

Teens and Trails Program Participants 2008:

Now that the busy field season has wound to a close, it is a time for reflection. I hope that, by now, you have had a chance to realize what exactly your session in Oregon meant to you and how it may, indeed, carry on and affect for years to come, if not for your entire lifetime. For some of you, it may have been an opportunity to enhance your understanding of our outside world, this having been some of your first experiences camping. For some of you, you may have come away with new job skills and understandings of responsibilities that you may not have had before. There are so many things to learn here at NYC, and I've come to find that they are not often recognized until well after the last shotgun has been packed, after the last rig has been swept at big clean, and after you were FINALLY able to catch up on your sleep in your own bed. Everybody comes away with something different from their experience with NYC, not just ripped muscles and a new body odor they didn't know existed.

We ALL came away from Teens and Trails with wonderful stories to tell.

As a crew, you were able to surmount big obstacles, like mountains, rivers, downed trees, brutal sun, and thirst that may not have been anything like any other thirst you have had before. And, as a crew, you went from a group of perfect strangers to tackled these challenges with full hearts, with pulaskis-a-blazing, and the intense fervor that can only be found in an NYC crew.

Well done. Pat yourself on the back. And the person on your left in the circle.

I wanted to take a moment and thank you all for what you brought to the table. You brought skill, you brought intensity, you brought dedication. You brought the fun, the silliness, and most importantly, the love to what it we do here, at NYC. And you continued our good name and reputation in NYC.

Thank you for all you did. I hope to see you again.

-Joe Waksmundski
Program Director