

Dear BLP graduates,

As you sit back in the warm comfort of your home and gaze at the glowing computer screen, reading through your journals, I hope you can recapture some of the thoughts and feelings that you experienced this past summer. Remember the feeling of writing on those crinkled pages: gripping the pencil with tired hands from hours of trail building. Smell the campfire and taste the Trio sauce. Hear the buzz of numerous mosquitoes clinging to wrists and other exposed skin. Remember the laughter, friendships formed, conflicts and resolutions, rainy days, and amazing sunsets. Remember moments of doubt and apprehension when the task at hand seemed insurmountable.

Most of all I hope you remember what you did to meet those challenges and that you can do it again in whatever circumstances life has to offer you. I encourage you to look for those challenges in life and seek adventure not for the thrill or the bragging rights, but rather for the chance to learn about who you are and who you can become. Remember the drive and determination it took to finish that project and the support you got from the community of your crew. And if you should begin to doubt yourself, take a pilgrimage to the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, and walk the path that you've made and be proud of what you have done for yourself and for others.

I wish you the best of luck in whatever you choose to pursue. Have a great winter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Romig".

Julie Romig
Program Coordinator

SESSION: BLP 4

CREWLEADER: Kat Mullins

CREW COLOR: Brown

WEEK # 1

PROJECT NAME: Puzzle Fire Trail

NATIONAL FOREST: Willamette

RANGER DISTRICT: Middle Fork

MONDAY: Describe what your crew did this weekend:

This weekend was great. It was our first meeting and things took off. Since we are BLP, we were expected to set our example and help other crews at the weekend site. This wasn't a problem for us though. We said goodbye to the front country for at least 3 weeks as we drove to our project site and hiked in. Nice hike, too. It feels good to be back on an NYC backcountry project.

Max

TUESDAY: Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?

This week we are doing maintenance on the Swallow Lake Trail. It's some really awesome trail to dig, with plenty of drain dips and water bars for everybody. The hike in is a little dusty, but we have some really great mountains in sight. I can tell already this is going to be an awesome project.

Kile Sullivan

WEDNESDAY: Describe your crew's goals for the week:

To finish our projects and to be the best I can be and I'm sure my crew is the same or like minded. Another goal is to look good at it; it being getting a lot done and to do it best, too—and a quality job too. A goal of all our crew is to become a better leader and another goal of the crew should be to be the very best that we can be.

Schyler

THURSDAY: Describe what your crew learned this week:

We are learning a new knot everyday when we do SEED after dinner. We've learned the truckers hitch, the "alien" and the "bowlyn" so far. Tying knots can be really fun, especially afterwards when you get to use them in the field. Also we've learned how to make rock water bars, check steps and dams, building features on trails is personally my favorite task. The challenge and creativity can be quite puzzling at times.

Dylan Shields

FRIDAY: Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week:

We have been placed in the middle of luck. While our friends and family wait out time in the fading reality of civilization, we gaze at the one truth in the world; Nature. We have been given the opportunity to find ourselves and our niche on this Earth while simultaneously helping to preserve its existence. I can only hope that we can walk away from this experience with ideas and knowledge that will allow us to continue to do so throughout our lives.

Celi



CREWLEADER: Kat

CREW COLOR: Brown

WEEK # 2

PROJECT NAME: Puzzle Fire Trail

NATIONAL FOREST: Willamette

RANGER DISTRICT: Middle Fork

MONDAY: Describe what your crew did this weekend:

On Saturday we hiked out to the van and got to see the abundant fauna and flora of lower elevations and an unburned forest before re-supplying our food stocks. It was a really nice hike that I think we all enjoyed. On Sunday we kicked off the “chill day” of the week with a delicious brunch (courtesy of our crew leaders) with chocolate chip pancakes. MMMMMMM! Then we hiked out to bake in the woods, basked in the water and sun and also cleaned up. For dinner we had a formal dinner where everyone was clean and wore clean clothes.

Ian Barbosa

TUESDAY: Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?

This week we are working very hard to finish up a turn pike and continue to maintain the trail. We busted out the Turnpike in just one day and it looks great! Also we must work very hard to finish the many rock bars and drainage dips that some of us just absolutely love. We, as a BLP crew are going to finish up this week. Very hard with lots of PMA and dirt in our eyes, we will be going to Marion Lake to start a new trail project and we are all very excited about setting up a new home for the next week and a half.

Melvyn Lytle

WEDNESDAY: Describe your crew’s goals for the week:

Our goals are to complete our projects and to do a good job to make it nice; to learn many good things. We are learning to be stronger faster—BETTER! I AM TRYING TO TEACH MYSELF TO BE A BETTER LEADER. Brown crew is trying to

do the same to be a stronger leader. We are all stronger leaders, as it is. We are trying to be better leaders—trying to become better people. We all are good and stronger too. I and the crew love it out here.

Schylar Herley

THURSDAY: Describe what your crew learned this week:

On Monday we took most of the day learning how to make a turnpike. I had never done one before and I think it was the same for most of the crew. By the end, we had it completely filled in and it was comparable to the others we've seen along the trails. This afternoon we learned how to take apart a wooden bridge. It was on the trail we were doing and cracked in half. The nails were especially hard to get out, but we eventually managed to get them out. There was that stuff we did in SEED but I can't remember anything specific from that.

Mike Turner

FRIDAY: Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week

Monday and Tuesday our crew built a turnpike next to a muddy groundwater stream on a steep cliff side. On Wednesday we worked for hours after an intense hike, then returned to pack up our entire camp. In a few hours, we had very heavy packs on our backs and were making the trek downhill.

My pack was so heavy that I reached a different level of consciousness—delirium. Getting out of the burn area and into living trees was refreshing. When we reached our campsite, I was so relieved and overjoyed that I almost cried.

We are camping by the large Marion Lake, which has a picturesque view of rolling hills and the rocky slopes of Three Fingered Jack, and there are living trees everywhere. On Thursday everyone was pretty exhausted—seeing as we'd hiked 12 miles and worked four hours the day before. My throat started to hurt and by the evening I was feverish. By Friday both Ian and I had fevers and sore throats, but lopped and worked a few hours.

Annie Tomlinson

Monday, August 4th

The burritos and cheesecake were also fantabulous.



CREWLEADER: Kat M

CREW COLOR: Brown

WEEK # 3

PROJECT NAME: Puzzle Fire Trail

NATIONAL FOREST: Willamette

RANGER DISTRICT: Middle Fork

MONDAY: Describe what your crew did this weekend:

This weekend was full of fun, games and a lot of relaxation! Saturday started out good. A few of us had to work, but for only an hour. Cross-cutting makes time fly. When we arrived back at camp, Kat and the rest of the crew had made pancakes and were waiting for us. They were delicious! We then had BIG-FUN! Sherman's Tanks is a great game. Later that night we had Annie's PH, which was great. The following day we just lounged around and were generally lazy. Some of us got some good reading in; others decided to take a nice wonderful nap. The day ended with a magnificent dinner of Alfredo.

Dylan Shields

TUESDAY: Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?

This week we are still working in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness and we are building some beautiful turnpikes. When we started the project, we were handed a mountain of sloppy mud, but we have now converted the pigs' haven into a crossable terrain with all natural resources pulled directly from the forest it lives in.

Ceci Curiel

WEDNESDAY: Describe your crew's goals for the week:

We have just completed one of our crew's goals on the worksite today. We finished two rock/log turnpikes. We also want to come together as a crew to form a more perfect BLP. Also, we want to perfect our BLP skills. As always it is a goal for us to improve on leadership abilities.

Max

THURSDAY: Describe what your crew learned this week:

This week we learned a lot about conflict resolution. Our crew is coming along pretty far in their ability to express themselves in a mature and thoughtful manner. People can get pretty grumpy sometimes when working long hours with a food shortage on top of that, but we managed to pull through without any major problems. This is definitely a skill we should all continue to refine.

Kile Sullivan

FRIDAY: Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week

Our first challenge this week was to complete a turnpike. That was finished on Wednesday. It was quite amazing to see what it used to look like compared to what it looks like now. I do not see that coming apart any time soon!

Our other challenge was to keep the great community together. There were some words among the crew, but we had a meeting to let all our concerns out into the open. It's only been a couple of days, but it really seems to have helped. And I look forward to the next 2 weeks with this incredible crew!

Bryant

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CREWLEADER: Kat Mullins

CREW COLOR: Brown

WEEK # 4

PROJECT NAME: Puzzle Fire Trail

NATIONAL FOREST: Willamette

RANGER DISTRICT: Middle Fork

MONDAY: Describe what your crew did this weekend:

Our crew went to Eugene to trade out the Dino-van, which was threatening to die on us. Then we drove into the city and made our crazed store stops. After that we drove a long time out to Sisters, Oregon, where we set up camp in the dark with yellow crew. The next morning we had an adventure in Bend. I think we scared some people in the Goodwill parking lot by doing the penguin dance. That night we returned to our site where our parents and visitors were waiting, including my boy friend with his native drum.

Annie T

TUESDAY: Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?

We are doing trail maintenance and brush clearing and swamping; and I should tell you, building a turnpike. Why? So that people can use it and not tear up the forest; so that the animals and others have a place to live and eat without getting hurt or disturbed and not die. They would live a good life.

Schyler Herley

WEDNESDAY: Describe your crew's goals for the week:

Our crew's goals for this week include: reaching the PCT Trail head tomorrow (hopefully), maintaining high PMA and high productivity for the ensuing days if today's weather serves as any indication, and last, but definitely not least, one of our main goals will be staying warm and dry as possible.

Ian Barbosa

THURSDAY: Describe what your crew learned this week:

I would have to say that our crew learns something new each week. This week we have learned to deal with different types of weather. Monday was overcast, Tuesday was ok and Wednesday was our stepping stone to Hell. I think that we, as a BLP group, learned to get in touch with our inner self and stay confident, even if it is below 50° outside or if the wind hurts our ears. Thursday was a challenge, but we all learned that if you can be silly and still work in a confident manner, we will succeed and not regret the good times as a BLP group.

Melvin B. Lytle

FRIDAY: Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week

This week was probably our hardest yet. Our worksite was beyond where we had been the previous week, so we started Monday with a two mile hike and it only got longer as we worked down the trail. The work itself was fairly standard; trail maintenance and brushing mostly. The weather, though, was a particular challenge this week. Starting Tuesday night it started to rain and didn't let up till Thursday morning. Wednesday we were soaked from the time we woke up until we came back and changed. Even still, our crew stayed positive and managed to work the whole day. Thursday it wasn't raining at camp, but when we got back up to the ridge it was still nasty so we had to call it early. Friday, however, the weather was nice and with a little overtime, we made it all the way to the PCT and finished our project.

Mike Turner



CREWLEADER: Kat

CREW COLOR: Brown

WEEK # 5

PROJECT NAME: Puzzle Fire Trail

NATIONAL FOREST: Willamette

RANGER DISTRICT: Middle Fork

MONDAY: Describe what your crew did this weekend:

We moved camp on Saturday to Swallow Lake from Marion Lake. After we set up camp, we went out on our solos. We didn't get to our own site till after dark and it was a little weird falling asleep by ourselves. A lot of us got some good sleep, though. The next day was full of tons of relaxation! Awesome! Ceci and I saw a cougar stalking some deer; scary yet beautiful. The PB and Js that Becca had brought us were so dank! Loaded with peanut butter and jelly... All in all, it was a G-R-R-R-EAT experience.

Dylan Shields

TUESDAY: Describe your project this week; where are you, what are you doing, why?

We are finishing at Swallow Lake Trail this week. We had to stop working first week because the snow had yet to melt. But this time we only found 1 section of snow left on the trail so far, and considering the weather that might be all we see. As I said, we are at Swallow Lake Trail. The trail branches off from the Lake of the Woods Trail. We also happen to be camped at Swallow Lake, which is quite warm with the elevation.

Bryant Hampton

WEDNESDAY: Describe your crew's goals for the week:

Fifth week. Upon observation, I would say our main goal is to have fun together. We also are still working on BLP skills, technically, on the trail and personally at camp. But about having fun; all want to get to know each other as much as possible. Along with this we plan to exchange favorite books, music and cool places, etc. Come together, y' know...

Max Harrison

THURSDAY: Describe what your crew learned this week:

This week we learned a lot. Other than the above average BLP of bio-diversity, geologic time lines and the inner workings of the name for Swallow Lake, I feel that we learned a lot about each other and how best to work with one another, how unique each of us truly is and how each of our unique qualities contributes to this group like puzzle pieces fitting together.

Ceci Curiel

FRIDAY: Describe your crew's challenges and accomplishments this week

This week our crew hiked back to the Swallow Lake Trail to complete the remainder of work. The hike to Swallow Lake was rather knarling due to the fact that it was mostly uphill. The actual work week was challenging because some of it was on rather steep ground. At times it seemed the weather was also in disagreement with us. For the most part, it was an awesomely hard week.



MY MOST CHALLENGING DAY AT NYC WAS:

I don't know about one day, but week three was nuts! We worked four tens! A lot of hard work, but it felt good.

Dylan Shields

My most challenging day at NYC began with waking up at 6 am to put on freezing wet work clothes, only to stomp out of my tent into a dark morning. As we tromped the five miles to work, the rain increased to windy sheets of liquid ICE!

The second I stopped moving, I started shaking and the whole crew was close to being hypothermic. Thankfully we escaped later that day.

Annie Tomlinson

My most challenging day was definitely the day that I woke up to know that I would be working in wet clothes and dealing with a ten mile hike. I was cold, wet and burnt out from the previous days; from ten miles every day. It was an NYC moment.

Bryce Lytle

My most challenging day was when we had a rainy spell last week, mostly because there was the wet clothes and the cold temperature.

Bryant Hampton

My most challenging day this session was when I couldn't hold the hazel because it was so cold and it kept falling from my grip.

Ian Barbosa

My most challenging day was hiking in for the first time. I had only hiked a mile before and I hiked five miles with close to a 65 to 80 pound pack. It was very hard to do.

Schyler Herley

The most challenging day I had this session was a day when we worked a couple extra hours to make up for a day we got off early because of intense weather, and then had a 5 ½ mile hike back to camp.

Ceci Curiel

Saturday after 4th week was my most challenging day this session. It was the climax of effort and fatigue. The week before I was pushing myself to exertion and it was wet and cold. On Friday I hiked 15 miles and pushed hard, even at camp. It all came together on Saturday when I was sure and had to hike with a monster pack. It was so fun, though.

Max Harrison

My hardest day at NYC was on the Marion Lake Trail when it eventually got too cold to work.

Kile Sullivan

The last day of 4th week I was sick, still wet from the previous days and my feet were thrashed. I almost quit that night.

Mike Turner

MY THREE FAVORITE NYC EXPERIENCES WERE:

1. Spending the whole five weeks with the exception of 3rd weekend in the backcountry
2. Making the 30 foot long turnpike
3. Hiking five miles to work all of 4th week

Dylan Shields

I would have to say that my three favorite experiences at NYC were...

1. The strong effort and determination of hiking so much everyday and enjoying the Northwest trails
2. Would be the fact that I got to work with eleven great people on different projects each week
3. My solo was one of the greatest days at NYC. It was an epic experience!

Bryce Lytle

1. Swimming in Marion Lake and watching Ian cuss out a log speaking duck-language
2. Seeing the Milky Way over the lake

3. Playing Sherman's Tanks and watching people throw pinecones and dodge them with blindfolds.

Annie Tomlinson

1. Learning a few new games (Big Funs), including Sherman's Tank
2. Experiencing a backcountry project with all returners
3. Enjoying dried fruit in shotgun from our crew leaders on the most rainy day of all

Bryant Hampton

- 1) The ride in the van with all the people having fun
- 2) The second was doing a mile and more in two days
- 3) The last week watching everyone being themselves

Schylar

1. Hiking 15 miles and a bit of the PCT
2. Busting it out and working as hard as I could
3. Seeing the stars

Ian Barbosa

My favorite NYC experiences were small things, y' know, like pushing myself super hard to finish a turnpike in our last hour or two of one day and successfully completing it. Also making a raft with Ian and Melvin on the weekend, and hiking in the PCT and an awesome wilderness trail with Kat and Ian. Also just random laughing till I cried...

Max Harrison

One of my favorite NYC experiences was when I first met my BLP crew. Another one was when I went swimming with my PPG on. Yet another was scouting with Harvey in Hell's Canyon.

Kile Sullivan

NYC is always an experience but if I had to choose three specific occasions in which I was most appreciative, I would have to say hiking to the PCT, Appreciation Circle and looking out off the side of a mountain.

After a 10 hour day and 3 miles into a 6 mile hike back to camp looking at the sun setting over mountains in the distance.

Ceci Curiel

AT NYC I LEARNED:

1. Leadership can be tough. You have to be nice and not bossy or else people won't listen
2. Working four 10s is difficult but satisfying
3. Nothing is impossible.

Dylan Shields

At NYC I learned many things, but one thing that will stick with me would be the leadership that was represented at NYC with BLP! ☺
Bryce Lytle

1. I relearned that attitude is everything
2. I learned that I can sleep alone in the woods and not get eaten alive
3. I learned that laughter and water cure every ailment

Annie Tomlinson

1. That leadership only works if your crew, or whoever, is willing to listen to you
2. Time goes by a lot quicker out in the woods. (unfortunately)
3. Maps were a lot more confusing until I figured out all the ways to find your area. Then the rest of it came into place.

Bryant Hampton

- 1) I learned to build awesome trail
- 2) I learned to be a strong leader
- 3) I learned to pack my backpack

Schyler Herley

- 1- I learned to build a turnpike out of natural materials
- 2- To make a backpack out of tarp
- 3- That kindness and empathy is the strongest basis for any relationship

Ian Barbosa

I learned to choose where I put my effort and emotion. I learned if you're not working, you're dying. Also sometimes things are not as important as they seem, but it's important to run a tight ship. Also backcountry skills...

Max Harrison

At NYC I learned to love, learn and live hardcore.

Kile Sullivan

At NYC I learned the diversity of life and the love of all that the Earth has to give.

Ceci Curiel

I learned a few cool knots. Having a large voice and presence is helpful for leading. Foot care is time consuming but important.

Mike Turner

ONE THING I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER:

I will always remember my solo. Being alone in the woods with just a sleeping bag and yourself... Trying to keep your self busy and seeing a cougar stalk its prey... Beautiful!

Dylan Shields

I will always remember the night that I was alone in the Mt Jefferson Wilderness with nothing but my sleeping bag, my pad a book and a SEED book. It was somewhat scary, but great in its own way!

Bryce Lytle

I will always remember the view of Three Fingered Jack from Marion Lake.

Annie

I will always remember all the dances I learned and or created.

Bryant Hampton

I will always remember the leadership skills.

Schyler Herley

I will always remember the beautiful view from the PCT where I could see at least 5 major mountains.

Ian Barbosa

I will always remember hiking with some friends on South Sister and up to the PCT.

Max Harrison

I'll always remember the good times I had with my crew.

Kile Sullivan

The feeling of standing on the PCT with Jefferson and Three Finger Jack on either side of me; looking in one direction and knowing Mexico was just down that path and Canada down the other side.

Ceci Curiel

The best snowball fight ever in the middle of summer, no less!

Mike Turner

FROM NOW ON I WILL ALWAYS:

From now on I will try to remember to use my Ps and Qs. Instead of demanding something, I like it when people say "Please" and "Thank you" to me, so I shall return the favor.

Dylan Shields

From now on I will see myself more respected and put in the class of friends from people at NYC. Also my Ps and Qs! ☺

Bryce Lytle

I will always think before I ask someone to do something and examine my tone of voice and my intent. I will also remember, "Is this just for me, or for everyone else around me?"

Annie Tomlinson

I will always sleep on the floor. I found that sleeping on a bed is not as comfortable as it used to be.

Bryant Hampton

I will bring my own things like personal pack and Carharts, overalls and new boots.

Schylar

I will always be thankful for what I've had and what I've got to experience and be a better person for it.

Ian Barbosa

I will always try to look into others before I tell them things or work with them.

Keep diversity in mind.

Max Harrison

From now on I'll have rock solid resolve.

Kile Sullivan

From now on I will always have a moment of silence.

Ceci Curiel

Keep my feet in good shape.

Mike Turner