



# *Crew Journal*



*Washington Conservation Corps  
Yellow, 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, slightly slanted style. It is positioned over a light blue rectangular background.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**Willamette National Forest  
Detroit Ranger District  
Project Name- Bridge Repair**

Week 1: June 11th-16th

Sunday:

Today we were put in our crew. Yellow! So far we are all getting along. But we really haven't spent enough time together to tell how we will react to each others' personalities,. We start work tomorrow. I'm not quite sure of the details of the job. Only that it will be bridge work. Sounds Exciting!

KayLynn C.

Monday:

This being our first week in the corps, we have been assigned bridge refurbishing and whatever maintenance we see need on the trail. We are residing in a campground near Detroit Lake in Willamette State/National (?) Park. We are rebuilding the bridge because of its dilapidated condition. Weather was beautiful today; we started with cool mountain air and blue sky which transitioned in a typically Oregon way, to a downpour and thunderstorm. Absolutely magnificent these woods are.

Paul A.

Tuesday:

Our goal for the week is to finish the bridge.

Nathan W.

Wednesday:

Today everyone learned that it was my birthday and I turned 18 on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The day went good, everyone was ready for the job and with a smile. We had accomplished a lot today on the bridge. We're all getting along quite well with each other.

Ben F.

Thursday:

Today we finished the bridge. It was a little slow getting up, but the rest of the day went by pretty fast. There was a lot of teamwork. We saw lots of animals today because it did not rain!

Nathan W.

Friday:

Yellow crew built a bridge from deck up this week, it was fun, even though we had to peel a dozen or so logs it was still exciting. It was a challenge getting everything exact but in the end it was a major accomplishment to look back on. Go Yellow crew!

Kaylynn C.

**Lewis & Clark National Park  
Project Name- Noxious Species Removal**

Week 2: June 19th-23rd

Monday:

We all hung out with everyone and with new people, we played games and did activities and stuff.

Travis L.

Tuesday:

Fort Clatsop, Astoria, Oregon: Pulling weeds and clearing invasive species, to make the parking lot better looking and to help the natural species of this area.

Travis L.

Today we hiked the 6 mile long Fort Clatsop, Fort to sea trail. It was awesome. Along the way we planted native ferns and bushes to help make parts of the trail look better. Towards the end of our hike we stopped and removed part of a non-native blackberry patch. Part of the crew had to chop the bushes down while the other part followed them and dug out the root system. Our hike ended on the beach of the Pacific Ocean. As a reward Kristian allowed the crew to relax on the beach for a bit before returning to camp.

Alan K.

Wednesday:

MR. ANDERSON says that our crews goals for the week are to complete the tasks that are set before us, to meld those to new personalities that have joined us to complete the cohesive unit of our team known as the yellow crew and finding out what makes us us.

“We are mellow  
We are yellow  
We are way too cool for all you other fellows.”  
Dictated to us all by Kristian W.

Submitted faithfully by Paul M.A.

Thursday:

This week my “Yellow Crew” learned some abnormal and normal stuff. For the normal we learned about Fort Clatsop, Lewis & Clark exploitation and about the native and non-native invasive plants, some of which are the ladus (sic) and Scotch broom (bad). My crew also learned a little about trails and trail building. For the abnormal stuff we were able to learn about and participate in a real S & R. A guy Michael McDonald disappeared. My crew took a special day off our normal work schedule to help out in the search. We learned a lot that day; helping, leadership, cooperation, but mostly about communication. Sadly, our search turned up empty. We all feel for the guy and his family. Personally (since this is my very first week at NYC) I think the yellow crew is doing an awesome job. The work is hard but it is rewarding to know we are helping out learning while we work. Me and my crew are relieved that it is almost weekend, but are feeling pride at what we have accomplished this amazing week and are exciting, looking forward toward the next four weeks and their mysterious uncertainties.

Katie C.

Friday:

This week we rambled and roamed over hill and dale scoping and scouting for noxious weeds. In the heat of the day, all plants look alike and it is the most we can muster just to pull the right plants. Our week’s intermission involved a lost and senile man and a large-scale search and rescue. He wasn’t found.

Paul

**Mt. Rainier National Park  
Trail Maintenance**

Week 3: June 26th-30th

Monday:

Green trees all around,  
Blissful work makes me sleepy,  
A long nap comes soon.

NYC is pretty great for me thus far into the session. I enjoy being out here and doing the work. I’m excited to know of the adventures soon to come.

Kaylynn C.

Tuesday:

New projects to learn  
So keep yourself going strong

Hold two fingers up!

Today on our hike up was cool like yesterday but today we had to stop to take pictures. Our hike was better and much faster. Some projects were finished and others are getting there. Much frustration going on but still not going to quit. From my perspective we're all enjoying ourselves and we're getting ready for tomorrow.

Ben F.

Wednesday:

Happiness flows forth as a cat's curiosity never ending.

Curiosity killed the cat. But happiness is ever giving life.

Same and different as is life.

Changing and flowing.

Paul A.

Thursday:

How my life has changed through NYC:

People and places never

To forget. I am

A better person through them

Alan K.

Friday:

We were in Mt. Rainier this last week and we put in steeps, waterbars and checksteps.

That was so much fun to do. We had to hike 3 ½ miles one way and it was awesome.

Tawnie

**Marion County Parks  
Detroit Ranger District  
Aumsville Park**

Week 4: July 2nd-7th

Monday:

This weekend we were camped out at Mt. St. Helens. Some people went swimming for their rec. trips and some went and explored the Ape Caves. All in all it was a good time for everyone and nothing too exciting happened.

YAY! YELLOW CREW!

Derek G.

Tuesday:

Wide, gravel path, deep

Helpful path around pond scene

ADA

Paul A.

Wednesday:

HAIKU 7/5/7 & SOMETHING ELSE

Wonderful day  
Time moves swiftly on towards  
The end

The weeks fly by and we are almost done. I will be happy to complete but a little sad that I might never contact people again.

So is life. Up and down.

I say go with it

Paul A.

Thursday:

We still have our yellow pride  
We're going strong yeah  
So let's see your two fingers

Friday:

Hot as the mid afternoon sky  
Brings sweat seeping out of my pores  
Turns my skin a slight shade of pink  
Exhausting to the point of no return  
Forcing water down my parched throat  
Going crazy with various tools  
As we build our own trail  
Picks, fabric and lots of gravel  
A week's worth of work  
Look back on hard laborious work  
With proud eyes...

Kaylynn

**Marion County Parks  
Detroit Ranger District  
Aumsville Park**

Week 5: July 9th-14<sup>th</sup>

Sunday:

I think that Thoreau's comment is talking about risk-taking, not staying in one place. Taking a front row seat – camping, going to other countries, making new friends, activities; about finding what you enjoy and like fit seemed like Thoreau was experimenting.

Katie C.

Monday:

Please write a song to the tune of American Pie by Joe in case you were wondering McLean.

Oh yeah it's Yellow Crew's time,  
We drove our bus to the pond with our picks inside.  
-Peace from yellow crew

Alan K.

Tuesday:

How does the lunar cycle affect you (last night was a full moon). If unsure...what is better the invention of the tortilla or the advent of sliced bread? Explain.

In my opinion the better invention would be the slice of bread because I use it more and it tastes way better in my opinion.

Ben F.

Wednesday:

*What does rain do to you?*

Rain makes me feel better depending on my mood. Good mood I feel stronger and can go 100 miles like what I felt today.

Bad mood it makes me think of a lot of stuff like our first week.

*Bonus (if you answer bonus NO DISHES): what is the quadratic expression? OR who played Harold in Harold & Maude?*

Ben F.

Thursday:

5 weeks ago would you hang out with anyone from this crew, and 5 weeks from now will you hang out with anyone from this crew?

5 weeks ago. I wouldn't hang out because I didn't know anyone. I worked with them and got to know them for 4-5 weeks.

Nate W.

Friday:

This week was great we started a bridge, put in a rock bridge and weted (sic). But it's Rock like no tomorrow. I felt pretty good about the last five weeks because I have learned a lot from my crew and crew leaders that I was around. I learned how to use a leave for the bridge, and how to use a tape measure and it was cool to learn how to use those things.

Tawnie P.

**Marion County Parks  
Detroit Ranger District  
Aumsville Park**

Week 6: July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Sunday:

I came here because I thought it would be fun to spend 6 weeks in the outdoors and make some money while doing it. Now I would come out here again just to meet new, interesting, and fun people because I feel I've done just that.

Monday:

If life was really like a box of chocolates what would you do if you received that unwanted chocolate?

Life goes on after chocolates. No matter the flavor you encounter you can get to the better stuff in the box. So I guess I would just go eat more chocolate.

Paul A.

Tuesday:

Who is your hero (you must have one and explain why)?

Pauls. My hero is superman because the only thing that can kill him is a horse and kryptonite. Then Paul the panda bear 'cuz of his goofy butt smile & other.

Derek G.

Wednesday:

The 2 best inventions would have to be our advanced medical technology that we have today and the invention of hot running water.

I would say our medical technology because I believe that I am here because of it. If it weren't for the medicine that I received when I was born prematurely, the doctors say that I wouldn't have lived. I believe that this technology has saved many lives that otherwise would have been lost.

I say the invention of hot running water to be one of the best inventions because it is one of the things we use most every day in our homes. It has made life easier, cleaner and more comfortable. That is why I call it a good invention.

Alan K.

Thursday:

My favorite memory was at the first week at Detroit. When we got our first bridge done and everyone got to wrench on the last bolt.

YELLOW ☺

Nate W.

Friday:

All the fun people and our projects cause everything and everyone was awesome and I had a lot of fun.

Travis L.

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

...My most challenging day of this session was the first day at Mt. Rainier, 3<sup>rd</sup> week. –Tawnie P.

...My most challenging day at NYC was my 2<sup>nd</sup> week at Fort Clatsop when we did the SAR. –Ben F.

...My most challenging day at NYC was probably Wednesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week at Fort Clatsop we I chose to stay behind because of my health. I feel that I let down my crew even though getting better was important. –Alan K.

...My most challenging day at NYC this session was the 2<sup>nd</sup> week doing SAR and carrying a yellow top for 8 hours. –Nate W.

...My most challenging day this session was doing the Search and Rescue at Fort Clatsop. It ended up bringing our crew closer and taught us how to communicate better with each other. –Derek G.

...Every day offers new and interesting challenges. For me no day really can outweigh any other in challenges. That is why I like doing this. –Paul A.

...My most challenging week was the third week at Mt. Rainier. –Katie C.

...My most challenging day was Tuesday on Astoria because of our 6 mile hike to the ocean. –Travis L.

...My most challenging day during this NYC session would have to be the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. We were working at Mt. Rainier, and the hike was beautifully exhausting. I had some trouble during the hike up because I was dehydrated and over-exerted myself. It was tough but I learned my strengths and weaknesses. –KayLynn C.

...My most challenging day at NYC for me would be the hike at Mt. Rainier. When it was an hour hike it took me about four hours to hike back because I was sick. –Debra M.

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

...My three favorite NYC experiences were how to cook a good dinner in the Dutchie, how to use a level and how to get along with everyone. –Tawnie P.

...Three favorite experiences I had would be building a bridge deck up, SAR and being outdoors for 6 weeks. –Ben F.

- 1) Learning teamwork to complete a task.
- 2) Building the bridge in Detroit, OR, 1<sup>st</sup> week
- 3) Experiencing the awe of looking back at all that I have had during a certain day or week. –Alan K.

- 1) Becoming close to the guys on my crew like brothers.
- 2) Building the bridge in Detroit, OR, and SAR.
- 3) Working with my crew and then going to camp knowing how much fun I can have with different kinds of people. -Derek G.

- 1) Building a bridge.
- 2) SAR.
- 3) Getting to know different kinds of people. -Nate W.

- 1) Working with a variety of characters and personalities as well as meeting them.
- 2) Washing clothes, showering and relaxing after a hard weeks work.
- 3) To be under the leadership of a hard working, genuine personality. -Paul A.

- ...1) Search & Rescue.
- 2) Building a bridge.
  - 3) Having fun with my crew. -Katie C.

- 1) Having a great crewleader lead us.
- 2) Search and Rescue.
- 3) Relaxing at the weekend site. -Travis L.

...1) Weekend rec. trips to awesome places, spent with incredibly amazing people. 2) The fashion show where Ben and Paul looked fabulous in their costumes. 3) The overall experience of meeting, working with and becoming close to wonderful people. – KayLynn C.

...The search and rescue, the crew Olympics, and spending a month with 11 awesome people. –Debra M.

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

...The one thing I will always remember is 2<sup>nd</sup> week when I almost fell on the ground laughing. –Tawnie P.

...I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER how cool my yellow crew was and the ROVERS. – Ben F.

...One thing I will always remember will be how I was able to become part of a team and work through the hard times having fun with my crew. –Alan K.

...One thing I will always remember is my whole crew and the great leadership skills taught to us all by our amazing crewleader and rovers. Go Yellow. –Derek G.

...I will always remember NYC and everything it has offered me and the best all around person in the world (Kristian Winston). –Nate W.

...I am ready. –Paul A.

...I will ALWAYS remember my Amazing crew. –Katie C.

...All the rovers and crew-members I had fun with. –Travis L.

...I will always remember the people I have met. They have changed me so much and I hope to never ever forget them. –Kaylynn C.

...I will always remember the people I spent a month with, I will always remember doing WA1 and all the hard work the crew & I did. –Debra M.

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

...Be on myself to do something and get it done right and the first time and also make it look good. –Tawnie

...From now on I will always stay true to my values LDRSHIP:  
Loyalty Duty Respect Selfless service Honor Integrity Personal courage. –Ben F.

...From now on I will always have a greater respect for what it takes to build a trail. I will also have a greater respect for life itself. –Alan K.

...From now on I will always respect nature and leaders, realizing now how much stress and responsibility involved to be a good one. –Derek G.

...From now on I will always get to know people instead of judging them and respect life and nature. –Nate W.

...My ability to be human is demonstrated and shown in my work ethic. –Paul A.

...From now on I will always know how to handle, carry and store sharp tools.

...Be myself and have fun but know when to be serious -Travis L.

...From now on I will always appreciate my surroundings, the people that I have met, and the incredible memories made. –KayLynn C.

...From now on I will respect people and the hard work they do, I will always respect the crew leaders and how hard it is to be a leader. –Debra M.

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

...I learned to have a lot of patience with people, help people if they need it, and be more vocal. –Tawnie P.

...I learned to set up a proper camp and it's nice to be prepared to do anything. –Ben F.

- ...1) How to identify poison oak.
- 2) How to lift a rock to check for snakes, etc. underneath it.
- 3) How to work as a team. –Alan K.

- 1) How to get along with all sorts of people
- 2) How to communicate and help each other throughout the work day.
- 3) Good bond proofing -Derek G.

- 1) Teamwork and communication help a lot.
- 2) Working hard kills time
- 3) There are many kinds of people in the world -Nate W.

...I learned to push myself harder everyday.

...I learned how fast my body can be accustomed to hard work.

...I learned no matter what you do, some people will continue to stay the same. –Paul A.

- ...1) How to set up a \_\_\_ wall
- 2) How to be safe with tools
- 3) How to do search & rescue -Katy C.

- 1) Search and Rescue
- 2) Interaction with people
- 3) Properly handle and store tools -Travis L.

- 1) My limits, physically and mentally
- 2) To appreciate every experience for it will soon be gone
- 3) Value everything -KayLynn C.

...I learned what poison oak looks like, how to do a SAR (search and rescue) and how to get along with people I would probably never have hung out with. –Debra M.