glorious verity. For this reason I am eternally thankful for the fact of this journal, speaking of truth, wisdom, and the little things that make it all worth while.

Jeff B.

Wednesday:

Our goal for the last week is to not fight with each other. We are all going to be nice to each other and to Melissa and make the last week a perfect one. We are also not going to have any blowouts or breakdowns. We can and will be the perfect crew and that’s how Melissa is going to remember us.

Julie V.

Thursday:

We got to kick lots of trail butt! Oh yeah and we all got to see amazing sights. We were in Mt. Bachelor. We all loved the sights and we took pictures and saw lots of Mt. Shasta while we were there.

Melissa E.

Friday:

This week we learned how to deal with each other to get through our last week. We are all missing home but at the same time we are sad to leave NYC. We finished fixing up two trails and we started a third trail on the last day...and we got really far. It was amazing how hard we worked on the last day, everyone was sweating and breathing hard from working the whole five and a half hours to get as much trail fixed up as we could. I am so proud that we finished strong.

Julie V.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...On the second week when we had to go straight uphill to finish the trail. –Melissa E.

...At the 5th weekend site we had to do crew Olympics and we had to run up a huge hill together as a crew but it was fun afterward. –Nicole S.

...The whole 5th, being at a place nobody liked and I got really sick and it is really hanging around. –Tyrel K.

...Eating 30 hamburgers between 2 people for 5 bucks.

...The day after Brandon left, the day I got my first verbal warning, and the day Jason got fired. –Stephanie T.

...My most challenging day was in the 2nd week when I nearly fell all the way off the side of a steep trail. –Jeff B.

...My most challenging day was when I was eating a lot of pasta that way we wouldn't have any leftovers and I puked afterwards. –Freddy F.

...The first day of when we were making new trail I wasn't drinking enough water and I got really sick and grumpy, it was not fun for me or people around me. –Julie V.

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...When we got Aubrey because she got me excited for work by making it funner. –Melissa E.

...My favorite NYC experience is when me and Tyrel had a huge stick war in the woods. –Bryan L.

...My favorite NYC experience was when me and Bryan having tree wars and just chilling. –Tyrel K.

...The time I got to spend with Brandon, the time I got to spend with Jason. –Stephanie T.

...The time I spent with my crewmates, going over completed trail, and the sleep of a hard day's work. –Jeff B.

...The time we lived together, the great crewleader we had and all the cool rivers. –Freddy F.

...Surpassing our contacts goals for us, sleeping outside, and getting to know everyone on our crew. –Julie V.

...1 When Aubrey did the butt dance, 2 when Julie was doing dishes by her self and bumbled herself, 3 Julie hearing random sounds.

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...One thing I will always remember is me, Jayson & Bryan on the second week. I was standing on the trail and Bryan and Jayson broke a tree and I attempted to jump out of the way and it got me in the leg and laid me out. It was Awesome. –Tyrel K.

...is all the people I met. –Melissa E.

...Me and Tyrel eating 30 hamburgers that were 11 years out of dae for five bucks a piece. –Bryan L.

...All of the people I have met and gotten to know here. –Stephanie T.

...One thing I will always remember is the chill people I've met in WA1. –Jeff B.

...One thing that I will always remember is the friends I had made and all the good time that I had! –Freddy F.

...The one thing I will always remember is the cool things we did together as a crew. –Nicole S.

...I will remember the walks back on the trails that we fixed or we made, it is amazing to see all the work we got done in the short time we were at each place. –Julie V.

From Now On I Will Always...

...Think about what I say before I say something, cause it might hurt someone. –Nicole S.

...Think before I say something. –Melissa E.

...I will wake up at 6 out of habit and I will be more aware of other people and their issues. –Julie V.

...Be patient, persistent and let things go and just be open-minded. –Tyrel K.

...Appreciate the amount of time I can spend in my shower at home. –Stephanie T.

...Be calm and persistent. –Jeff B.

...From now on I will always know how to build trail and appreciate it!!!! ☺ –Freddy F.

...I will always appreciate trails more now that I know how much work goes into them

At NYC I Learned...

...I learned how to deal with living with strangers for six weeks and stop being shy and getting up extremely early. –Melissa E.

...Here at NYC I learned how to build trails, be patient, persistent, and deal with a lot of annoying repeating things. –Tyrel K.

...I learned to go a week without washing my hair, go pee in the woods, and eat a lot. –Stephanie T.

...I learned to be more social because at home I'm usually pretty shy and don't like to be around people I don't know. –Bryan L.

...At NYC I learned about how staying calm and rolling with the punches will get me through almost anything. –Jeff B.

...3 things that I learned was how to make trail, have a good time doing it, and the way we lived for 6 weeks of our lives. –Freddy F.

...3 very important things I learned are 1. pick your nature wipe carefully, 2. how to build a fire without gas, 3. and drink lots of water. –Nicole S.

...I learned that sometimes people just don't get along and will have their issues. I learned that time always goes faster when you're having fun, and I learned that you NEED to keep stirring powered soup. –Julie V.