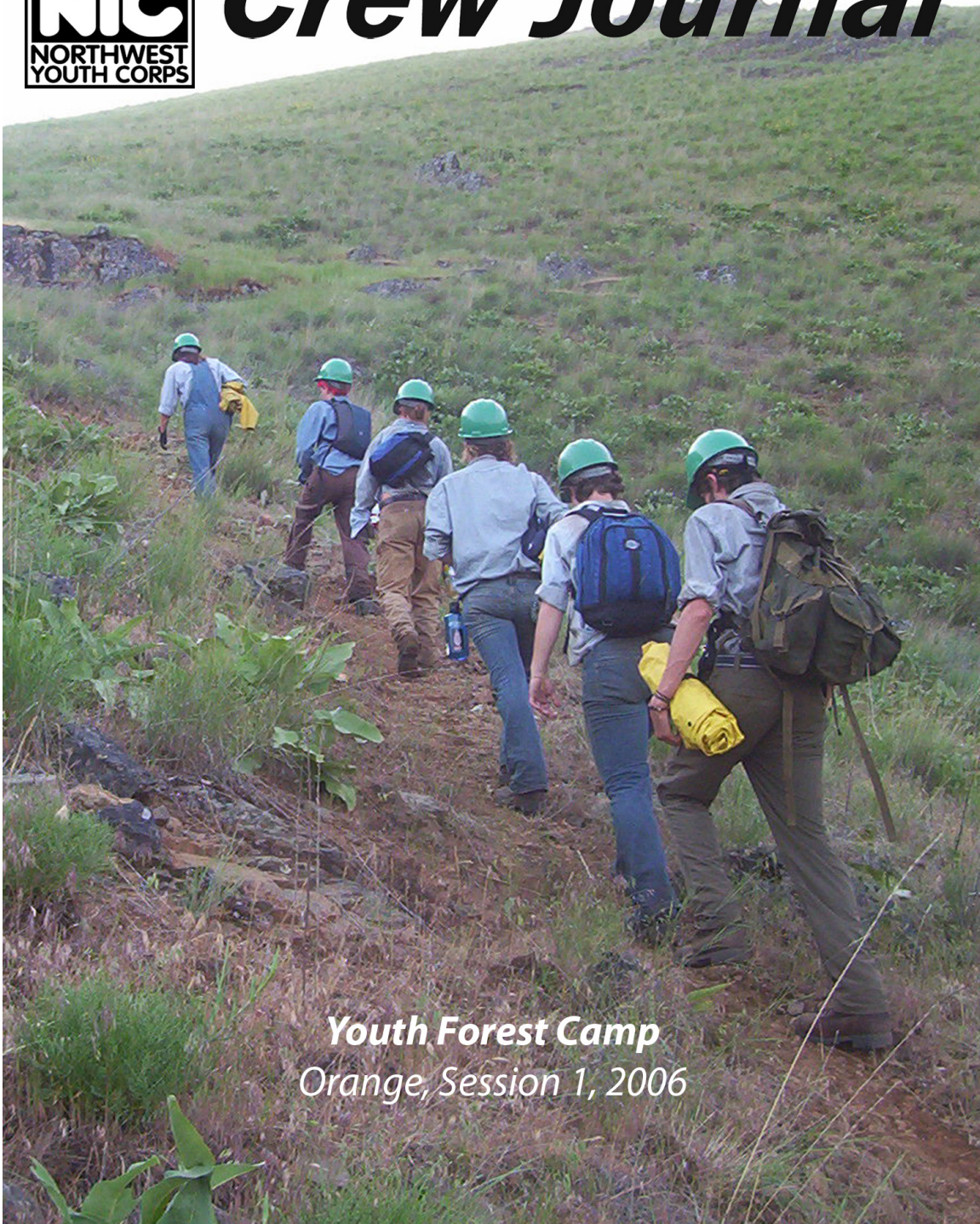




# *Crew Journal*



*Youth Forest Camp  
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.

Joe Waksmundski  
NYC Field Director



**National Forest or area that the work took place: Rogue River NF**  
**Ranger District: Prospect RD**  
**Project Name- Upper Rogue River Trail**

Week 1: Date June 19<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday: Yesterday we were assigned to our crews and informed of the location of our first project. It took some time, some patience, and a couple of last minute plan changes, but at last the Orange crew-composed of Troy, Stephen, Kyle, Justin, Wesley, Katherine, Stephanie, Sarah, Chrissie, Katie, Juliette, and Ryan-landed at the beautiful Gold Beach. After some valiant attempts to set up the tents through relentless winds, we at last moved to a less exposed area and tasted the first sweet sample of success. It was getting late, so we threw together a conglomeration of ramen noodles and hot dogs. Eating out of our work hats, we were finally able to relax for a minute and absorb the beauty of our surroundings. We fell asleep to Ryan's singing, bounced harmonically off the background of a babbling brook. The next morning it was rise and shine at 6:15 and by 7 am sharp we were "on the clock." After safety circle a combination of safety concerns and stretches, we were off to our first day on the job. The team worked hard, worked together, and worked well. We began as a large clump made serious progress on a portion of trail bombarded with thick roots and heavy rocks, the dispersed into smaller groups to tackle a series of other projects. By 3:30 we were done, and at last we returned to

camp, proceeded through our chores and sat down to enjoy another wonderful dinner in our little slice of paradise. –Katie B.

Tuesday: Who is working along Rouge River? The orange crew, us, Troy, Stepehn, Kyle, Justin, Wesley, Katherine, Sarah, Katie, Juliette, Ryan and me. From about 7am to 3:30pm, we dig trails and constantly battle with rocks. The first day felt (like) forever, but as you continue working, it gets faster everyday. Although it is only my second day so I don't know, but I at least hope it feels faster. Being out here with Orange crew has been great and I know it gets better as the days go by. –Christine S.

Wednesday: Our goals this week are to finish the trail and form a sense of community. We've been assigned 8 miles of the Rogue River trail and are working on re-routing the trail as well as removing obstacles from hikers way. We hope to finish this work with time to spare so we can work on little projects not assigned, such as doffing the trail. The sense of community should come quickly as we've almost learned everyone's names and are working well on the trail. Another goal I forgot to mention is safety. We hope to complete this and have so far succeeded.

Thursday: Our day started early this morning, and after eating breakfast and doing some stretches we started on a long hike to our work areas. Then soon to follow we had a break and then lunch after working really hard. The day got exhausting and hot, and we were about to sit down and stay down because we were tired. But soon after, we got off work and we didn't care about our soars and injuries, we just wanted to get back to camp. –Stephen M.

Friday: This entire week was filled with challenges, big and small. Our campsite was on solid rock, yet we accomplished setting up our tents. We used piles of rocks and rope instead of stakes and they proved to withstand the tremendous gusts of wind that paid us a visit each evening. An even greater personal challenge that many corpsmembers faced was one of endurance during times of physical pain. This first week was a time for breaking in new boots by walking up to 6 or 7 miles some days. Many feet suffered blisters on top of blister which resulted in skinless toes and heels. The pain had some limping around camp after pushing themselves through 8 hours of trail work. Even with the pain and the scorching sun, spirits remained high.

Some other challenges we faced were due to our remoteness and unfamiliarity of backcountry routines. We learned a lot through our mistakes. We lived simply without the luxury of condiments on our meat sandwiches or plates for our food. We were supplied with front country bread products like pizza crust and hamburger buns but received loads of cream cheese for the bagels we did not have and refried beans without tortillas. Upon our 1<sup>st</sup> night when dinner was being prepared, we realized one stove was broken so our menu options dwindled even more. Our meat had to be cooked with the rest of the food so the only vegetarian on the crew sacrificed for the sake of the crew and ate meat for every day of the week. We made the best of what we had and actually cooked remarkable dinners and shared an experience that will be remembered for years to come. –Juliette S.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: OPRD**  
**Ranger District: Humbug Mtn. SP**  
**Project Name- Humbug Mountain Day Use Trail**

Week 2: Date June 26<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>

Monday: This weekend, our crew met blue crew, and gathered at base camp. We mixed and mingled with the other crew, and got the chance to meet each other. Although, the funniest part of being at camp base is going on Rec. trips. This weekend I went to the beach with Ryan. Ryan is one of the leaders with YFC, he's really cool and reminds all of us of a pirate. Anyways, the sun was very sunny and got to feel the water with our feet. It was so warm, I fell asleep with a peaceful mind. It was great working hard and then resting is the best. Blue crew left after Rec. day and we needed to work on our camp base. Though it was hard, we still continue, our group is very hard working. Keep working day by day and we still always have time for sleep. –Christine S.

Tuesday: We are re-routing trail, building retaining walls, we are working at Humbug State Park, the trail was not safe enough to walk on it so we are making it safe. –Catheran H

Wednesday: Today was full of misconceptions. Things seemed bad but ended up great and things seemed great but ended up horrible. Orange crew stumbled out of their tents into a dreary chilly morning. Later the clouds turned out to be a blessing as the clouds provided shelter from the sun and made for a cool work site. The crew leaders handed out seemingly easy projects but the ground turned out to be relentlessly chalked full of rocks. The crew leaders announced that work would end at 2:15 today and everyone was ecstatic. To everyone's dismay we spent the next two hours and forty five minutes at the doctor's office. –Wesley

Thursday: We're over the hump! A long Thursday wore the Orange crew out, but excitement for the weekend is mounting. Molly was on the site today, and she pounded stakes and hauled dirt with endless gusto! The team is working mainly on rerouting trails and building retaining walls on Humbug mountain; while we're not miles apart from each other, the work is more complex and the supplies are far away. But bit by bit, progress is being made, and the cooler weather is a huge help. Now the crew is chugging through their chores, and the smell of burritos wafts through the air as we vie for the prestigious "pig award" but wait! It's not over yet! It's time for a haiku (kids, don't try this at home) : -Katie B.

Orange Crew  
Orange crew is fun  
We all know we're number one  
'cuz we "git'er done."

Friday: Today was a day, which we had to pay Ray's prices which were a pain, and we saw a Great Dane. Today was a day, called Friday we had a visit from Lester, he was a pester. We shout we scream, and yet we still dream, of being clean. Today was a day, of showers, "O showers, O showers, how wonderful they are." We scrub, and rub, till we were numb, because we were not dumb. Today was a day, Wesley was not a dud, he

became our best bud. Today was a day, the sky was blue it makes you feel you want to join Orange crew.

**National Forest or area that the work took place: BLM**  
**Ranger District: Coos Bay BLM**  
**Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC**

Week 3: Date July 3<sup>rd</sup>-July 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday: We started the day with stretches and then worked around the field then moved on to the camp main site and worked but it wasn't that hot so it was good. –Stephen M.

Tuesday: We are high in the Klamath mountain range, clearing Douglas fir from white oak meadows. Being so far in the back country has been awesome. We awoke this morning to a silent, wet fog. It hid the distant hills from view and imposed a subdued attitude for the work day. The silence was peaceful and expanded. Our feeling of isolation. As we finished work, the fog slowly lifted until it became one with the overcast sky.

Our crew is doing well together, though there is always room to improve. We aren't the most efficient crew, but I think we have the spunk department nailed! I was a little worried when I first came to NYC about our crew getting along. But as it has turned out, an overwhelming positive attitude throughout has carried us through the storms. I hope that will continue, because now we know each other pretty well, and the mushy politeness has been replaced by a more family like boldness.

Today is July 4<sup>th</sup>, so we will be hangin with Blue crew who is just a short hike from our place. It's been neat to have two crews close together in back country. Things aren't so lonely. I shouldn't say that though, because I am perfectly happy when chillin with Orange crew. Turtle Power!!! –Justin J.

Wednesday: Our goal is to finish the meadow where we are working and have a fun time doing it. –Troy

Thursday: Number One: We learned how to build slash (burn) piles. Building the piles is rather easy, it's just cutting up the branches and moving the logs which is stressing...Arms and legs workout!! Let's see we also learned to always pack something warm even if everyone tells you it'll be hot.

Hmm...we learned that bears do live around here...we also learned how to tire our arms by cutting down small saplings...ooo. I personally learned how to create a kitchen tent, and we all just discovered what a sharp Pulaski looks like. (yay for files!) –Sarah K.

Friday: Our crew's challenges this week were to reach the goal of fifty slash piles in the first meadow which in the beginning we thought it was going to be a hard one but in the end we overcame it and made a total of 65 massive slash piles so that was a major accomplishment and next week we start on the next meadow and we don't have to hike yay!! –Kyle

**National Forest or area that the work took place: Bureau of Land Management**  
**Ranger District: Coos Bay BLM**

## **Project Name- Hunter Creek ACEC**

Week 4: Date July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday: Orange crew and blue crew are in the back country. So we both had to go back to vans to get more food. After we got more food Orange crew and Blue crew went swimming for 2 hours, we worked on Sunday but over all it was a good weekend. We made a fire and played some games. P.S. Hi mom. –Stephanie S.

Tuesday: Hunter Creek is surrounded by trees and awesome sights. We chopped and built burn piles everyday for the last week. It gets hot sometimes and I can feel it as I work. The crew still works looking forward to showers. Four more days till showers! P.S. salts rock! –Christine S.

Wednesday: It sure seems as though Molly, the woods boss, brings cold weather with her whenever she visits. Today was another foggy, cool Tuesday, and once again the Orange crew was busy from 6 a.m. to 1:30 pm cutting brush, hauling logs, and assembling slash piles. “Larry and Stephanie did a great job being “leaders of the day” and most of the crew agree that the work days have been flying by this week. Despite the chill, morale seems to be up with the group, as only one and a half work days remain at this site. During SEED, the crew has been discussing resumes, cover letters, and interviews. This afternoon is filled with the anticipation of warm sleeping bags, a delicious dinner and showers in just three days. –Katie B.

And now for my haiku:

“Gorp”  
P-milk isn’t cool.  
Rice and hot dogs taste like gruel.  
That’s why gorp’s my fuel.

Thursday: This week my crew learned more about leadership and the difficulties of telling their peers what to do. –Stephen M.

Friday: Our crew’s challenges consisted of bad weather, no showers and no clean clothes and eating a lot of food. Our crew’s accomplishments consisted of making it 2 weeks in back country, (hiking?) out 2 times, making 136 slash piles in 2 weeks. 68 each week. Speaking of challenges the 4<sup>th</sup> of July it rained all day we wore rain gear but we were still wet. Our boots, gloves, and clothes were drenched but we made it. -Catherine

## **National Forest or area that the work took place: Bureau of Land Management Ranger District; Roseburg BLM Project Name- North Bank Fire management**

Week 5: Date July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup>

Monday: We separated in to different groups and went on rec. trips. I went to the beach and body surfed, it was fun. So that’s what I did. –Stephen M.

Tuesday: This week we have two projects the first one is we have to dig an 8 ft. circle around some power lines in a field just past Glide Oregon. Were doing this to stop the poles from

burning when they burn the field. The next projects is taking out some noxious thorn bushes just a little past the same field. –Kyle

Wednesday: Our crew has already completed grubbing of our first project, as well as our second project, we pulled seed pods off of star thistle, and are now grubbing blackberries. Our goal is to not run out of activities and leave enough for teens and trail to have jobs. Our other goal is simply to survive the week. –Sarah

Thursday: I guess I am speaking for my entire crew, but what I learned is something I forgot. Black Berry bushes hurt Bad! You can never be too cautious when your walking through black berry bushes! Poison Oak should be feared and also cautious. This is the last week, the last time with the crew, last time with working and yet I feel like I learned so much during 5 weeks, and I'm glad for being able to take part in NYC. –Christine

Friday: The last day...boy that's hard to imagine, but never the less it's here. We've come a long way as a crew, as individuals. We are like a family now, comfortable in our own skins and it'll be hard for us to separate on the morrow. We'll all head home, take a shower, sleep in our own bed, hopefully not forget all we've been through together. I'm planning on seeing every member of my crew sometime in the near or distant future so I know I won't forget them. –Sarah K.

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

My most challenging day at NYC was hiking out from our 2 week back country trip because I have never sweated that much in my life. –Kyle A.

My most challenging day was the one in which I had to construct a rock bridge while working on the trail at the Rogue River. After spending the entire morning working on it, we had to take it apart and start again from the beginning. –Katie B.

My most challenging day was during the first week on the Rogue River trail. I was working on a washout over a really steep cliff. I was working by myself because there was not enough footing for two people to stand. –Wesley D.

Last Thursday when I had to hike 1 mile up a hill.

My most challenging day was the Thursday when we had to hike up hill for miles with an ultra heavy back pack. My back was hurting so bad but I kept going. When I got there I was so glad the hike was over. –Catheran

My most challenging day was the Saturday of third week hiking out was definitely an eye opener. My asthma kicked in. I seriously thought I was going to die. It was a challenge to keep a positive attitude to push myself to stay. –Sarah K.

My most challenging day would have to be during our 2 week back country trip. I was cooking dinner and the other people on dinner weren't helping me. On top of that, I had

no idea how to cook for 12 people. I just didn't control myself and let it get to me. – Justin J.

My most challenging day would be the first day. We were back country at Rogue River with a hot sun shining down. I missed my home, family and non working environment, but I'm so glad I didn't give up. I'm happy I lasted the 5 weeks. –Christine S.

My most challenging day was the first Friday. I was working on the trail with no one around for ½ mile. A black bear jumped out at me. I had to scare the bear away so it would not eat me. –Stephanie S.

My most challenging day was probably every day. –Stephen M.

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

One of my most favorite experiences is in the first week when we got boated in to the campsite on the Rogue River. Another one would be in the Second week when we rolled a hug log and watched it take out trees on the way. Another would be in the third week when we finally got to hike out after 2 weeks of back country. –Kyle A.

I loved sleeping under the stars on our last night at the Rogue River, setting a perfect retaining wall on Humbug Mountain and laughing until I nearly cried as the crew played “Piggly Wiggly” one weekend at base camp. –Katie B.

I loved the rec. trip at Humbug. It was relaxing. I love our ultimate Frisbee matches. I love the dinners at the weekend sites because everyone is always laughing and the food is really tasty. –Wesley

Getting out of our campground last Thursday my other one was getting into town will be to leave this place with no regrets.

My three favorite experiences are sleeping out under the stars; meeting new people; getting to do the second session. –Catheran H.

The beautiful scenery 1<sup>st</sup> week backcountry; my day as a leader 4<sup>th</sup> week back country; 2<sup>nd</sup> week rec. trip hanging out at the ocean with Chrissy & Helen. –Sarah K.

My 3 most favorite experiences were  
Enjoying view, like Hunter Creek or Rogue River; Rec. trip with Sara and Helen, we went to the beach it was really fun; Today so close to being home in 4 days but still love being with our crew. –Christine S.

Going on rec. trips seeing the ocean and it's star fish; Learning how to use, and names of the tools, being able to become a family in only 5 weeks. –Stephen M.

My favorite experiences were heading to base camp after a rocking two week back country trip making slash piles; swimming after work; working, playing and living with eleven other really cool people. –Justin J.

My favorite experiences were meeting my crew and all the new people, seeing the back bear and playing games with all the crews. –Stephanie S.

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

One thing I will always remember is definitely the two week back country trip we had to go on because that was the longest time I've ever gone without a shower and we had the best view of the ocean and the mountain range and the hike out because I have never sweated that much in my life. –Kyle A.

One thing I will always remember is huddling around the fire at night during cold days in back country. I'll also remember the skunk. Soo cute! –Sarah K.

One thing I will always remember would be the first day working at NYC at Rogue River, because it was an interesting time in my life. –Christine

The friends I had made and the projects I did. –Stephen M

I will always remember the new friends I have made here at NYC and the experience. –Catheran H.

I will always remember our count off. –Troy

I will always remember the incredible view from the huge rock at Hunter Creek. I will also remember the amazing friend I made and the satisfying feeling of a job done well. –Katie B.

I will always remember the wonderful feeling of jumping into a cool river after a long hard day of work. –Wesley

I will always remember the people. Slowly becoming a team and then a family. I will miss everyone of them. –Justin J.

I will always remember my crew. All my new friends. I will always remember how sweet my crew leader was. I am going to miss them all.

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

From now on I will always remember to appreciate the small things in life that you usually wouldn't think you would until you don't have it for 5 weeks like showers, clean clothes and iodine water. –Kyle

From now on I will always be able to look back on these five weeks and remember how I felt. Being content with the things you have. –Christine S.

The laughs and good times I had here at NYC –Stephen M

From now on I will always look back and remember the friends I have made and the places I have been. –Catheran

From now on I will always hate poison oak.

From now on I will always remember when I saw my first black bear. –Stephanie S.

I will always try to live with little more than what I really need to survive. I will work to take care of the environment and preserve the wilderness. It's what I love! –Katie B.

I will always be able to maintain order and structure in times of disorder when I am hurried. –Wesley

Enjoy simple pleasures like good food, showers, and bed. I will also never doubt what I can do when I set my mind to it. I will always love the outdoors. Go NYC!! –Justin

From now on I will enjoy the simple pleasure of fruit showers. I'll never doubt that I can always push myself longer and harder. –Sarah K.

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

At NYC I learned to enjoy simplicity yet love luxury. This is how I feel because I miss the little luxury like toilets with running water, electricity and my bed; back country experience. Camping and small things like making a latrine and setting up tents; Making trails and fixing them too! –Christine

At NYC I learned exactly how much I can take mentally and physically especially living with twelve people for the mental part because sometimes it's hard for me to get along with people because I tend to get annoyed easily. I also learned how good my work ethic really is. I also learned to enjoy the small things in life while you have them because when you don't you'll hate it. –Kyle A.

At NYC I learned more about trail restoration. As well as a few environmental facts I'd forgotten over the years. I also learned more about chopping down trees. –Sarah K.

I learned how to deal with people and control my (attitude?) –Troy

At NYC I have learned how to get along with people I have never met. I have learned how to slash pile. –Catheran

I've learned a lot of outdoor life and work skills and I've learned how important it is to stay positive and hopeful when the going gets rough. –Katie B.

I learned to build trails, use tools and go from a group of strangers to a second family. – Stephen M.

I have learned to work with people you normally would not want to work with but at the end you love them.

At NYC I learned How to function as a group; how to work hard and how to enjoy the outdoors. –Wendy

I learned a bit more about out door living and how to use tools like pulaskis and hoes. What I learned most was about being a leader and a team member. Discipline, perseverance and tolerance were other things I definitely improved in –Justin

I learned to work with 10 people who you had to live with and make a family. I learned about the outdoors too. –Stephanie S.