



Summer Conservation Corps – Idaho 1

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Dear NYC'er,

Yee-Haw! It's finally here, that crazy journal your crewleaders promised months ago! In your hands you hold the final compilation of all those journal pages you spent hours around the kitchen table and on the long van rides writing! As the winter sets in, the office world at NYC becomes a bit less chaotic, and we can take the time to say, "**Thank you for an amazing season!**" NYC crews could not have accomplished what they did without the effort, commitment, and strength each and everyone of you gave.

After you left graduation, you probably ate some good chow, talked non-stop about the adventures you had and the tough times you endured, and finally—after a long session—got to take a long shower (hopefully a few!). But, as the warmth of your return wore off, I hope everyone was able to spend some time reflecting on what your experience meant. You were part of an extraordinary time! While you were slogging through the woods, huddling around the fire, seeking any type of moisture available, sharpening pulaskis, or finishing the last remnants of a too-large meal; up to twenty-six other crews were doing the same things across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California. The work completed by NYC crews went farther than ever before, pleased a record number of project sponsors, helped out the natural areas and communities in the Northwest, and, most importantly,..... showed the general public that teens are responsible enough to complete a hard job with style!

We hope you came away with a greater understanding of who you are, how you want to live your life, and what you are going to do with the gifts you possess. Don't forget those early morning sunrises, the feeling after a hard day's work, and the endless mountains and trees. Remember the laughter, the tears, and the exploration. Always know that you are limitless and can accomplish the seemingly impossible, the amazing and the beautiful. All you have to do is believe in yourself!

Don't forget about all those early morning sunrises, the dirt smile after a long day of work, trees the size of skyscrapers, rivers and mountains without end, and a place away from highways, radios and Burger Kings. The big outdoors is a place for everyone to visit, explore, and enjoy. Make sure you get out there as often as you can and figure out how you can help to keep these places around for future generations to experience. Sit down, grab some gorp, and relax as you take a trip down memory lane. Keep NYC in mind for next summer and drop us a line. Remember: "Use Good Judgement!" but don't forget to rub a little sunshine on your face.

Take Care,

Ethan Nelson
Program Director

Blue Crew

Boise National Forest Idaho City Ranger District North Fork Boise River Trail

Week 1: June 16 - June 21

First day of NYC. I guess you guys weren't joking when you told us it would be a challenge. It would be impossible to list all the things I learned today, but the most important one must be teamwork. The incredible tough hiking into base camp would have been impossible without the cooperation of all corps members. It's simply dazzling to see how one person's, "You can do it," can motivate you to do things you've never imagined. I guess I could probably write ten more pages about today alone, but my crew leader just yelled, "DINNER TIME!" Till next time...

Yi Q

On Saturday and Sunday our crew went through orientation. We separated into our crews on Sunday and then took off in the van to the North Fork Boise Trail. There we learned how to get our backpacks together and our equipment was distributed. We hiked out to camp. The hike ended up taking 4 hours instead of the estimated 2. The trail was hard and everyone was challenged. But we made it and set up camp, even if things were slightly disorganized. It was all good. Lia showed up and helped us with the bear hangs. She got nice and dirty and her effort was greatly appreciated. We went to bed early and got good nights sleep for the next day.

Hali M

Today was our first eight hour work day. Sara joined us as well. The tool bump system is starting to come together just a little! But the funny and crappy thing to happen was when the forest service worker knocked the yellow top in the river. We found it later.

Anonymous

As there is always room for improvement, our goals are pretty much to do just that... improve our quality, our attitudes, and among other things, our friendships. We're still getting used to the whole situation and are struggling with getting things done fast enough. We have made it a goal to speed things up. Another goal is to work hard continuously throughout the day.

Chris S

Our crew has learned that we still have a long way to go before our skills around camp are fast enough. This is evident in the fact that we now must give ourselves an hour to get ready before safety circle in the morning. On a lighter note, our crew is learning how to build and maintain trail on a variety of different terrain. Our crew has also conquered the art of drinking from the yellow tops (thanks to our laying down chug circles). Steve and Yi both learned the spelling game today and did awesome!

Ashley R

Today is Saturday. We worked an eight hour day today because we took a day off yesterday, due to the rain. I think that overall as a group, we worked hard today. Some of the weaker workers stepped up to the plate and put in a good hard days work. We accomplished a lot today, but we were forced to skip a section because it was too steep and dangerous to work on. All and all, it was a good day.

Peter D

**Boise National Forest
Idaho City Ranger District
North Fork Boise River Trail**

Week 2: June 22 - June 27

Today we were going to work but instead we went to town. The hike out was amazingly beautiful. The early morning light through the clouds against the rock was breathtaking. I really enjoyed the car ride because it was my first chance to listen to music. The stay in town was not too enjoyable. One of our crew, Sarah quit. I was and still am quite okay with that, but I was not okay with the way that others acted. People in our crew were talking crap about her and saying things that I did not think were cool. When Yi tried to stand up and say that it was not right to do, they got into an argument with another kid in the crew. To top this off, it was in front of a new group member and in public. The thing that almost made me kind of sad to be in our crew was when Matt, our crew leader said unkind things about the girl that quit, and I don't think he should have done that. I feel like our crew showed one of its worst faces today and I hope that it will never happen again.

Matt P

I got here on Saturday morning after the crew had already hiked out. We unloaded the van and loaded the trailer and headed to Idaho City to spend the day. That was great for me because I got to know everyone pretty well (or good enough for one day).

Brandy L

Our project for the week is clearing and building trails. We are about one and a half miles from camp. We are clearing a trail and in the process are making the trail in some places.

Anonymous

Today was quite a day. We worked another nine hour day. I had quite a good day, plus the weather was great for how long we worked. We're slowly getting closer and closer to our goal of reaching Lodge Bowl Creek. Of course, I am having a pretty hard time getting along with the crew. But hey, we'll touch common ground soon and be able to work things out. The scenery out here is beautiful! Only thing is, you got to hike 2 miles to see it. We hike a little over 3 miles a day now. Our job site is so far away. Walking in the 40° morning isn't the first thing on my mind. I am so STINKY! He hee, no, really, I am. I have been wearing the same clothes for over 5 days! I also haven't showered at all. We might shower this weekend. (second weekend) We'll see how that goes. Overall, I guess all I can say is I got to stick it out till the end. Till then, Tchuse!

Bryce K

Today is Thursday. Thursday is after Wednesday and before Friday. The reason I bring this up is because tomorrow we get to shower for the first time in two weeks. I don't know about the rest of the crew, but that's a long time for me. Anyway, today, Mr. Matt took two huge hits for the team. Number one, he went back to get the shotgun (lunch) bag after two people who will remain unknown FORGOT our lunch. Yes. Lunch didn't start until 11:25am. But it's cool cause it made the day go by faster for me. Oh yeah. Bryce has knocked his helmet in the river two days in a row. Good times in the blue crew last a lifetime. Number two that Matt was that he stayed after to finish a project. What a guy. We tried to stay, but he said, "Big Brother" was watching and so he said NO!

Tyler S

This Friday we worked a four hour day. That, to me seemed to drag on for eight. After four hours, we were completely done with our trail, and our contact was very impressed. When we got back to camp, we got all of our stuff together and were on the trail fairly quickly. The hike out was not too bad. I actually had fun. The first half of the hike I stayed by myself, the second half I hung out with Brandy. Kept on making my guesses on how much further it was to the end of the trail. We got to the van and packed it up. Blah, blah, blah. We went into town, got pizza, had fun, and went to camp. The end.

Matt P

**Boise National Forest
Idaho City Ranger District
Corbus Creek Trail**

Week 3: June 30 - July 4

This weekend, we got together with the Yellow crew. It was a lot of fun seeing some new people. We had a talent show that was really interesting. We got a new crewmember.

Matt P

We are now on Corbus Creek Trail. We finally did a BRIDGE! It looks so beautiful! It is our best accomplishment since we started. We're also going to cook some brownies! It's been a good day.

Bryce K

Today was another semi-good day. We can't get the railings on the bridge, so we have to wait until we get a hack saw and bolts and stuff. We had brownies for breakfast. Our teeth are going to fall out of our heads soon. We did a re-route today that was about the most useless thing ever done. The re-route made no sense. I can't wait till the weekend. It's gonna be fun. But then, when we get back we have to move camp again. Oh well.

Bryce K

Among many things our crew has learned, is that together, we can lift one-thousand pound logs. We have also learned how to build turnpikes, water bars and bridges. Through personal histories, we have come closer as a crew and thanks to Lia, we've learned how to play mafia (game) and do Sally Rider in a Safety Circle. Because of the wonderful mud fight, Hali learned that Ashley can whoop up on her in mud wrestling. Although she did put up a good fight!

Ashley R

Friday...Wow, two weeks have almost passed. Time flies out here. We saw light at the end of the tunnel. Our trail was finally completed and I think all of us sensed a feeling of great accomplishment and joy. The only task now is to return to the spots that need a little help. Our next goal will hopefully be to build a bridge.

Anonymous

This weekend is the lovely parent weekend! Yeah. I get to see my beautiful friend Brandon. Lol. We're not working today at all, so we're leaving for camp early. We're going to get to do laundry and take showers! First time in 3 weeks Baby! Yep. Then, we're going to our unknown weekend site to see the parents. I'm going to get my care package and we're going to see all the other crews for the first time in 3 weeks (except Yellow because we saw them the 2nd weekend). Then, the lovely RHD—Raging Hormone Dance! Oh, it's gonna be swell. I miss the family so much! I want to be back in my nice straight 90° climate! A beach would be nice right now. I feel so deprived. (Sob) But yeah, we get \$25 to spend on whatever we want this weekend for our mystery madness. We all plan on buying double scoop ice creams at the ice cream place in Idaho City. Well, I'm out of here now, so...Tchuse!

Bryce K

**Boise National Forest
Idaho City Ranger District
Corbus Creek Trail**

Week 4: July 6 - July 13

Wow, what a weekend. I can still feel the funk from our RHD. We went to the hot springs for our weekend rec. trip. Oh my gosh, it was the best thing I have ever done. We were right next to the weekend site, so we went to the hot springs again on Sunday morning! Then we played pool in Atlanta. We started having leaders of the day, so now things will get interesting. Yer. Tchuse!

Bryce K

This week we are finishing several projects so that we are able to move camp and work on bridges. On Monday, we started a new program called “Leaders of the day”. I happened to be chosen today and I must say it was a great experience. I feel like the work day was a bit more productive and satisfying. It will definitely be a fun week.

Unknown

This morning started with a pleasant surprise—a ½ hour extra to sleep in! ☺ We began to work on the final touches of the turnpikes and cleared out all organic material for the approach to the puncheon. It didn’t take long to finish these tasks so Deverton has us go up the beautiful mountainside to work on the third bridge. The sun rose as we made our way up the hill. One of the highlights happened when a dead tree collapsed on the slope opposing us. If anyone wonders—when a tree falls in the forest, it DOES make a sound. Our crew took first break on top of the hill overlooking the whole landscape—it was breathtaking! More hiking, all the guys sang, “Yellow Submarine” as we marched down the hill. Once at the bridge, we quickly filled up Gabion boxes with rocks which the stream sides collected over the years. After, we glided all of the needed bridge parts down from the top of the hill. We lifted three 910 pound stringers and placed the boards on top. For the rest of the day, we rerouted the trail on the west side of the bridge back to the original trail. We had a nice long hike back to camp where we found Matt and Bryce sleeping. They left last night. Bryce on the back of Jeff’s motorbike, and Matt running behind. A helicopter circled above us for over an hour, but never landed. We heard that it flew into Boise. It will be interesting to find out. That’s all from Blue crew for now.

Kristen P

Well, we learned how to act in an emergency situation by busting out a stretcher and seeing first hand how to get an injured person out of the woods quickly. Also, we learned a different way to build a bridge by using gabion boxes. Though, this doesn’t really seem as strong as the other bridges, I’m sure it will work well. The majority of this week, however, was mostly using the knowledge and skills we’ve learned over the past 3 weeks.

Chris S

Boise National Forest Idaho City Ranger District Corbus Creek Trail

Week 5: July 14 - July 20

Today, our whole crew worked a 10 hour day. It was originally going to be a 9 hour day, but near the end of the day, Matt, Tyler, and Ashley and I hiked two miles out to grab two gabion boxes and hiked back one mile. When we got back, we expected the other group to have left, but they were also still working.

Peter D

Today, we were split into three groups. Drain dips, re-route, and bridge ramps were the projects of the day. I was with Ashley and Kristen working on drain dips. Frizzle frazzle good times. We saw a BEAR! Bear, bear, bear, bear, bear, bear. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. We saw one finally on the 3rd to last work day. Yeah baby!

Tyler S

Our goals for this week were to finish our 3rd bridge and the approaches. We also wanted to finish a reroute that we started on Tuesday and hadn’t got to finish because we were called away to go fill the gabion boxes at another bridge site for the forest service. Now some people’s goals are to finish the 4th bridge.

Brandy L

This week, our crew mastered water bars, drain ditches, and check dams. Between Monday and Wednesday, we repaired and built 62 within 1 ½ miles. At the 3rd bridge site, we learned how to build amazing rock walls to support the approaches to the bridge. Overall, this week taught us

how hard we can work. Every morning, we hiked up 1.5-3 miles to the project and we stayed until we finished our daily assignment. We finished strong with both approaches completed. Our efforts with this program gave each of us a work pattern to apply to life.

Kristen P

One of our many challenges for this week was finishing all of our projects that we had started—and we had started a lot. We had to finish a reroute or two, the approaches on both bridges which was a pain because we had to move very large rocks. But, it wasn't as bad as you think because we accomplished everything we had set out to do and it made everyone feel great.

Brandy L

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

... our first Sunday when we hiked in to our first site. Not because it was the hardest, but because I was so unprepared.

Peter D

...near the end of the first week. I was tired and homesick and ready to be done.

Chris S

...the 3rd to last day. I got my first blister and hot spots. Actually my solo was bad too.

Tyler S

...the day that we hiked into our second hike.

Brandy L

...my second or third day here and everyone else's third week. We hiked from the first bridge up to the top of the mountain above camp. On the way (we were hiking with heavy loads). Jeff came riding up on his motorbike chewed us out for asking the USFS to bring in a few things. Mostly it was just a tough hike and his discouraging remarks made it even worse

Kristen P

...the very first Saturday when I didn't know anyone.

Ashley R

...our first hike.

Yi Q

...the first hike in because none of us really knew each other and no one was really prepared for it.

Hali M

I didn't really have a hardest day. I look at the session more as one long hard day, but I got through it.

Matt P

...the whole session was a big hard day.

Bryce K

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...my 24 hour solo. The mud toss we had after work, and riding rocks down the hill with Matt.

Peter D

...all the personal histories, the store stops, and coming back after our solos.

Chris S

...watching the forest circus, store stops, personal histories.

Tyler S

- ...moving the thousand pound logs. Having time to talk to the other crew members, and hearing personal histories.
Brandy L
- ...building my hut on the solo. Finishing four life goals including seeing a bear and spending three weeks in nature, and ending this session knowing that I did my best.
Kristen P
- ...mud fight. (I schooled Hali) Hanging or attempting to hang the bear hang after Seed one night and watching Deverton through the rope behind him, and Chris and Matt's toys and naked Time.
Ashley R
- ...sleeping out in the nature. Completing projects after projects, and hiking to our camp sites.
Anonymous
- ...mud fight. (Ashley tried her best) Whenever I finished a hard hike, and hanging out with my crew.
Hali M
- ...sweating on the way to work, sleeping outside, and getting to know people like Chris.
Matt P
- ...the starts at night, mud fight, and hanging out.
Bryce K
- One Thing I Will Always Remember...***
- ...is the feeling after we finished all our projects.
Peter D
- ...is how good our trails looked after the first few weeks.
Chris S
- ...is how much I loved camp and work compared to the horrible solo.
Tyler S
- ...how much everyone made me feel loved and welcome.
Brandy L
- ...how in the world could anyone forget the mud fight?! Also, the hospitality of the Hub in Atlanta ☺
Kristen P
- ...is carrying 1,000lb logs with only our belts!
Ashley R
- ...are all the friends I've made at NYC.
Anonymous
- ...are good times at camp, and of course—the mud fight.
Hali M
- ...is Chris and I planning out our road trip.
Matt P
- ...are the good times...Oh, the good times.
Bryce K

From Now On I Will Always...

- ...appreciate a shower and a soft bed much more than I used to. Peter D
- ...be grateful for a good meal and a nice quicky-mart stop. Chris S
- ...appreciate power and my beautiful microwave. Tyler S
- ...I will always appreciate the greater things in life. Brandy L
- ...love the glorious porcelain bowl and luxury of t.p. In the end, I will happily look back on these days as being the DIRTIest of my life. Kristen P
- ...a soft bed! Bryce K
- ...appreciate my pillow. Ashley R
- ...appreciate my mom's cooking. ☺ Yi Q
- ...appreciate the little things that other people do. Hali M
- There is nothing that I will always do in my life besides maybe breathe—but one day that will change too. Matt P
- ...appreciate how less work I actually have to do at home Bryce K

At NYC I Learned...

- ...to always hold a good work ethic. Peter D
- ...a lot about backcountry camping, trail work, and bridge work. I also learned a lot about myself. Chris S
- ...to push myself when even my muscles tell me no. Tyler S
- ...how to build trail and how to work better with people. Brandy L
- Perhaps the greatest things the NYC experience gave me, was to accept everyone. Out in the woods, it doesn't matter what you've done—I've met and come to love several individuals that in school, I would only be acquaintances with. The second great thing that I've learned is how hard I can push myself from waking up early to continuing on although my muscles cry, "STOP!" Finally, NYC helped m realize how important it is to have joy in every journey. Kristen P

...how to cook things in the Dutch Oven, especially cinnamon rolls, thanks to Deverton!

Ashley R

...that hard work really pays off to be a team player.

Yi Q

...how to push myself past the limits I thought I had both emotionally and physically.

Hali M

...what I needed to complete my life.

Matt P

...how to take people's better.

Bryce K

Orange Crew

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Grimmet Creek Reroute

Week 1: June 16- June 21

Following our orientation on Friday, we drove to our trailhead in Payette Forest on Saturday. As we found out that morning, our crew would be working exclusively in the backcountry. Our job began as we proceeded to hike several miles down the Seche River, camping at a junction between two rivers. The next day, we proceeded to what we thought was our final destination: Lime Lake, and Alpine lake deep in the mountains. After dropping our packs, we set out improving the existing trail system. Later that day, however we learned that this was not our site and we were forced to hike several miles back down the trail, taking the other branch at the junction.

Mathias M

Today, we retrace our path to the bridge and revamped the existing trail, which was in desperate need of repair. During this effort, we also constructed a series of stepping stones over a large creek. After lunch, we set about our next project, that being rerouting an existing trail system. We restored existing parts of the trail, which involved moving large stones. Tomorrow, we may work on switchbacks. Moral is high, for the most part. The crew is bonding well.

Mathias M

On Sunday, we hiked I think four miles, but it seemed like more. This would have to be one of the hardest things I have ever done. I used to be in boy scouts at one time and that was a synch. Monday, we were told that there was a change of plans, so we hiked again and got to camp.

Mike H

Drama. The gravity of a situation drama apple.

Once there was a fish in a magical land called I-Di-Lo. The fish's name was Frank, but it didn't matter much because none of his friends could talk. Frank the Fish was a Salmon, and he was on his way up stream to mate and die. Frank was a revolutionary, but it didn't matter much because he couldn't talk or stand on a soap box. (He had no leg, which is typical for a fish). The reason he was a revolutionary was because he had an idea. He thought, "Hey, how about we get it on here instead of leaping into the bear's mouth?" But since he couldn't communicate this, the peer pressure overwhelmed him and he followed his foolish friends. He died before he got upstream. He choked on a purple yo-yo. Purple represents power.

Dan M

We were hiking among the trail when the horses came galloping by and pooped on my shoe. Then I ran after the horse and jumped in front of it, sporting the proper tool stance with my ridiculously dull Pulaski. The rider, and eleven year-old kid with a dirty face and an even badder attitude, jumped off the horse and pulled his flair gun at me.

J.B.Z

After much physical violence and drama, the bloodshed has stopped. Tim's nose has been repaired, or so it seems. The trail is much longer and the crew is in good spirits. Earlier, a man dressed in stripes and covered with dirt wandered through the camp. Several yelled at him. Witnesses say his name is Paul. Superheroes are about and change is everywhere. Lia keeps the camp in peace and order. So today was the last day of our first week, and everything has been challenging in several different ways. I'm having a great time even though we had a rain storm last night and all of our stuff became soaking wet. Today was a long day, partially because our hours were extended today and partially because we all wanted to enjoy the weekend. The weekend is here now and Lia is making a great dinner followed by a yummy dessert and breakfast. Yay! Mathias is playing the guitar right now while Daniel and Barclay are Free styling (as usual), but I'm out to enjoy the weekend! Imagine~Peace~

Tim A and Suzanne R

**Payette National Forest
McCall Ranger District
Grimmet Creek Reroute**

Week 2: June 22 - June 27

On Saturday, we hiked out to Loon Lake and saw lots of bikers in spandex freezing in the wind. Mathias' hair looks like a piece of art. Tim's hair is balding in patches and makes him scamper around camp on all fours, making gurgling noises and biting people. Jay is getting a monk-doo and Daniel and Kat have Mohawks. Paul excited the veggies of our group by returning from town with fresh broccoli. We're all sleeping in the sun, which is funny because it snowed this morning and keeps hailing like little Styrofoam balls out of cheap stuffed animals.

Esmeralda S and Katherine B

This week our project is up a huge hill and back and forth a mountain. We're doing switchbacks-about four or five of them and we've almost finished. Food, food, food! It's crazy how much we have. Too much. Gross food. Food gross. I'm never eating again. Fire good. Gollum good. Smeagal Better. Toilet paper good. Snow at 6 in the morning is heck.

Anonymous

Our goal for this week is to finish our project by completing our trail as well as our switchbacks to our crew leader's satisfaction. As evident, by all the sweaty faces and sore muscles at the end of the day, I know we're all working hard and I feel we can definitely finish by tomorrow. I also feel that this week our crew has accomplished a great deal more than just digging a trail that zigzags up a mountain. We've gone from being ID misfit kids from all corners of the country to a real crew capable of efficiently coming together to complete our projects and goals. I also know that come this weekend, many of us will have the goal of finding a nice hot shower and of course, a cup of coffee.

Joanie S

We learned to put a rock in the dutchie. Yay. Lie down, sweet candy. Run away from my photography my fleeing soul. 16=sixteen. I have been ordered to write more cohesively by my superiors on star shop stone wall. I will drink the canteen. David still has to go. We finished our project and SEED was on a hill. I'm worried about Paul's psyche—he can't communicate well, like my peanut butter.

Daniel M

Hike- hike- hike- hike- dehydrate. Die. There is a fish in the clouds that changes colors when you drop food coloring into my mouth. Mathias has peed 13 times today and 12 times yesterday. Another winged mongoose in my dreams. Thank you all my high rollers for the support. I am visioning the horse packers a couple of miles away sleeping. Maybe I should just hide in the trees. I can escape danger and suck a tree for hydration. How is this work supposed to get done when we are all naked? I'm scared, so scared. Trying not to be tickled. If we run out of air, we may just have to leave the space shuttle. Trying to keep things under control and out of the flames. Good times up on the ridge.

Tim A and Katherine B

**Payette National Forest
McCall Ranger District
Grimmet Creek Reroute**

Week 3: June 30 - July 4

Today, work began at our new site. The first major difference between this site and the previous one is that our day no longer begins with a long hike up a large hill. Work, for the most part, is easier here as well, though it does present its own challenges like mud that the other site did not have. This new site, however, is distinctly less rocky, much to our liking. Our tasks today

included filling in washed out trails (this place is significantly more damp) and clearing out mud. Our camp is rather luxurious as backcountry standards go. Located at the site of an old ranch, we have things like an outhouse (adorned with an American flag, courtesy of Tim), places to sit down, a separate kitchen, and room to breathe.

Mathias M

Our knees hurt, our heads hurt, our feet are rotting off, and we get to muck about in rocky mud filth all day. The little things swimming in our drinking water are befriending Mathias. He names them. Bleeke! We're going to war with the bugs that is.

Katherine B and Big Mike

Wow, even though biodiversity is supposed to be a go do thing, I really don't like all these bugs. So many flies. I had a fly. She was my friend. When she landed on me I gave her a name. But it bit my crotch and did a back flip so I decided to kill it. There are just too many flies. One day, I will travel to the moon and get away from them. Latrine. It's not too hard. You just have to use it.

J and Tim A

At the bottom of a steep gully there is a figurine of an atom bomb made of sparkling solid gold. It is smooth and it's fins out like knives. On the sides of the gully many bones lie or those who attempted to carry it to the village above. In that village lives a young man named cheese-sandwich, King-of-the-Underworld. He had created the figurine. His partners had an odd manner. He changed his name to Cheese-sandwich, King of-the-Underworld when he turned five since he wasn't allowed to say his real name in school. His parents had an odd manner. Some would say he had an odd manner as well. Some would lie, and some would sit and wonder. Good ol' Cheese-sandwich for a time would sit in a closet all day not coughing and come out at night stealing fillings and traveling through time. He used the fillings to make a golden sculpture of a bomb, which he flung into the gully in a crazed cough less rage. Since he could travel back and forth in time he knew that by the year 6750, it would become the deadliest bomb in history. (Irony) He went back in time and let Jesus wash his feet. Consequently he doesn't believe in God (He doesn't like talking about it). He only travels when he doesn't cough.

David K

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Romaine Ranch Trail

Week 4: July 6 - July 13

This weekend, we hiked out of the back country so we could all attend the fabulous "big weekend". It was interesting to interact with all the other crews and hear about what they've been up to. As it turns out, our mighty Tangerine Gang is the only crew not to lose a single member to quitting/disciplinary action. Orange crew rocks! I personally have to say the best part of the weekend was the food, which for once, did NOT consist of PB and J or government potatoes. After that enormous amount of "big fun", our crew returned to the wilderness and finished off the first part of our burly 12 mile hike into our next project. The only damper on the week so far seems to be our illustrious die hard cowboy horse packers. As of now, it's taken them 10 hours to ride 5 miles. The speculation about their real intentions is mounting. I personally believe they aren't even horse packers at all. But rather, they are members of an underground government alluding cult (we ARE in Idaho after all) who were looking for the perfect victims (us) to rob blind and are now half way to the Canadian border with our PB & J fixin's and dutchie brownie mix in tow.

Joanie S

I just spent the last hour sweeping burm onto the trail and then picking it up and throwing it off. Earlier, Dan and I built a switchback all by ourselves. We're on the edge of the Frank Church Wilderness. We saw the exact spot on a map during yesterday's SEED. We're on the top of a ridge so during last night's storm, I thought we were going to die like the giant tree that got struck by lightning further down the trail. We also have to get our water packed in, so I thought we might

die of dehydration as well. I think I'm starting to go a little crazy. I wake up in the middle of the night thinking, I'm digging trail to start singing. Yesterday in a fit of hysteria, I actually enjoyed sharpening our rusty Pulaski's. Right now, I'm taking in the view overlooking our latrine. Our crew is starting to grate on each other; today we had a fight about the definition of the word professional. I'm going to be wearing this pair of pants for three weeks. The dirt on my arms is several days thick, and some kind of buzzing insect just got caught in my hair. I'm actually looking forward to eating the food infested with fruit flies. I hope they don't mistake me for a yeti when I come back to camp.

Esmeralda S

She's lost it. She screams in her sleep and eats her sandwiches through straws. No one can help her. At six, she watches the fish swim out of her rock collection through green goggles and charges \$0.50 for each song they sing her. She needs a home. She needs some sleep. She needs some water. She needs some sweet sweet lovin'. The boy walks by and sees her cry. Her solo is naked, but the hairs are fuzzy. His hair stands on end as the snake rattles. He is confused, and his pants are falling off. The boy looks in his mirror and falls asleep. No one knows what's wrong. Is something wrong? He is not capable of giving lovin'.

Katherine B and Barclay Z

Sometimes everybody can use a good tickle. Hey, it pisses em' off, but what's love got to do with it? I used to eat bread and inbread and butter and cookie scavenging and come back with my mailbox still in my pants! I am on fired and I will not tire. I'm bling bling and things outside the cove.

\$T-Money\$

This week our crew succeeded in building a total of 10,975 feet of trail; by far our greatest distance thus far. Leah showed up yesterday and worked with us though today. She made the decision to move our camp from the top of the ridge down to the ranch below because we were low on water (thanks in part to our fabulous horse packers). We worked a half day and then broke down camp. I anticipated the hike down to be relatively easy, since it was supposedly only 3 miles. But in all honesty, it nearly killed me. All of us had huge packs and the trail was dusty, steep and rocky in parts. Luckily when we finished our descent, the Forest Service employees, camped at the ranch were nice enough to provide us with non-iodized cold water. Simple pleasures still exist in the world! After setting up camp again, 7 of us took in the opportunity to embark on solo trips for the night. It was the best feeling in the world to sit on my butt and do nothing for almost 24 hours after pushing myself down that hellish mountain.

Joanie S

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Romine Ranch Trail

Week 5: July 14- July 20

Friday after work, we packed up camp and hiked down to Romaine Ranch. It was so hard and switchback that at the end, we all collapsed in a field of pesticide. The spray crew staying at the ranch was very helpful and lent us some water. Later, we went on our solos where everyone laid around and napped all day. Half of us went to the hills and half to the river. I carried my bag of granola and sleeping bag along the trail until Patrick pointed up a mountain and said, "Sleep up by that tree." I wandered around for a while until I decided to sleep on this little game trail I found. I thought I was going to roll off the mountain the whole time. Later, my sleeping bag really did roll down the mountain and I had to go all the way down to get it.

Esmeralda S

We are on a challenging project on the top of a ridge in the big wilderness. The hike up is tough...1 ½ miles gaining 3000 feet up here. But swimming after work is fun because it's so hot. Purple Tuna fish carved backwards on the bottom of the peanut butter can.

Tim A and Mathias M

As I walked back to camp from the creek, I saw a black cricket. I realized that it was unlike the giant green and yellow crickets that hop around camp. The mutant crickets are inbred, and can jump, whereas the regular cricket can only scurry. I decided I had to get to the bottom of this, so I hiked out of the Romaine Ranch to the Saddle, the local pet shop. The guy behind the counter, George was a Forest Ranger, and also a sprayer. So I figured he would know a lot about the situation. "Excuse me sir," I said. "Can you tell me where you get your crickets from?" I was asking about the little white cricket, quite similar to the black cricket I had seen previously that day. George was confused, so he called up Monica, another sprayer. "California," he said. "the crickets you find at the ranch are a cross-breed. The crickets made with the grasshoppers to produce a sort of fat, pathetic, cricket-hopper." "Wow," I exclaimed. "Do you think trail workers could crossbreed with a sprayer?"

Barclay Z

Our crew's goals for the week were to finish NYC hard, finish our last project, and make it up to the saddle each day. We definitely had our most difficult hike to work this past week but we successfully made it everyday, shaving off minutes each time. We all wanted to stay positive and keep a great attitude for our last week. It's great to know that we have made it through NYC together, without losing any crewmembers, and with such a close group of people.

David K and Suzanne R

The 3rd day into the 5th week of his journey. His feet are sore. His feet have sores, rashes, and halfway, trench foot. Although the country of his travels was not moist, it is not damp. His boot contains the moisture. As his peregrination draws him closer to the promised Amish land, the trail gets steeper. His feet sink deeper into the sandy soil, and he avoids the day's third rattlesnake. The sun is relentless, but he perseveres. He finds some water log-bars, a nice place to take a rest. The days only reprise, he finds some vanilla cookies, but shows them in fear of Hantha Virus. Rats invaded them as he slept, and he is left to ration the day's water. Summarily, he continues on. The sun shines on and he comes to the top of a hill. The switchbacks seem endless, but well maintained. He gathers his strength and shuffles down with more celerity. This is it. He's almost at the end. There is no water left in his canteen. After five weeks, the promised Amish community is upon him. And it was everything he expected.

Barclay Z

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...Friday of the 4th week when we had to move camp from the top of the ridge down to Romaine Ranch. We worked half a day before the hike and all of our packs were absolutely huge because we had no horse packers. I had blisters on all 10 of my toes by the time I got down.

Joanie S

...the first time we hiked to Republican Flats. I'm not sure what exactly made it so much harder than the first hike, maybe it was the horrible hill. But by the end, I was struggling just to take a few steps. It was awesome when we got there and lay in a giant circle.

Esmeralda S

...the hikes were definitely the hardest thing about NYC. We had some pretty grueling uphill treks to work. The most challenging of them all was probably the first hike down the ridge through the saddle with our heavy packs in the hot, hot sun.

Katherine B

...the experience has been difficult. Though I cannot pick out one day that was the hardest, I can say each day was a challenge in its own right.

Daniel M

...the Happy Hell Trail to Republican Flats, which included the dreaded "Half-mile of Hell". We persevered and later, did it again in half the time and a fraction of the pain.

Mathias M

...our first hike to Republican Flats. I was so sick; I couldn't breathe and had to endure the "hell hike." I'll never forget how Joanie and Kat took care of me or how Daniel and Barclay came back to help me once they reached the camp.

Suzanne R

...the hike to Republican Flats. I ended up going to the hospital because I had a sharp pain on my left side. That would have to be it.

Michael H

...the Friday of the first week after a hard rain that night. I got soaked and was miserable for 3 of 4 days. I worked hard to keep warm and I made it though.

David K

...the final hike to the fifth week campsite. I felt that because I am a returnee and I have been the head of the pack for most hikes, I ought to grab the heaviest pile. I strapped the dutchie on my back with a pick head and a single jack, along with a tarp and the rest of my group gear. The trail to camp was only about three miles downhill, but the dutchie came loose and smacked me with every step. My toes hurt, I was sunburned and topless, and I eventually got a side ache. We made it to the bottom and it felt to zen.

Joanie S

...when I had 8 gushing nosebleeds. I feared for my survival, but I pulled through and things only got better.

Tim A

From Now on I Will Always...

...get to know people before I judge them. There are so many people here who I learned to appreciate and respect who I never would have given a chance if I met them on the street. I don't want to miss the chance to hang out with cool people because of things that have happened in their past.

Esmeralda S

...think twice about how my actions affect the environment around me and also try to never judge anyone on first impressions. Every person on my crew turned out to be different than I originally thought.

Joanie S

...never compromise my moral integrity and state of mind for the sake of pleasing others or avoiding confrontations on ethical views and beliefs I hold.

Mathias M

...give people more chances, forgive more easily, and not be so quick to judge. I have really enjoyed getting to know such an amazing and diverse group of individuals that I would definitely not get the chance to know back home. I'm so so grateful for that.

Suzanne R

...have my NYC experience to reference and refer back to. This is invaluable to me.

Daniel M

...work harder and take more chances than I did before NYC. I've really realized how wonderful work can be especially when it's intense.

Katherine B

...be conscious of what I leave behind. NYC has made me aware of how important it is that I don't destroy or alter things or leave trash behind, no matter where I made the mess.

Barclay Z

...get my chores done completely without getting distracted. I will also find ways to understand and respect people better.

Tim A

...think more about what I do in the outdoors. I will never judge people by their looks.

Mike H

...work to my full potential. In the past, I was lazy but now that I have worked hard through a full session at NYC, I will never again be lazy.

David K

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...playing music with the crew at night. Swimming in the creek at our week 5 site, and hanging out with Beau, my best friend from elementary school.

Mathias M

...going crazy over dutchie brownie mix with the whole crew. Listening to everyone's personal histories (but especially Paul and Patrick's) and collapsing after a really hard day of work.

Katherine B

...jolly music circles, yummy brownie goo eating, and listening to personal histories.

Daniel M

...all of the times that people were playing music, the second hike to Republican Flats, and my favorite day, which was when Lia came for the last time and we all worked our hardest without any desire for stopping.

Suzanne R

...when we went on our solos, Patrick pointed up this huge hill to a tiny tree and said, "sleep there." It was so crazy. Waking up one of the last mornings snuggling with all the girls for no reason. When we all played keep away Frisbee at the big weekend.

Esmeralda S

...listening to our musically talented members strum their guitars after a long day of work. Eating pizza in McCall, and entertaining the locals and watching half of our crew give themselves haircuts with Swiss Army Knives.

Joanie S

...all of that hard work in the backcountry for a couple of weeks and coming back to sweet sweet candy! Also going wild at camp and diving after fish. A great time.

Tim A

...the time most of my crew was on solo, the crew leaders and two members and I were left and a rattlesnake startled Paul. He started yelling and it was great. When Joanie peed on her athlete's foot was great and so was the Raging Hormones Dance.

Barclay Z

...swimming in the creek at Romaine Ranch. My solo time alone, and just hanging out, working and playing music with the rest of the crew.

David K

...well the solo that we did was my favorite. When Tim fell in Lime Lake after he caught a fish. Then this whole thing (NYC). Just working in Idaho was an experience all in its own.

Mike H

At NYC I Learned...

My NYC experience was indeed very educational. I learned better work habits, ways to get along with people, and how to make after-work time more fun and efficient. I will take this experience home and use it to create a more fun and productive future.

Tim A

...better communication skills, also to look at everything in a positive way. Most important for me is that I have learned more about myself and what I can do.

Mike H

...to communicate with co-workers, to work hard, and to have fun, all at the same time. I learned what a good trail should look like and how to use low impact camping techniques. NYC was definitely a building experience and I don't regret it at all.

David K

...the most defining element I learned at NYC was to never give up to the challenges or in the pressures. There is lots of hard stuff and suffering to get through, but it can be overcome.

Mathias M

...a lot about working skills and how exciting work can be when you're with motivated people and when you give it your all. I have learned to accept people for themselves and let them surprise me instead of giving them labels. I learned how to pace myself and let my energy last throughout the day.

Katharine B

...good conversation makes a long day pass a lot quicker. What I value is not always what other people value. People change. Their past is not always indicative of their future.

Esmeralda S

...quite a bit about all sorts of things, especially those which relate to trail building here at NYC. However, the most important thing I learned it all those things that make my crewmembers who they are. They are all extraordinary people.

Daniel M

...how to physically push myself harder than I ever have before, how to open up to people without being embarrassed, and how to treat a nasty case of athlete's foot using only a cup.

Joanie S

...a lot about mentally and physically challenging myself, not only in terms of work, but more importantly in terms of assimilating into a group of people. I have definitely learned a lot about being more open minded and not being so quick to judge people. Some of these people are the most wonderful and unique people I have ever met and I definitely have a great amount of respect for everyone.

Suzanne R

...how great it is to be center of attention, but it's also best to share the spotlight. I learned that some people don't live up to my expectations, and some are much greater than I imagined, so I can't always judge. Also, that people from different places are still unique as an individual.

Barclay Z

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...is on our first night out when Patrick blew up a stove. It started our relationship off on the right feet.

Daniel M

...our first hike to our first site. It was hard because I'd never done anything like it before and I didn't know what to expect. The feeling after the hike when we arrived was wonderful.

Katharine B

...driving back to our camp site for the weekend after a night on the town in McCall. It felt like at that moment, our crew really solidified its bonds with each other.

Mathias M

...is all the nights waking up at Romine Ranch when the moon would be full and bright enough so you could see every detail in the field.

Esmeralda S

...the way all of us transformed from being 12 different individuals into a tight-knit family in only five short weeks.

Joanie S

...our last night backcountry. It was so much fun. We listened to Paul and Patricks' personal histories. Played a bunch of games, ate helmet cheese cake, and it was so perfect when we went to sleep. I was staring at the sky, shooting stars while Patrick was playing music and just thinking about how much I'll miss nature and the people.

Suzanne R

...when Pat set an MSR fuel bottle on fire and the thing exploded. Awesome!

Tim A

...m solo. It was a great experience and I had a lot of fun exploring the creek and thinking a lot on my own.

David K

...my first funky dancing with a rap bottle at the Raging Hormone Dance. When Tyler talked about us going around and around and around...and around.

Barclay Z

...the dance that we had at the big weekend, when everybody was going crazy.

Mike H

Red Crew

Little Pend Orielle National Forest Wildlife Refuge Get your Slash on

Week 1: June 16 - 21

After we were chosen on Red crew, we left on an all day drive up into Northern Washington. We stopped at a ranch for the night on Sunday. When we stopped, we still had almost two hours of driving to reach the campsite. We were relieved to stop after sitting in the crowded van all day. It was very relaxing to stop and sleep under the stars.

Jeremiah S

This week our project is to clean all the slash out from all the trees. It's very tedious work. We are located in the Pend Orielle wild life refuge. About 8-10 hours away from our base camp. We are cleaning out this slash so they could do controlled burning so the trees could and grow better.

Thairone D

After a long night of sleeping outside with a bright moon, we got our wake-up call at 5:15am, had breakfast, and headed for the hills where we busted out a can of some serious slash action. We had a good lunch, which consisted of cookies, sandwiches (which were PB and J), and cheese, turkey, and mustard. We also got watermelon.

Anonymous

We learned that team work is more important than individual effort. We learned that everything runs smoother, stronger, and faster when the mindset of the group is in unison. When everything we have learned is applied during the work day, all the components of individual effort diverge into solidified teamwork.

Martin M

Fighting off insanity and dehydration, our crew wrapped up a week of slash-piling. In accomplishment, we rocked. I know Ranger Dan is in disbelief of the work we covered. Teamwork and unity stood at a high, and though we all were read for the weekend, our crew finished the job with an enthusiastic emphasis. With the brush stacked and covered, we retain a strong gratification. One week down and spirits stay through the roof. The weekend, which we all salivated for, arrived into open arms. Ironically, our thirst for break was quenched by constant drizzles and nighttime sprinkles. Staying dry became first priority and to combat some frigid temperatures. Campfire congregations happened daily. Our crew shared stories, histories, and ideas on life. A few bear sightings stirred up commotion, but eventually, we settled and enjoyed our last night at the logging outpost.

Beau B

Colville National Forest Sullivan Lake Halliday Trail

Week 2: June 22 - June 27

Our crew's first weekend withheld frequent rains, relaxing respites, and brazen bear attacks. We opened our minds to each other in front of a roaring campfire, discussing life, love, and what makes us happy. Sunday evening, amidst rambunctious after-dinner satisfaction, we, or should I say, the "Bear Whisperer," discovered a pack of the sump-craving creatures.

Beau B

Today was a tough day for us. We started out our day moving gigantic rocks and then moved onto logs. At the end of our work day, we were able to see the beginning of our bridge. We then trotted the 1.1 steep miles back to our campground and relaxed in a large lake.

Sarah C

This week, we want to and will finish building our bridge. Today, we moved three huge logs as a team and put them into place. Our bridge is going to be great! Our crew is also working on getting rid of negativity and the “I can’t” mindset.

Maike H

My crew learned that bridge building takes as much patience as grunt work. We learned that group hoists of 30 foot, 3000 pound trees take the effort of every walking, breaktaking creature within a 50-mile radius. Once again, the word teamwork rings in all of our ears. Once again, we pay homage to the bonafide fact that teamwork rules supreme at NYC.

Martin M

This week our crew faced what could be our greatest challenge. Not only did we have a single week to complete a bridge, but our bridge required us to move 4 30-foot stringers, push heavy rocks, and completely obliterate 2 clay hills. Our crew did more than just succeed. We finished the bridge, learned to work as a more solid unit, and had fun at the same time, all in one week. Our hard work allowed us to feel we had earned our breaks and our pride in our accomplishments made us overjoyed. We spend each evening swimming in a beautiful lake, washing away the sweat from the day. What a week!

Emily A

Sullivan National Forest Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Slash Piling

Week 3: June 30 - July 4

We went for a short walk through the woods around Lake Sullivan. Then we took a five hour dip in the lake and sat on the dock. Then, it was our weekend at the lake on Saturday. On Sunday, we packed up and headed to Gardner Caves and hiked to Canada to see what it looked like. It was a nice clear-cut all the way across the U.S.

Laine S

This I think we will have a few different projects because today were going to pile slash, but instead of piling slash we built a fence. We are back in the little Pend Orielle again. I really hope we don’t pile slash all week.

Thairone D

Our crew’s coals for this week are to endure 9 hour days so we can take Friday off in order to make it to the weekend site Friday night. Thursday night, we will be going to Erica’s parent’s house and staying the night there. So our goal is to have camp packed and be gone by 5:30pm Thursday night.

Anonymous

Our crew learned the basics of barbed wire fencing construction. We also learned to keep a positive attitude even though the job we were doing was not fun. We were also able to create slash piles with greater efficiency.

Maike H

Our accomplishments this week were working four 9 hour days in the hot sun in Washington piling slash and helping to put up a barbed wire fence. Day one, we were headed out to finish an area of slash from the first week that we didn’t quite complete when our contact Dan showed up and told us we were headed out to help with a barbed wire fence. While working on the fence, we met some new interesting people like Bob, a 54 year-old gentleman who was not used to working with many people around. So it was strange for him to be around us. Craig was the man running

the show and telling us what to do and how to do it. We started out by digging 28" deep holes for 11 braces. Each hole took about 10 minutes to dig. The second day, we piled some slash to help the forest grow better. The third day we worked on the fence again and on the fourth day, we went back to pile more slash. Those were our accomplishments.

Laine S

**Salmon National Forest
Cobalt Ranger District
Big Deer Creek Trail**

Week 4: July 6 - July 13

This weekend, we met up with the other 3 crews back in Idaho. However, our weekend actually started on Thursday night when we had a huge barbeque at Erica's parent's house. The food was amazing. Sadly, two crew members had to leave early Saturday morning, leaving us with a group of eight strong individuals to finish the trip. On Sunday, we drove to our new worksite and go excited about our new project.

Emily A

This week, we are in Cobalt, Idaho. Our crew is improving and reconstructing a horse trail. We are doing this project to promote use of the trail and appreciation of the area.

Maike H

Our crew's goal for this week is to improve the quality of our trails and distance that we build each day. We continue to maintain unity and solidify personal bonds.

Sawyer C

A desolate, congested rock cliff can be transformed into an amazing stretch of trail, if you're willing to get wet.

Beau B

This week, our crew challenge was to work our way through $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of overgrown trail. Walking up the gigantic hills and lifting up huge roots, it seemed impossible. But, by the end of the week, they had to move our campsite because we had gotten so far. We had many fun times this week, such as passing buckets full of water to each other and pushing people into the stream. We spent our weekend doing solos. After a hard week of building trails and camping by ourselves, we set off on a new project...

Sarah C

**Salmon National Forest
Cobalt Ranger District
Big Deer Creek Trail**

Week 5: July 14 - July 20

On Friday, we worked a 6-hour day on trail and then when we got to camp, we had dinner and headed on our solos. We came back Saturday and talked about what we did. Then on Sunday, we finished our trail in a six hour day and that concluded our weekend.

Anonymous

This week, we are building a 100 foot rock wall for Big Deer Creek Trail. Our contact is Rob A. and he is having us build the wall in order to prevent the rock slide from eroding further.

Emily A

Our goal this week is to finish our rock wall and our crib wall. We will finish this last week with a bang and blow Rob A. out of the water on our accomplishments-a wall that he thinks will take four weeks.

Sawyer C

We learned that the Great Wall of China wasn't built in a day. We had to build this massive rock retaining wall near Cobalt, Idaho. We ended up doing a good job and all was well. The trails were protected from the huge rocks.

Martin M

We entered on our trail site as intrepid astronauts stepping on the alien soil of a distant planet. The work stayed tough, grueling at times, but our crew dug trail with immobile confidence. We unearthed enormous boulders, chopped the thickets roots, build gargantuan retaining walls, and shaped beautiful trail. All the while, fending off unpredictable rock slides. A finished job projected at 4 weeks was nearly completed in 4 days! Red crew rocks!

Beau B

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...finishing our bridge and snacking on it. Spending a day at Lake Sullivan, and going to Erica's parents' house for dinner.

Maike H

...finishing our bridge, dinner at Erica's parents', and the bears in our camp.

Jeremiah S

...the amazing people, the amazing experience-bridges, rock walls, and the not-so-bad food.

Martin M

...working on the bridge, listening to everyone's stories, and going together after group turmoil.

Emily A

...running out of gas, inside jokes, and Emily walking on me.

Beau B

...the last night together under the stars, the rattlesnake, and swimming at the lake.

Sarah C

...seeing the bears at camp, fishing with the guys, and working with Rob A.

Laine S

...seeing the bears, seeing a rattlesnake, and finishing our bridge.

Sawyer C

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...going out for pizza the last workday and then sleeping under the stars.

Maike H

...seeing the bears in our campsite.

Jeremiah S

...listening to music and wind on the car rides.

Martin M

...sitting around the campfire our first weekend and talking.

Emily A

...campfire discussions, close encounters of the bear kind, "bump", cruising sessions in the fan, everything.

Beau B

...the girls “swimming.” Nate running to the bathroom at midnight, friends.
Sarah C

...the long drive the first day to our worksite.
Laine S

...my solo, the bear jumping out of the bushes, the rattlesnake. Nate peeing his pants and burnt Mac & cheese.
Sawyer C

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...the last day of work because we had to finish this huge project.
Maike H

...the day we moved the huge stringers for our bridge.
Jeremiah S

...the day I lost hope in humanity and had to eat burnt Mac & cheese.
Martin M

...the day I didn’t think I would mentally make it to the end of the trip.
Emily A

...the first day (as a crew), I thought, “What have I gotten myself into?”
Beau B

...working with Rob A. on a switchback with the rocks we were moving.
Laine S

...the first day, trying to get to know the crew. But I think in the end, the hardest thing will be saying goodbye.
Sarah C

...the day we found out which crew we were in and then we took off for a 12 hour drive in a van full of people I didn’t know.
Sawyer C

From Now On I Will Always...

...pack up what I pack in during long hikes and use a compost.
Maike H

...pack out what I bring in and leave nature clean.
Jeremiah S

...set up bump dish stations at my house.
Martin M

...try not to judge people before I truly know them.
Emily A

...seek out adventure.
Beau B

...challenge myself in things I think I can't do.

Laine S

...try and push myself to my limits.

Sawyer C

...live in the moment.

Sarah C

At NYC I Learned...

...to be more organized and efficient when camping, hot to cook in a dutchie, and how to dig trail.

Maike H

...that I can overcome huge obstacles if I put my mind into it.

Jeremiah S

...rattlesnakes, black widow spiders, and large furry creatures (including myself) are dangerous.

Martin M

...not to judge character on first impressions. I don't like being off by myself for 24 hours, and soupy dutchie brownies are better than regular ones.

Emily A

...numerous life lessons. Environmental preservation, useful camping skills, and that I can survive anything with Martin at my side.

Beau B

...most things in life are mind over matter, and if you set a goal for yourself, it is easier to get things done.

Sawyer C

...that everyone is not as you expect them to be.

Laine S

...I am not really a negative person.

Sarah C

Yellow Crew

Boise National Forest Mt. Home Ranger District Paige National Recreation Trail

Week 1: June 16 - June 21

Last weekend we all met, spent the night with everyone, and the next day, I got picked to be on the best team ever. The YELLOW TEAM! So we left, drove a while, got to the trail, packed, and hiked the most extreme, I mean EXTREME hiking trip ever. So we hiked forever, got to a washout, and had to backtrack and sleep on a hill.

Mitchell C

Hello Journal. Happy Times! We popped out of the tent early and trekked to the reroute site! Yeah, I was proud. We spilt into two groups and got crackin'. On group was at the reroute and one was on the trail to come. Straight up, Yellow crew! We finished and got in the river. Fun!

Nick N

I'm writing this on the whole sheet because I have a lot to say. I feel that Wednesdays are equally important and deserve equal rights and treatment. The weather has been really extreme lately. Extremely hot and most recently, windy. I keep getting songs stuck in my head. The weirdest thing is that after only three days, I feel like I know everyone so well. We got a new crewmember today. Her name is Jessica. I haven't really had a chance to talk to her. She's kind of quiet. We were moving all these huge rocks by hand today. I'm so sore. I didn't even realize until I tried to stretch. I could really use another massage circle like we had yesterday. The work is hard, and the hikes are grueling. But it is some of the best fun that I have had in my life. At first, I wasn't sure about my crew, but now I feel that we are all...

Anonymous

Today we wrapped up what seems to be the burliest of the rock work and continued busting out new trail to link up with the present trail. We also did some serious trail maintenance leading back to our camp. But this work was cut short by the storm that rapidly rolled up the drainage, forcing us to pack up and head out early. When we reached camp, we threw on our rain gear and sat on our pads in a circle (we repeatedly moved around in the field) to hopefully avoid getting struck by lightning or flattened by a tree. But all is well now as the sky is clear and the sun is warming the wet ground.

Kendra S

Friday afternoon, Yellow crew completed the link between the junction and the washout. It still needs its perfections, but it feels good to see what we've accomplished and know that the hardest part has been "whapped" out. The first of five weeks has been satisfying and fulfilling for the crew. We've come together despite already losing one member and having an unstable beginning. But so far, we've: slept on a hill together, sat in the rain through a lightening storm, seen foxes and bears, snakes and birds of many a feather. The week has gone by swiftly and safely (knock on wood). I can't imagine leaving this program without keeping some of the friends that I have made. Seeing how much some of us have bonded even in this short week, I hope Yellow crew stays a positive place to work and goof off for the next four weeks. Yellow crew 4 life!

Ethan K

Boise National Forest Mt Home Ranger District Project Name: Hogue Recreation Area

Week 2: June 22 - June 27

Well today was oh so much fun. We split into two groups. One worked on the new trail which passes over the washouts. The other group cut trail towards camp. Nice and sunny it was. The

birds were chirping, nature was alive. Well it's always alive, but today was extra special. Lunch was like a 5 star hotel; small yet satisfying. Well, notorious DEV needs the notebook, so I'll book my way out of this journal. Waha ha ha! Funny stuff.

Hunter P

In the morning, I worked on the part of the trail that leads to the tree bridge. The main project of this week is making a new trail above the old one we built last week. The crew has also been improving different areas of the trail. We work on and improve the trail because horses, motorcyclists and hikers enjoy a nice trail to walk or ride on. Getting paid for this work is also a plus. The experience is also awesome.

Jessica W

Today we split up into two groups and finisher the trail we started yesterday. Then we worked on getting the trail cleaned up and lookin' really good. After lunch we split up again and started again. We went to the wash out and cleaned up the sides and took out a few big rocks. We moved up the trail and got a lot of the rocks and branches out of the way. Then to the motorcycle trail, first just getting the trail defined, then cleaning it up and making it look good. And that was pretty much the day.

Abrie F

Today was our last day at this site and tomorrow we leave to see Blue team for the weekend which we have all been looking forward to all week. So today, we just finished up little things here and project done early. It felt great to get stuff done ahead of time and Terry was very happy with us, which made us feel great. We also got candy.

Mitchell C

What is the measure of perfection? Grace? Skill? Godliness? It is called Elyse; an essence so pure, so wild, it makes the largest rivers halt in their descent to sea. It makes mountains tremble, turns the hearts of corpsmembers to the lowliest dirt. Ah, Elyse! So like a savior you are to us! So like Superwoman, or the actress from "Girlfight!" How we admire you, look up to you, strive to receive the blessing of your gaze! Your voice is music to our ears, that sweet symphony declaring, "ten minutes". How we recall even in dreams the excellence of your being and sigh softly to ourselves, hoping desperately, someday to be like...like...Elyse!

Anonymous

Challis National Forest Salmon Ranger District Big Deer Creek Trail

Week 3: June 30 - July 4

After a successful week of trail work, Yellow crew was able to leave on Friday without doing any work. We left early Friday and drove to Stanley and met up with Lia and Blue Crew. We set up camp and hung out that night. Saturday, both crews did some chores and then went to the beach. After the beach, a fun game of capture the flag was played. Later that night, after dinner, and entertaining talent show took place. Both crews retired after that. After waking up early on Sunday, Yellow drove out to Big Deer Creek and off-roaded to their campsite. The end.

Zach L

The first day at a new site. We're front country this week, but it seems even more like backcountry than the last two weeks were. We have a 2 mile walk to work in the morning and another 2 miles at the end of the day. Ugh. It was a long day and hot. I think that this is going to be a hard week. It's just hot and the days already feel long. We have a pretty sweet camp set-up though. A nice kitchen, covered eating area, and front country stores! And I'm already ready for bed.

Jena S

I must confess...today while Elyse was out of sight, I built a tree fort. It was straight out of Swiss Family Robinson. I also made a rocket-ship out of slash and achieved lift-off. And I'm working

on a new line of slash evening gowns. Success, fame, future will be mine. And I have all the slash I could possibly desire. I am truly the luckiest corps member ever to have walked the face of this great green earth.

Anonymous

Today we got a lot done. We filled a lot of holes and moved a lot of rocks. I think we've made a lot of progress in the last few days. At first, I didn't think we'd do that well with the time we had and the job we had to get done. Once again, I've been surprised at how efficient we have been.

Love, Mitchell

In SEED, we learned about the web of life and the life of a forest. On the trail, we learned how to be careful with rocks and we also learned how to move dirt. It was very exciting. The last two days have been good. The weather has been nice, and during the ride across the river Sunday, our crew learned about Nick's life. It was a great personal history. We are only working 4 hours to eat at Rob's tonight. We like the showers.

Jessica W

Little Pend Orielle Wildlife Refuge

Week 4: July 6 - July 13

Today our crew got to sleep in. It was definitely a great plus to the weekend. Jena mastered the dutchie cooking by making the banana nut bread. She started the fire and did most of the bread's prep. I thought the bread was great. The cave that we visited today had a short tour. But nonetheless, it was fun. Some of us wished we could go further down into the cave. I think it would have been neat to crawl around down there. We also visited Canada. The border as a clear cut, it was unexpected. The guys also enjoyed taking a pee in Canada, but I didn't share that thrill. It's been a nice weekend thus far. Yesterday, we did our solos and roasted marshmallows over the fire. The lake was also a blast. Brandon and Nick bought 3 packages of marshmallows for the crew, so we are expecting some yum for tonight. I think it will be a nice rest of the day. Leah is here also. Currently, Nick and Brandon are cooking dinner. It will be pasta with chicken, veggies, and potatoes. I can't believe there are only 4 days left (plus a driving day). I hope people thus far have enjoyed their experience; I know I have.

Jessica W

Ah, Rob, Rob, Rob. Who does my heart beat for? It beats for thee, sweet sweet sissy snakes. From the first moment I laid eyes upon you, I couldn't believe the perfection of that beard, that god-like demeanor, the Michelangelo physique. Alas—it is a match too good to be true, for I am to be wedded in the morning to an ugly, ungodly, lemur. My life means nothing.

Anonymous

I love to ride! The wind in my hair; it's just beautiful. But seriously, on Sunday, after packing for an exorbitant amount of time, we hit the road and hauled booty down the Idaho roads. Born to be wild! After sleeping away the hours to Moscow, I was able to hook up the crew and myself with some good grub and my family. It was a nice change to see the family unit and a few select friends. It was just like the good old days and I had quite and urge to return there. We camped at the wrong campsite and packed up and went to work in the morning. It's funny how the slash piles remind me of some creepy cult like the KKK. After 2 days of slash piling, the next week and a half seem like it could well be the most monotonous time of my life. Hooray!

Nick N

Our crew almost finished the slash piling at our first worksite. We should finish early tomorrow and move to a new worksite. We will probably end up doing more slash piling, which is the coolest thing ever. Just kidding. Other than that, our day has been pretty uneventful. We accomplished a LOT. Oh yea, and today is mystery madness and our leaders are going to cook up some good food, hopefully. Over and out.

Zack L

Today was a super duper day. We finished the slash piling early and moved to the ranger station. Then...we had WATERMELON! And got paid. After that, Don sent us to an area where the firemen cut wood. Lucky us, got to stack firewood and slash pile for the rest of the day. We learned this week how to make some really sexy slash piles. I can't wait for more!

Hunter P

Little Pend Orielle Wildlife Refuge

Week 5: July 14 - July 20

We had a big surprise yesterday. Lia, the woods boss, came to visit us all the way up here in Washington. It's always great to get visitors and signs from the outside world. Also, when we arrived back at camp today, Kendra's sister Alisa was sitting at our picnic table with a smile and gifts for the crew. This is our last Monday together. Tear.

Anonymous

Today I was leader of the day, which was fun and EDUCATIONAL! Today WE piled slash. What a surprise. We still haven't found slasher. Poor girl. We ended up stopping early and going on a nature thing, which was fun and EDUCATIONAL. Now I'm hear writing this. Goodbye.

Mitch C

Yee-haw! Today was the best day of my life. I can't even begin to explain the complexity of my emotions at these moments. Owee. It hurts just to contemplate the grandeur, the immensity of the task at hand. Let me just say-and I shall try to make it simple, concise, to the point-in all of my long days, months, and years of living on this splendid planet, nothing can compare to the perfection of the fart I just created. Yes, I am an artist. I must confess...this morning, while moving a boulder the size of a hippo, I heard an ominous r-i-i-p. Then suddenly, a gust of wind chilled my bare, exposed bottom. Without missing a beat, I flopped the rock over, finished the retaining wall, and fashioned a diaper-like loin cloth out of a piece of fire hose I found on the side of the trail. No one even noticed I was wearing a hose for underwear! Wow, it's moments like these...

Anonymous

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...my boys of Yellow crew. We were close from the beginning.

Ethan K

...all the friends and good times we had together.

Mitchell C

...all the great times I had with my new and greatest friends.

Zack L

...if you feel you have only one inch left, continue until you've reached that mile. The best gift you can give yourself is being yourself. Then you're happy.

Hunter P

...when people throw sticks or pinecones at you, it is best to bide your time and retaliate at unexpected moments. This can best be done by splitting water or by using large bows with loose, dry, pine needles to smack one's target.

Kendra S

...even under the spell of amnesia, I will never forget the great people that I have been privileged to work with.

Anonymous

...the hike in to Sheep Creek with the incredible heavy packs!!!

Nick N

...morning wake-ups and everyone's smiles throughout.

Jena S

...the people who I worked with were great. Each person is totally unique. I also will never forget Elyse's strength—it will motivate me for a long time.

Jessica W

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

Bill Swartski's Sports Bar Skit, wildlife on the trail and solo "Bear!" The appreciation circle...tear...

Ethan K

...talent show, 2nd and 3rd weekend sites, and the appreciation circle.

Mitchell C

...big weekend, solo, and appreciation circle.

Zack L

...solo, appreciation circle, and clean clothes.

Anonymous

...solo, appreciation circle, and the past five weeks.

Kendra S

...appreciation circle, solo, and the day that we created the Arnold voice and had to "war" at the end of the day.

Anonymous

...solo, hike in to Sheep Creek, and the 2nd weekend site with Blue Crew.

Nick N

...hike into Sheep Creek, appreciation circle, and a day at Pend Oreille Lake.

Jena S

Redfish Lake, appreciation circle, and working as a team.

Jessica W

At NYC I Learned...

...to give myself higher standards. To work hard when I was tired, and to eat the food that you've been eating for the past five weeks.

Ethan K

...to push myself further than before and to eat weird food. The third is how to get along well with the same 11 people for 5 weeks.

Mitch C

...one's relationship with others is a very important thing in life and should be dealt with strongly and carefully.

Zack L

...to take chances, push yourself beyond limits, and value friendships with others.

Anonymous

I have now realized that being a leader among my peers will probably not cause me to die. In addition to this I now know how to “properly” use the loppers and rock bar as well as how to “effectively” pack down a slash pile.

Kendra S

...people are never what they seem to be. There is always a hidden layer that will surprise you. I also learned how to maintain a smile despite seemingly terrible circumstances. The last piece of knowledge I will take from here is the knowledge that even though sometimes people can be frustrating, they are all ultimately great caring and loving people.

Brandon D

...that 9 people with little in common can make life long connections just by being together for 5 weeks. I also learned that there is a good balance between work and play.

Nick N

...that I can always do more than I think I can if I put my mind to it. That you can find something you love and respect about everyone. That laughs and smiles change everything.

Jena S

...I can have higher expectations. It's okay that I'm not going to college. People are good.

Jessica W

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...the first day, not knowing what to expect of the five weeks to come. The first hike and project toned me for anything we would face.

Ethan K

...the first, because I didn't know what I was getting into and I didn't know anyone.

Mitchell C

...the last day of work because the end was so close and that was good and bad.

Zack L

...the hike in on the 1st day was of the devil. But after I accomplished kicking its butt, I felt I could do anything.

Hunter P

While the first days' hike was horrendous, the farts have been fearful, and the blisters brutal. The most challenging thing for me has been not peeing my pants while laughing the hardest I ever have.

Kendra S

...the first day's hike in with these huge overloaded packs and a ¾ full 5-gallon in my arms. I stuck it out though and feel that I have grown much more than physically from that.

Brandon D

...in a day during the 3rd week, it was so incredibly hot that I just about keeled over and died!

Nick N

...the first day of work—wondering why I was out there.

Jena S

...moving buckets of dirt—I was tired and it was heavy.

Jessica W

From Now On I Will Always...

Hiking trails will never be the same, now knowing what goes into the making and upkeep of them.

Ethan K

...appreciate the small stuff more now that I've been out here.

Mitch C

...appreciate my showers and take them whenever I can.

Zack L

...be excited to wear clean underwear and clean socks.

Hunter P

...pick my nose and scratch my butt in public.

Kendra S

...cherish the smaller and seemingly less important things in life that I take for granted and generally regard as details.

Brandon D

...take care of my hygiene when I want to, not when others tell me.

Nick N

...believe in pushing myself to higher standards. I will always know that I can.

Anonymous

...push myself harder. Do more physically challenging things. Not be worried about my future. Trust more.

Jessica W