

Essay Question: *What would you tell someone, parent or teen, about why a student should spend five weeks with NYC? Be creative and have fun!*

(These are the last two paragraphs of Morgan Brennan's essay Titled, "Truly More than "Just a Job." For more information please contact Alumni@nwyouthcorps.org)

Truly More than "Just a Job"

...As I prepared for my 2nd NYC session, which was last summer, I was ecstatic. I was so thrilled to have that same experience again. There hasn't been a time in my life since my first session that I felt the way I had that summer. I wanted it back so badly – and I got it! I got to attend orientation this time since it was actually in my hometown (Salem, Oregon) and I saw some of the same people who had been with me during my first session. It was like a small reunion that I was so thankful to have. Orientation finished and we were all very anxious for the next day when we found out which crew's we'd be on. Sunday morning came with a bright sun, clear skies, and more than a hundred nervous-excited kids. As we gathered in one of our many circles, we turned around, closed our eyes, and waited until a hard hat was placed on our heads. I was on Blue Crew this time. I was so anxious to start our session! Our first week was amazing, our crew had "clicked" so fast and everyone got along so well. I made an instant best friend and we were truly inseparable. It made my session thrilling. We had okay projects but it didn't matter because we kept each other busy and laughing while we were working. Soon the weeks were counting down and we were preparing ourselves to say our last goodbyes. My best friend and I still talk, she is one person who will always understand me and we will always have a special bond from Northwest Youth Corps. I'm very thankful to have her in my life and I appreciate NYC so much for giving me such amazing opportunities.

If you're thinking about doing Northwest Youth Corps, I can't give you one reason why you shouldn't. It is life changing and it will open up your eyes to so many wonderful and new things. It's practically a free opportunity to travel too! You get to see some of the most amazing and gorgeous places in the Northwest. You find new friends, make money for doing FUN things, and you really do come out with the classic "NYC Stride." NYC's motto is "More than just a job" and they really aren't just saying that. It will be the best job you'll ever have. It is a breathtaking experience that you won't find anywhere else. You realize things about yourself that you might not ever realize in your whole life. I am one of many alumni who would say "DO IT!" You don't have to know anything about building trails, setting up a white wall tent, how to feed 12 people, or how much iodine to put in a gallon of water. You learn everything there, and so much more. Take a chance, a deep breath, and put on those boots! You'll be fine, I promise you. You may never get a chance like this again. So sign up! Have fun, make great friends, and discover who you are!

Morgan Brennan