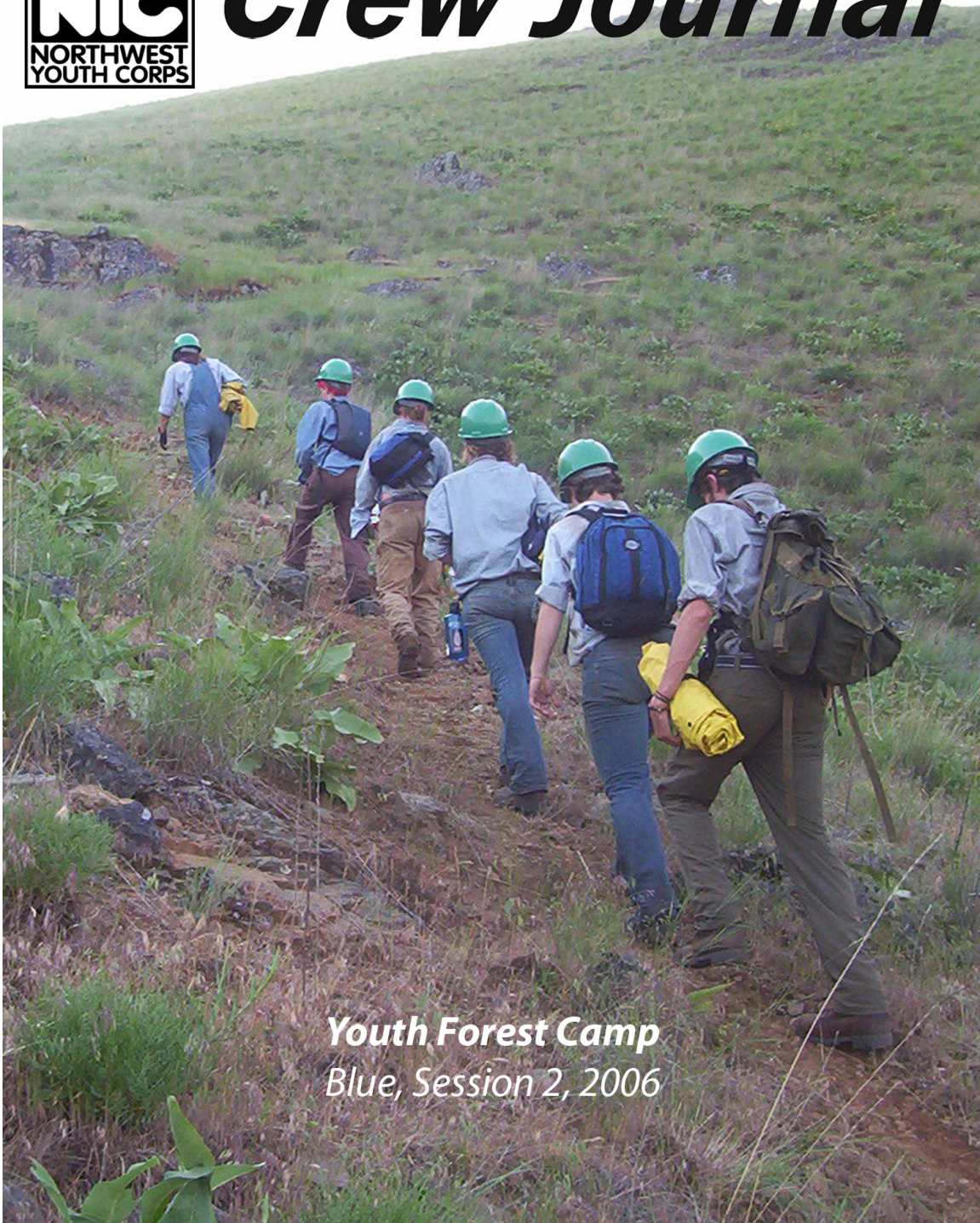




Crew Journal



*Youth Forest Camp
Blue, Session 2, 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: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Mckenzie RD
Project Name- Cabin Meadow trail relocation**

Week 1: Date July 31st-Aug 4th

Monday: This weekend was fun, we all ran into a fire stop and had to turn around and couldn't come back till 9:00 that night. Then in the morning at 6:50 we started our 6 mile hike which wasn't that fun when we started working it wasn't that hard. -Timothy

Tuesday: Blue crew is re-routing trails, water barring trails, we are in the backcountry 6 miles in. We are working hard at the task given to us. We are doing this to help the forest rangers. -Greg

Wednesday: Our goals for the week are to get home safe. Our main goal is to get our new trail finished early. Today we hike two miles so we could finish a trail. We also covered a trail that had a river down it. We re-routed the trail so we could go around it. We have to finish building water bars. -Shawn C.

Thursday: We learned team work, making rock walls. We walk a lot; over 30 miles. Making water bars. Working with rock takes time to move them around. -Jadon H.

Friday: One of the biggest challenges that we faced this week I believe was travel. This being our first week, many of us had blisters on our feet. The blisters made for longer hikes to and from work. Sometimes we had trouble focusing after work during chore time but for the most part that wasn't a problem. We accomplished many things/projects this week. For starters, as a group of complete strangers meeting only six days ago, we proved that we can be respectful and accepting to other people's beliefs. To go along with that, we built some awesome trail. We built about 300 yards of re-route which included a turnpike, a water ford and an awesome rock wall. We had a lot of large rocks and roots to deal with which made our time there extended. We also put in over 14 water bars. This proved to be a little difficult at some points. There were some water bars that needed trenches that reached about 13 or 14 ft. in length because we had to bring them through a hill or small bump. One thing that I enjoyed a lot was using the cross cut. It was really cool because I learned that there are only about 3 places that you can sharpen a cross cut in Oregon. We ended our week with approximately a 6 mile hike out of the backcountry which, after about 4 hours of working I thought was a pretty good accomplishment. All in all I believe that we've accomplished quite a lot. I believe this week has been very productive. –Jeremy M.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Sweethome RD
Project Name- Browder Ridge trail

Week 2: Date Aug 7th-Aug 11th

Monday: This weekend our crew got back from six lakes. We got back to Basecamp at about midnight. On Saturday we had Rec. day. The group I went with went to house rock. Only 6 of us went swimming. We got back at four p.m. and cooked dinner. After dinner we played games like "Ah Kah So." Then Sunday we found out where we were working. On Monday we went to work about 3 ½ miles away. –Shawn C.

Tuesday: Today was more of a depressing day while hiking to work two blue crew members quit, it was sad and there was harder work but blue crew whole some blue force and pulled through with work and hiked back with positive attitudes. I fell that this just makes another challenge and we will pull through with it. –Timothy H.

Wednesday: Our goals as a crew are to become Blue Force. We are also hoping to finish everything we need to do on top of this hike so we don't have to climb up it again tomorrow. We are all hoping to overcome the fact of losing two members yesterday. We are also hoping to bring up our PMA's and to not lose anymore members. –Greg A.

Thursday: We learned that some days are hard and the only way to push through is to radiate SGDDPMA. (super-gosh-darn-doooper- p-m-a.) We learned that sticking together is much better than working separately. We learned that sometimes, people just can't tolerate somethings. We learned that the only way to be Blue Force is to get along radiate, SGDDPMA be willing to try and be awesome. –Jeremy M

Friday: Friday has been awesome because we are Blue force and earlier this week we kicked butt out in the forest so now we get to go to McDonalds which is sweet because we all earned it. Some of the challenges were really hard like having two people quit on us and having to hike 3 miles back to camp but we all had positive attitudes which helps as get along. –Timothy H.

National Forest or area that the work took place: County Parks
Ranger District: Linn County Parks
Project Name-McDowell Creek County Park

Week 3: Date Aug 14th-Aug 18th

Monday: On Saturday we went white water rafting. We started at Paradise Park and went 9 miles from there. Then we got back and our parents visited us. On Sunday we went swimming. After that we did our chores. That's what our crew did for the weekend. –Shawn C.

Tuesday: We are widening trail to prepare for the gravel that we will eventually lay. Working at McDowell creek is great. We get to eat lunch by moving water every day, it is a really stress relieving sound. But when we get back to base camp all the bees drive everybody crazy. Peace and love –Jason F.

Wednesday: This week our goals so far as I see them, are to finish our maintenance project, to get along and to reachieve Blue Forcemdom. The maintenance involves a 20 step staircase, two split rail fences about 12 water bars and a lot of gravel wheel barrowing. I'm pretty psyched about this week, we had a slow start but it's getting good. Peace love and a pillow. –Jeremy M

Thursday: We've learned to gravel, learned to do proper wheel barrowing techniques, learned to use teamwork. Learned to work in a faster pace. I've learned to communicate better with my fellow camp mates. I'm glad that Jason is with our crew than Derek and Jaden. –Nick C.

Friday: We started out being slow at doing everything. Not getting chores or our jobs at the work site done in the time given to us. As the week progressed we started moving much farther and started getting every thing done and actually started running out of things for us to do, then more gravel came and gave us all something to do. We accomplished putting in 2, 8 ft. fences, water bars and graveling 960 ft. of trail which we finished just barely because we almost ran out of gravel but we managed to finish all that we needed to do. At the start of the week a challenge we ran into was that we were arguing with each other and thus not getting much done. We got through that by Wednesday and managed to get everyone on track and finish all our jobs. Our team pulled it off again and brought out the blue force in us all and made sure we got everything accomplished right. –Greg.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Willamette NF
Ranger District: Sweet Home RD
Project Name- Daly Lake Trail

Week 4: Date Aug 21st-Aug 25th

Monday: This weekend our crew did multiple rec. trips. But I personally went to some lake and played hacky sack. My parents did not come. But I totally started a big fun. Meat powder. – Jason F.

Tuesday: Today we all had a pretty good day. We got a lot of work done, we were all just a little tired and hungry and our contact came and dropped off some sweet new tools and wheel barrows which made work a little better, moving stuff around. –Timothy H.

Wednesday: (describe your crew's goals for the week.) Finish the trail and have fun, wheel barrow a ton of fill and finish the ground and trail walls. Make it so wheel chairs can go on it. Make a nice trail. Move trees and make barriers. Finish all the work. Get all the hours. Complete all the work we have placed in front of us, like wheelbarrow, building barriers, down some trees, make it wide enough for wheel chairs and have tons of PMA!!! –S.S.

Thursday: The blue crew has learned about the wheel barrow, bumping system, skinning trees and dropping them into place by the trail. Learning to carry logs and wood bars with the log carriers. I've learned to go without cookies for about three days. This week my goal was to wheel barrow all week and I've done about all my hours on it, and for my fellow halo 18 fans it is almost time to start our chores. –Nick C.

Friday: This week one challenge that we faced was time, we had a lot of projects to get done in a set amount of time. One of our accomplishments was that we were able to complete our challenges. I think that some challenges that we faced were kind of petty, like having trouble volunteering for jobs or getting chores done. Overall, we've met our goals so far as I know and that is a great accomplishment in itself. Peace, Love and a pillow. Jeremy M.

National Forest or area that the work took place: Umpqua NF
Ranger District: Tiller RD
Project Name- Tiller trails

Week 5: Date Aug 25th-Sept 1st

Monday: Describe what you did this weekend. This weekend our crews went swimming and hung out down by House rock while two other crews went white water rafting. That night we did our final Saturday circle. Sunday morning we went back to Daly Lake to finish the job that we started. We also won the crew Olympics. Blue Force. –Timothy H.

Tuesday: (Describe what you did today.) Today due to the lack of fill we did a lot of QC and touch up. I finished removing roots from our area of trail and leveled it out so it's ready for retention and fill. I also got to use the grip hoist to pull out a huge root/stump. It was really cool because we got to use a pulley system. Overall it was a good day. We came home a half hour to because we ran out of things to do. We Need Gravel! –Jeremy M.

Wednesday: Our goal for the week is to get fill done. We also plan to get everything done with bumpers. We also plan to gravel the whole trail. We plan to level out the whole trail. –Shawn C.

Thursday: We learned today that Tim is a space alien from the planet Lofatoast. Before break we were working hard but as we slowed down before lunch Tim got annoyed and his green antennas popped out and his six arms tore through his shirt and started throwing logs and rocks

this way and that. We were scared until Jenna's antennas popped out and she made an ear piercing noise and flying saucer appeared and beamed them up. Now we don't have crew leaders just a broken cow bell and a Lofatoast. –The Phantom Grumpy

Friday: This week we were able to become extreme alien conformists and defeat the evil trail demons. We put in the prickling bumpers of doom and filled in the ancient pit of seldom walked in. We made an awesome work soup and got to see a giant growing stick fall when Mile took the rotating teeth of death to it. –Happy Hiker.

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

My most challenging day was definitely when two of my fellow crew mates decided to quit on the same day and we had to drive 4 hours to and from Salem late at night on a work night but we pulled through. –Mason D.

It was a 2 day. I was wheel barrowing. I was going as fast as possible. I got exhausted. –Sawyer S.

I would have to say that my most challenging day was the Monday of third week, the crew was being very argumentative and I was just losing patience. It seemed like overall there was a general lack of respect that day and it was very difficult for me! –Jeremy M.

My most challenging day at NYC was our 6 mile hike back country. –Shawn C

The first Monday we had a 6 mile hike into backcountry with 40-50 pound packs up and down hills. –Greg A.

My hardest day was when we had two quitters. We had to go to Salem to drop them off and we didn't get to bed till midnight. –Nick C.

Was when Tim Bellis got a little stressed because we had too much work to finish in 4 hours. –Jason F.

6 mile hike back country. –Tim H

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Sleeping under the stars; wheel barrowing; the food. –Sawyer S.

I really like grip hoisting it was very fun to work with pullies; I really like the food we had some awesome food; I enjoyed sleeping under the stars. – Jeremy M.

Sleeping in white walls; the food; hiking. –Shawn C.

Making new friends, work ethics, food. –Greg A.

Wheel Barrowing; new friends; stars –Nick C.

Food; people; work –Jason F.

My crew; the crew Olympics; the check! -Mason D

Chatting with friends; Crew Olympics; Earning Blue Force

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

My crew and my experiences. –Sawyer

The first time “spirit fingers” spread from just me and Mason to the entire crew. –Jeremy M.

I will always remember where to dig a cat hole. –Shawn C.

My crew, the work we did, Sawyer S., James T. Even Greg A.

The blue force of this year 2006 is the best of all crews combined. –Nick C.

My friendships that I have developed. –Jason F.

That 2 bucket and 5 gallon jug is the best band ever! -Mason D.

One thing Is 5 buckets and a 5 gallon jug. –Tim H.

From Now On I Will Always...

Say passing all the time when there is no room 2 pass –Sawyer S.

Do my best to treat everyone with respect. –Jeremy M.

From now on I will always leave no trace. –Shawn C.

Teach others why not to short cut trails for there are teens out there that came and fixed the damage they caused

From now on I will always never take short cut’s in trails cause I could get lost again. –Nick C.

To not dirt the Pulaski (LOL) –Jason F.

Know how to fix damaged trails and build water bars/retention/ rock walls -Mason

I've learned how to be patient in tough situations. –Tim H.

At NYC I Learned...

To work with people I like 2 much. Have fun wall walking. –Sawyer S.

To dig tread and other parts of the trail. –Jeremy M.

That water bars do a lot of things. –Shawn C.

How to dig tread; how to build a retaining wall; how to build water bars and what they do to help the trail. –Greg A

How to dig holes with sticks; Proper lifting technique; patience. –Mason D.

Grip hoisting; new trail buildings; camp life. –Nick C.

At NYC I really learned how to camp. –Timothy H.

How to fix bad mac and cheese with lots of hot sauce; Nick is weird, Mason is Black. – Jason F.