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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

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Blue Crew

Idaho Panhandle Priest River Ranger District Navigation Trail

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

We went driving. Drive, drive driving. First off, we got lost. So we drove some more. Then we tried to find a camp site a good 10 hours after departure, well maybe 12 hours. What we found was people's houses. Cort wouldn't let us ask to set up camp in their yards. Then we went to a gas station to listen to *Jeremiah was a Bullfrog*.

Daniel S

We're working on trails. We are in Brist Lake, working. Because I want to get in shape. There was a lot of work that took a lot of effort. I got dehydrated and almost passed out. I blanked out in the tent. The work got easy after you knew what you are doing. I learned to drink lots of water. I pushed down a tree.

Cody B

It's the third day here and we, the Blue crew, are the coolest group at NYC! Some of us came here for the money, others for the experience, and some just to buff up. All the boys except Josh have been adding more and more push-ups to the required 10-a-day. Josh thinks they're insane. So does everyone else. And you guys probably are. Blue crew is still positive and you can make NYC the best experience that I'll ever have. I wanna thank you fall for being so awesome! So far, Rockstar's attempt to fatten up isn't working even though he's eating everything in sight and adding every spice and sauce he can to his food. I want everyone to remember the incredible lake view we have and to remember what it feels like to finish a job. It's a great feeling. Teamwork is the base to our Blue Crew; without it, we would never have done so much: the turnpike, lugging trees through the forest, learning more about who we are everyday. Everyone has supported me every time I felt like I was going to drop dead. And I wanna thank you guys for that! Also, awesome mac-n-cheese and navy beans for dinner. Rock star and Lief totally awesome! Especially the hot chocolate treat! Yum! My kids and grandkids are gonna love hearing about my time with Blue crew; it's truly my best memory (on-going memory) yet. Thank You all ! Blue Crew Rocks!

Brandi P

This week, we learned how to build water bars with and without logs. Not only that, but also that we built...duh...duh...duh...turnpikes, but without the tollbooths. It's interesting because the work "turn pike" came from the east coast in the early years of the U.S. It was very dangerous to travel from Philadelphia to Washington DC, because of bandits. A company built a road from Philly to D.C., but charged a price to use the road every few miles. They regulated the charge w/ toll booths in which a pike turned after the toll was paid, thus giving the name, "turn pike." I didn't learn that this week or at NYC, but we did build a turnpike-less turnpike with culvert and everything!

Daniel S

The first major challenge of the week was definitely the twelve hour drive to our site. Without many bathroom stops and limited food. There were a few awkward silences but most were overcome by singing. Blisters were a big problem for a few as well as the actual work. I think the first accomplishment was making it through the first day. We made a fantastic turnpike that turned out very well for our first one. We also put in a few water bars and drain dips. The last day and a half, we spent working on a VERY muddy turnpike and hauled massive dirt. The best part was just getting through the day.

Leif C

Idaho Panhandle Priest River Ranger District Navigation Trail

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

Mostly we just hung out and ate food. But we did an hour and a half of work on Saturday and then went on a hike to the van to get a little more gas and some snacks. We got a new fellow named Mark and he is a cool dude who works hard so it's all good. We tried to cook brownies but they just turned into sludge, but it's pretty good anyway. We also got a whisperlite since our propane is not working.

Leif C

We are doin' the longest stretch of turnpike ever. That is anytime previously in history since the dawn. We move camp tomorrow and have not finished, so this is not good-not good at all. Also, for the first time in history since the beginning of mankind, I have assumed a hair braid it is interesting. To all reading this: I am NOT Mary Lou! I love having the lake here because I am almost clean. I am really happy cause I'm a cucumber. I'm a cucumber. Please don't take me to the pickle farm.

Rock Star

Today we packed up camp and moved to a new campground, came close to finishing the massive turnpike, and lost a great corpsmember. Cody's ankle became hyper extended while returning from the worksite. I spent hours talking to him while an EMT examined his wounds. He is one of the greatest guys I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Cody worked the hardest, hauled the most and is the funniest guy to listen to. His leaving the group is a great loss that none of us can forget. On the hike to the new base camp, I was repeatedly told to not speak of Cody. Why? Because the entire CREW misses him. He probably can't come back to work, and we won't see his face ever. One day, however, we will eat our see the greatness of Cody's dreams. My heart goes to him and I pray he is alright. Cody is gone and so are two others. We are dropping like flies, or something amazing to counterbalance this is going to happen. Adios. See ya later.

Josh P

We went to town to a Greyhound Bus station. Everyone was kinda depressed to lose Cody, to me he was always a great guy and one of the hardest workers. By the time we got back to Priest Lake, it was way too late to hike another 4 miles in, so we set up tents by the Hannah Flats, a 10-acre section of 400-year-old trees. After a (cough) interesting dinner conversation, we all got in our sleeping bags, covered them with tarps, and went to bed. Saturday was our only free day, so we decided to go on a hike. However, we never got accurate directions and we ended up turning around on a dead end street. Eventually, after searching for showers, we settled for a beautiful beach on the lake and got about 20 minutes of decent swimming in. On Sunday, we had to work to make up for lost time.

Nick C

The crew woke up and got together and ate some breakfast. It was tasty. We then took Cody over to the bus station in Spokane. We then called friends and family from the payphones. After that, the crew was less stressed. We then headed to work to continue the "turnpike" that needed to be finished. We got a "booya!" in and headed back to town. We then dropped off "Cloud" and got to working on chores. We ate a scrumptious dinner and fell asleep to rain on our faces. The "turnpike" was by far the best accomplishment of the day. We had worked on it for over 3 days and when we finished filling dirt and pounding stakes, I felt proud and grateful for an awesome crew.

Marc L

Idaho Panhandle Priest River Ranger District Navigation Trail

Week 3: August 11- August 17

We saw a dead mouse that was killed by a bear. We started putting in drain dips and water bars and started heading back to camp from there. When we got there, one of our crew members made some amazing bread.

W also had a SEED on trash and went swimming. The water was refreshing. Overall, it was a pretty awesome day.

Anonymous

This week we learned a whole lot about teamwork. Helping Cody with his injury and various projects taught us how to work together better and deal with stress. We also learned how to forgive people for their mistakes. We learned that the best way to deal with most mistakes is by just letting it go and not dwelling on the problems that occur.

Leif C

Today at work, we got up pretty early on a cold darn windy day. We got up and ate Banana Nut Bread pancakes. It was good!!! We then headed 5 miles back to the trail already worked on. We made check dams in 5 different benches and then half of the crew split up and others worked in a turnpike that needed a culvert. With good teamwork, we finished in 1 ½ hours. Next we went to work on clearing the sides of trails, making them wider than the original. We worked about a mile of that and had a tool count. We stayed after to finish a project and then headed home for chores!!

Marc L

We all got up and had to pack up to leave beautiful Priest Lake. As we packed the breakfast person was making chocolate pancakes. The crew went in to safety circle with only a 6 hour day ahead of us. We hiked out to perfect the check dams we had built earlier on in the week. We also built a bridge which turned out to be a good one. Then we went for a 3 ½ mile hike, which is always fun.

Max R

Today we woke up at Lief's house and got a decent breakfast and saw a real cool art studio run by Lief's mother. The place is a farm outside of Moscow, Idaho. Very exquisite with it's beauty. A long car ride followed a cleanup in a Laundromat, co-op, and the U of I's showers. We bought some stuff from the Co-op, a community-run grocery store. Meanwhile, we washed our clothes in the Laundromat. After that, there were free showers at University of Idaho. So we went and got very clean. A long ride in the van followed. After a stop at Hoot's Gas Station, the majority of the crew began a conversation in the very excellent accent of the British. Also, we picked up two pints of ice cream, of which we ate a very fast pace in the van. Then we stopped at a car crash. Traffic was backed up for miles, and we circled up during the wait. We talked about the weekend, where all four crews met up for one weekend to recreate and have some fun. After the work site, we drove until we found the weekend site. This weekend should be fun, and we need to be considerate with our actions being careful not to brag. Hopefully, this weekend will be the most fun yet. This crew is very well bonded and very great together.

Josh P

Payette National Forest Krassle Ranger District

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

Today was marked by an exceptionally frustrating lunch, yet the most excellent afternoon break. We had to hike all the way back through stinging nettles (Max and Leif went Mountain Man style) to our first tool count for a lonely Pulaski. We busted out lots of water and rock bars—and Max, Sarah, and Leif had some extra excitement falling a tree when it decided to snag onto its neighbor. Luckily, they didn't choose to push it over Josh-style (or how Josh had earlier in the day when he chilled out at the stump all the time. The tree was falling to the ground). Anyway, the afternoon we saw an old mine and when in a cool old cabin with old rusty nails. Then we jumped across rocks in the tree creek (or lava). This was all fun and games until Sarah fell into the lava. Luckily, it was only fake. So HURRAY! This was our last day ever working this session. We have all accomplished more than we believed we could and kept our standards high. Tonight, there was a special kind of running race around the fire pit—no worries—we all wore our hard hats and boots.

Cloud

Beautiful morning. The corpmembers all got up here to surprise Sarah and Cort. After getting all our gear packed up, we broke out in "Jeremiah was a Bullfrog" and grubbed on breakfast and headed out for a long hike to Cold Meadows for the flight home. Yeh! We're gonna fly! We set out at a fast pace and maintained it for the 10 mile hike. We cleared logs from the trail along the way and had an amazing experience pushing down the World's Biggest Snag off the trail. It was over 3' in diameter and had fallen right over the trail. We huffed and we puffed and used Leif's lever idea and rolled that beast right over.

Anonymous

Dig dig
Dirt is molded into art
Chop chop
Trees are towed to serve the trail
Push push
Discipline and drive transform our bodies
Share support
Blue crew family fills our souls
Shine on!

Anonymous

Today was to say the least odd. We started out the day with a bismal amount of breakfast and packed no lunch. We worked 4 hours and called it quits until the food was packed in four the last 2 weeks. We sat around for about 3 hours. Then, while playing cards, I (Marc) saw the 2 horses and 4 mules walk into our camp with all of our food. It was like the fall of the Berlin Wall. Everyone was happy, hugging, jumping up and down and crying tears of oh too sweet joy. We ate like bears coming off hibernation. It was a feast. We soon went back to work and Sarah, Heidi, Max, and I all worked on the "Stump of Satan." It was fun. Soon work ended and fun weekend madness began. We had Cort and Sarah cook us some gnarly huge dinner. Anyway, it was a good day after we hate. I love it here.

Marc L

Some of the challenges of our week were interesting and fun. The first challenge was learning how to use the cross cut saw. It took a lot of timing and coordination. After a lot of practice and tree-chopping, we overcame the challenge and now are cross-cutting fiends. Our second challenge was a ridiculously huge stump that we had to take out. After creating a humongous crater and chopping some really big roots, we took out the tree and made it disappear like magicians!

Leif C

Crackly
Drying red leaf
Autumn whispers
Almost unheard over the talkative creek
Cool air
Stormy night
Alone and wet, histories are rewritten
With the pen of solitude
Vulnerable yet strong
Comforted yet fearful
Our path in the wilderness
Leads us to ourselves

Frank Church Wilderness River of No Return

Week 5: August 25 - August 30

Um, yeah, so I'm gonna have to ask you to work. Sunday too. So we worked Sunday. Before that, we had our solo. Most of us were getting wet. It was a spiritual experience for most and a boring self experience for others. Leif is a burly rock carrying mountain man. During yesterday's sports bra exhibition, I personally think Max won best looking in a sports bra. We rocked the Kasbah again today working hard and eating well. Oy! Oy! Oh! Hey ho! Let's go!...Start a riot?

Rock Star

Today everyone worked on water bars, water bars, and guess what? That's right! More water bars. We busted out 35 water bars in 9 hours! Go Blue Crew! Only a couple of days left and most of us are a tad homesick. Cort misses his wife. Heidi misses her mum and brother, and I miss my sisters a bit. At this moment, Max is wearing a sports bra and is comparing himself to Jesha. I'm not too sure which one of them looks better...For most of the day; Marc has been wearing his yellow rain jacket and looks like some things out of Curious George. Marc ended up getting a slight case of heat exhaustion, because he wouldn't take the dang jacket off. He claimed that he looked "sexy" in it. We will be feasting tonight. A little over a weeks worth of food needs to disappear so we don't have to pack it out. Unfortunately, the rodents decided to help us eat and got into the goldfish today! Jesha was all for the idea of hiking back and getting Heidi's hunting license so that we could legally hunt down the chipmunks and hang the little runts. Tonight's menu includes Ramen packed with the rest of our veggies, scalloped potatoes, cheese cake, and some of Leif's incredible cornbread. Cooking tip from Sarah: instead of eggs, put applesauce in your cornbread.

Brandi P

Our Goal is food. We woke up this morning to a bit of leftover cereal and had to eat the leftover pasta for lunch. It was kind of burned. We had a slow day at work because everyone was hungry. Max and Leif started work on a huge stump and learned they just had to keep digging. I hope our food comes soon!

Anonymous

Today we finished all the work behind the ridge. We put in several water bars and then built a large rock wall. It required very, very big rocks, the size that most Yetis cannot lift. We expect to do mostly finishing work and water bars tomorrow on the close side of the ridge. Also, Dan the Human Marmot plans an anti-chipmunk campaign for tomorrow. Boiling pots down rodent holes, and common increments of anti-chipmunk destruction.

Josh P

Thursday started at 5:15 am when the crew, minus the leaders, crept around camp, attempting to pack their personal gear and tents silently. The crew gathered around Cort and Sara's tent and burst out with "Joy to the world" and hearty "Good morning Blue Crew!" Patrick had brought the pack-beasts the previous nights so the company of the beasties was greatly appreciated among most. The hike out, 10 miles, was mainly fast paced and mellow.

Anonymous

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...my first day, how nice everyone was, and being so scared of them.

Hiedi M

...the day the guys decided to bombard Jesha with a dead rodent. Although it was cruel, it was soo funny.

Brandi P

...Marc-farts!

Leif C

...“Jeremiah” and the cucumbers.

Josh P, the Emperor

...being whipped, stoned, and beaten by my crew. Brutally. I don’t know how I survived.

Jesha L

...“wow, it’s all peaceful and stuff”.

Mark & Nick

...is how tight we all were as a crew and how we all came together to finish projects.

Max R

...our run in with the paparazzi behind the trees...

Rock Star

...the awesome friends I made and laughing my guts out to Leif’s rave dance.

Marc L

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...the 24 hour solo and fast was a wonderful experience for me, especially since it was my first time attempting anything like that. During the weekend site gathering, I went on the hot springs rec.-trip, which was definitely a new experience. Ultimately, my favorite NYC experience was the feeling I got walking back to camp after working harder than I’ve ever worked in my life.

Jesha L

...Priest Lake. Drum circle, flying in and out of the river of no return, and the 10 mile hike in and out

Hiedi M

...the drum circle at Priest Lake was so awesome. I’ve never been a part of anything like that before. I loved the solo. I’ve never felt so refreshed and in touch with myself before. And finally, I loved the last plane ride. It was a bumpy, awesome take-off followed by a gorgeous view of a place that people haven’t entirely taken over and destroyed.

Brandi P

...just laughing all the time, flying in the planes, and crossing the line at dinnertime.

Leif C

...Priest Lake (the whole thing), the one big thunderstorm on our work hikes, and one outrageous drum circle/dish party.

Nick C

...the long van ride (14 hours). The barge ride of the mighty sewage; and lastly, rockin’ it out with Blue crew all the way.

Josh, the heir to the throne of the Chinese

...the hike out to cold meadows was exhilarating, and pushing the ginormous log down the hill was definitely the best part of the hike. What made pushing the log just that much better was that we were off the clock. ... HA! Three things? What is this? Boot camp? The first drum circle and the last drum circle at Priest Lake were the best ever. The third was definitely the invitation process to Dan and Max slumber party.

Daniel S

...rolling rocks down the hills. When we busted out 100 ft of turnpike, and the push-pa circle.

Max R

...all the time we spent laughing, the solo was great, and the plane rides were awesome.

Marc L

At NYC I Learned...

...just do it and make the best of things.

Hiedi M

...more than I ever learned in my life. I learned about myself, that my limitations are far less than I previously thought. The simple things in life are what makes life so good.

Brandi P

...just to push my limits to the edge and then some.

Leif C

Blue Crew's Law is what I learned. The Impossible has been and will be done.

The 14th Apostle, Josh P

...how to stomach the most God-awful smelling farts ever known to man. I learned how to live in a tight group of people for the long periods of time, and how to contain myself during the tough times. Most importantly, I learned how to work hard.

Jesha L

...that an 8 hour work day isn't the end of the world.

Nick C

... after a very hard day, if you push yourself, you feel a great satisfaction. I also learned to use a whole bunch of different tools.

Anonymous

...a lot about life in general and how to live with 10 other very different people and how to enjoy the small stuff in life even though it was hard, I learned how to live.

Marc L

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...the day Daniel pushed hardest was the 2nd to last day when I pushed Pulaski's logs until I couldn't make progress when through a log when I swung down on it. Thanks a lot Maxi.

Anonymous

...both a mental and physical challenge when Cody sprained his ankle the same day Cort decided to drop a log on my toe. It was an enormous challenge because I felt so useless. I couldn't help Cody and I had no control over the situation but Blue Crew managed to pull through and got Cody on the boat. Go Blue Crew!

Brandi P

...the second to last day I wanted to quit climbing back over the hill from work. I was dehydrated and felt like passing out.

Hiedi M

...was towards the end when we had to build a gigantic rock wall using the biggest rocks possible. Cort and Brandi and I set up a rock exchange carrying rocks I couldn't even lift. That was really draining.

Nick C

Hmm...the hike out to pick up Cody, that was hard. A long work day, then a long hike with a heavy back pack was my hardest day.

Josh, King of the Goblins

...a combination of lifting, carrying and placing gigantic rocks for the rock wall.

Leif C

I must admit I had a major culture-shock at the beginning of the program. As a result, my body rejected food and my appetite slimmed to nil. Working off no calories in a new environment with new situations was probably the most physically and mentally challenging experience through which I have gone. I kept standing through tough times, and I felt it made me stronger for the rest of the program.

Jesha L

...the first week because I had a sinus infection and was not up to par with my work.

Max R

...by far the first day of work. 9 hours of non-stop swinging, chopping, hauling, and digging was my most challenging because I felt I had something to prove to everyone and worked really hard but it turned out all right.

Marc L

Orange Crew

Challis National Forest Yankee Fork Ranger District Sawmill Creek Trail

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

This weekend, we had our “Orientation.” We met everyone and all the leaders at a campground, and broke into groups. We learned about tools, and how to use them. I found that everyone was nice and had a positive attitude.

Jeff S

This week we are building trails and maintaining some that biker’s pushup-ed. We had to hike about 50 million “push-upping” miles. We’re currently in Idaho on the Sawmill Creek Trail in Challis National forest.

Jeff S

Our goal is to finish the trail by Friday so we can get the heck outta here. Also, we hope to not have any injuries and have fun the rest of the session. We hope to keep a positive attitude and work hard to bust out some awesome trail.

Curt D & Zach K

This week our crew learned about the importance of communication when working in hazardous situations. During SEED, we learned the different forms of discrimination and the effect it has on group dynamics. The role of “Nicole” was played by Theo (Wolverine) which only compounded the all male attitude caused by the sausage party I call Orange Crew. Discussing the negativity of sexism resulted in the most sexist discussion I’ve heard this side of a frat house. I beg of you, send females. ANY FEMALES! Today is Theo’s birthday. Happy B-day Theo! Shrimp with beans and cheese for dinner. McDonald’s has never looked so good.

Boyd P

The greatest challenge of the first week was becoming accustomed to the drastically different lifestyle of NYC. Several sub-challenges lie within this behemoth. For instance, the grueling hikes uphill to work and seemingly back to camp, the more nutritious food, the blisters, and being thrown into a melting-pot of ten testosterone-driven guys and Paul and D, the beatniks. While at first the task of overcoming these difficulties seemed impossible, “physical persuasion” from our noble leaders forced us to address our problems. Down to the bone. Paul is insane. But we love him. He said if I didn’t say that he would hit me again. Just joking. Our accomplishments include tackling the above difficulties post haste. Our group is getting along well and the corpsmember-leader relationships are not remotely strained. We worked together on more than one occasion to make it through each overwhelming day. By the way, today’s my birthday. My birthday. Tomorrow will also be my birthday. All I want is my two front teeth. And a warm teddy bear. Because Paul took mine away for being too “sissy-like.” Anyway, I am about to do pushups in a circle. Pbthh....

Wolverine and Luke O

Challis National Forest Yankee Fork Ranger District Sawmill Creek Trail

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

Today we looked at a 5 mile hike to a new camp. As we were working on a trail reroute, we lost Jeff to a rock to the head. After losing Jeff, the trail boss joined us as we worked. She fired us all and told us to work to the end of the week with no pay. Te trail boss’s name is Ice Maiden because she made Paul very nervous. Then he beat Jeff’s lifeless body. Happy Birthday to Theo.

Matthew T

This week, we are still on the Deadwood Creek Trail. We are rerouting, making new tread and making water bars. The Ice Maiden left today. Our new camp is in a scenic valley, but I needed a blood transfer because of the ridiculous amount of mosquitoes. The crew is working very well together. Today is Theo's birthday.

Anonymous

Our goal has been to finish all remaining work on our current trail by Thursday. This chiefly consists of widening tread in rocky areas. Also, Theo's birthday was today. To celebrate, we let him dig a new latrine while working.

Mark W

This week our crew learned how to carve a trail through solid rock. Today also happens to be Theo's birthday. To celebrate, we are making him cheesecake. We also learned a game called Steal Joe's fish. This week has been very trying but also fun. Two or more people fell on the trail and almost perished. But by some divine interference, no one was seriously injured.

Scott C and Matt L

And on the eighth day, there was Birthday Boy...and give unto and into him was an adamantium skeleton. But there was a price for his eternal state of birthdayness and bliss and friggin' cool skeleton- he must write the journal entries. Torrential brainstorming and agony ensued as he attempted the...uh...unattemptable. But his will was strong, like adamantium. And so he wrote. And he wrote. What am I doing with my time? Sorry, long tangent. This week, our crew started falling apart. Following Lia's magnificent and awe-inspiring entrance from the clouds, both an insect-infest campground and tough work on a rocky tread seemed to split our crew in half. But from the cement grew forth a rose. We forced ourselves to address the issues that had developed and the result was a brand new Orange crew. By our day off, we once again enjoyed a sense of unity and friendliness. This weekend was comprised of chocolate pancakes, nine-o'clock wake ups, town trips, and embarrassment at the warm waterhole. Silly Jeff (aka Big Poppa). But enough about them—let us talk about me. I can't get "Chop Suey!" and "idioteque" out of my head. This is very interesting. We face a tough week of work and hikes so I must abort immediately. PS it's my birthday.

Theo C

Challis National Forest Yankee Fork Ranger District Cinnabar Trail

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

On Saturday, we woke up to piping hot dutchie love brownie pancakes. After that, we went down to the river to wade around and sun bathe. When we got back to camp, we played mafia until our leader came back from his day off. We then went to the hot springs to socialize and relax. When we got back, we prepared a lavish feast consisting of cheesy noodles and mashed potatoes in celebration of Theo's birthday. After dinner, we took down the entire camp including the tents and slept outside.

Matt L

Funny you should ask...for I was just beginning to grasp the overwhelming magnitude of the third week. Tomorrow marks "hump day". That special day of the year enjoyed by Homo sapiens of all creeds during which we celebrate my birthday and the half-way point of our trip. This may be our last week with Heavy D which means no more precious dutchie Love. And to top it off, we started personal histories with Boyd's. This moving story brought us much closer, which I presume is the desired effect. In terms of work, we're hammering out some unkempt trail on the opposite cliff which allows us to watch over our precious meadow with motherly eyes. Henceforth, we will work on a 30 foot turnpike. Let's see...Heavy D has coffee that is currently being argued over. That song by Cream is being whistled incessantly. Papa Roach has been banned by the Good-Music-Gods. Jeff + Onions= Big Spill. This is beginning to sound like J-pop, isn't it? "don't just stare at it, eat it!" Today is my 17th birthday!

Theo C

Our goals for the week include finishing the turnpike, lots of brushing, and some hella hard rocky trail. Today is “hump day” of the session. Our crew is still all here, and here to stay.! Lia came for about 10 minutes today and then fled. I think she was scared of Jeff who had mud smeared all over his body and the large hole in the crotch area of his pants. We are leaving Friday to go to the weekend site, for Big Fun. We all want to see a female and to wash our clothes. Today is Theo’s birthday. Luke is the Bomb. Not.

Zack K

Our crew was happy to hear that we don’t need to work on Friday, just hike. But today’s work was a turnpike. As we were moving large rocks and almost ran over Paul, he moved just as it came into range. The biggest problem is that everyone has gas and Jeff is the start. Anyway, we learned about bench marks, the web of life, and prey and predator in SEED. This week was basically a laid back week. Other than Theo’s awesome birthday parties, today is his birthday.

Curt D and Big Matt

The past is always written by the children of the future, or in this case, the children of week 4. Greetings to the primitive beings of yester week. I am addressing you from week 4, an era where cabins and lights and stoves and running water are readily available to the working man, such as myself. But enough of my envy-inducing luxuries. Let us instead reflect upon the challenges and accomplishments of your week. While the hike into your location is easily rivaled by the hike of week 2, I salute you nonetheless, for your perseverance. Enough of this silly tone of detachment. Last week we also started tread work roughly two miles from camp and made our way back to our 30 foot long turnpike project, which we did not complete till week four, which you have no knowledge of yet. Other than our encounter with the Ice Maiden, the week was routine. We celebrated the birth of Theo (3rd week Theo that is) all week and there was much rejoicing.

Wolverine

Challis National Forest Yankee Fork District Cinnabar Trail

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

This weekend was the big weekend for the whole session. We had rec.-trips to different places. Some stayed back and just chilled at camp. We got good food including BBQ chicken & salads and pop. It was a great meal. We all had lots of free time to just do what we wanted. All in all, it was a great time.

Luke O

If I could have 2 things, I would wish for a pink talking elephant named Phil and a ten year contract writing for the Onion. But seeing as how I will never have the second item, I will use this Tuesday Journal entry as my canvas. So we’re back near the Cinnebar Trail though Boydless. Today we split the crew up to more efficiently widen tread and blast out some ridiculous trail from very hard stone. Following a nine hour day, we sat by a river for roughly 15 minutes to philosophize. One could make a lot of money off selling berries. I wish I was. Today is my Birthday.

Theo C

The crew was awaking at 6am, thinking it was 5am, but we now have new leaders of the day...Luke and Matt, little Matt. The bitter morning frost bit me like a frozen leprechaun. I awoke to the harsh yells of the guards who casually wielded their sub-machine guns. My knife was finally ready to trade to Theo, the birthday boy, for a pack of Turkish cigarette. I’d painstakingly crafted the blade from a stone-sharpened piece of an old can. We made the trade in an instant, and hid our new goods in the bottoms of our felt boots. Prodding bayonets pushed everyone to the barbed wire. We were assigned our jobs, rock breaking and mucking for the next 20 hours. That’s when Boydov made his move. A glint of metal flashed. The guard dropped, blood squirting out of his jugular. Boydov grabbed the gun. Just as the second guard began to react, he sprayed him with a volley of bullets. He emptied the clip into the dead body with a flourish, turned off, and ran. The rest of us sat dazed, eating double our share of Oreos gleefully.

Mark W

This week was great. Although one of our crewmembers quit, we learned a key objective. After Paul came back, he gave us a talk about not giving up and running away from our problems. This week, we also had the chance to go on solos. Many people took the chance, although many stayed at camp. I went on the solo and it was a great time to reflect on one's self and relationship with nature, life, and others.

Luke O

Well, gee. On Friday, we hiked out after doing solos and then drove to the Seafoam Ranger Station to stay in some pimp-tastic shacks. The toilet in my shack doesn't work, but I still derive enjoyment from the mere thought of having it. I was so generous that I gave Luke my coffee that I obtained for free. I'm like Gandhi or something. Err...yes. Our challenge was doing work without losing concentration and going off on a quest chasing after a chipmunk I believed would grant me 3 wishes. In retrospect, I was probably wrong. Anyway, Ezra Pound is a good poet. He's definitely the best of the fascist oriental-theme Imagist poets. I wrote a poem once about a guy who blows himself up with a grenade. That was pretty good. I'm only writing this because no one else would. Can't tell that I'm not trying very hard, can you? Oops, I shouldn't think in writing. Why can't I just cross it out? Oh right, I'm too lazy. My soy sauce is for you. I can put it in your shoe. Waah.

Mark W

Challis National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Sheep Mountain Trail

Week 5: August 25 - August 30

This weekend we took a crazy trip to the moon in our invisible space suits. We left our magic NYC van at the dump site and hiked the rest of the way to the dark side of the moon. What a trip that was. The dark side of the moon is actually under Nazi control and the light is of purple shades. We lived in a couple of well-furnished cabins eating peanut butter and singing rounds of "God Bless the Fatherland" and frolicking amongst those crazy Nazis, playing Twister and Monopoly. And all of this time I thought Hitler was buried in my back yard. Anyway, hiking back to the van was easy given the low gravity. Now I'm off in the hills on earth again, day dreaming of Hitler on the dark side of the moon. I must end this entry before Paul puts me back in my Straightjacket of Solitude. Goodnight.

Theo C

...The hallucinations that come to me are entertaining to say the least. For instance, the dead trees kept addressing me as Antigun and begging me to bury their burnt bodies. The sky is made of peanut butter and occasionally it rains brick. Deverton is communicating, but his words are too soaked with meaning and they sink to the ground before they get to my ears. I must remember to thank the Gods for Gold bond.
Truly yours,

Theo C -The birthday boy

Well our ultimate goal is to finish this week of HELL-O and graduate! We have carried our beaten bodies 37 miles as of today! But yes all is well in the world of Orange crew. Thank you for your time.

Curt D

This week, we learned there is such thing as Jello Legs. I think we for sure all know how to hike (cough) 40 + miles (cough). We also learned there are some really dirty campers/hunters out there. From knowing that, we now know that cleaning messy camps sucks the big one. We learned about how organizations like this help such all CCC and the military.

Curt D

We had many challenges this week. First off, we are a 9 man crew. So we had to work more hours to make up that. We had not done a 10 hour day prior to this week and we had 4-10 hour days! Madness! Also, we had to hike over 40 miles and that was crazy. Thursday 4 people stayed back and we completed about 300 feet of trail work and then 22 drain dips within a half mile. But now we have completed all of that and ...WE'RE DONE! WE CAN NOW GO HOME in 2 days...
We are all very excited and proud to have finished this session.

Curt D

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

- ...the friendship I made in the crew, the amazing scenery, and the triumphant hikes with the heavy packs.
Curt D
- ...working hard, being dehydrated, and living in tents in the wilderness.
Scott C
- ...climbing the rocky steep mountain; uniting with the rest of the crew, and a hot shower.
Jeff S
- ...seeing the views from the top of mountains, having fun with the other members
Matt L
- ...the wildlife was very cool. The fishing was great, the friends I made were very cool.
Zach K
- ...sleeping under the stars, eating canned sardines, and striking sparks of the sledge with a piece of quartz.
Mark W
- ...the hot springs, bath, relating my personal history, and waking up to hot chocolate pancakes.
Theo C
- ...the fudge pancakes I woke up to, the great crew, and the accomplishments that I have worked hard for.
Luke O
- Hanging out with the crew at camp and weekends, the Raging Hormone Dance, and the long hikes.
Matthew T

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

- ...the day after big fun weekend, I was very homesick after seeing my family.
Curt D
- ...the last one because I know that I have to leave people that I have gotten to know very well. I may never see those guys again. I guess I just hate saying goodbye.
Matthew T
- ...the day we hiked 16 miles and came back to camp to do chores.
Scott C
- ...the first 2 days. As a crew we didn't know what to expect. That in itself was challenging.
Luke O
- ...during the last week when we did a 7 mile hike in cold wet clothing and boots.
Theo C
- ...our first hike up.
Matt L
- ...the first hike, it was so hard and stressful, but I look back and looks like a piece of cake.
Zach K
- ...the last one because my feet felt like burning and my hair felt like yellow.
Mark "the calligrapher" W
- ...when we had to hike 7 miles with fully loaded bags.
Jeff S

From Now on I Will Always...

- ...know the meaning of hard work and responsibility. These traits I will use the rest of my life. Curt D
- ...value hard work and learn to be a leader. Scott C
- ...enjoy the scenery and appreciate the effort put forth. Jeff S
- ...appreciate the work put into trails and have a better concept of leadership. Matt L
- ...not be dependent on America's gigantic toilet paper conglomerates. Sticks and pine cones work just fine so I find these corporations' plots to addict us all at an early age quite insidious. Mark W
- ...respect wildlife and feel very at home in the wild. Zack K
- ...appreciate the commodities of society that are constantly taken for granted by the common consumer. Theo C
- ...have a better feeling for nature. Respect what is on our earth, but enjoy it at the same time. Luke O
- ...look at Mac & cheese in a new light because we've had it so many times these past 5 weeks. Now I think of what I can add. Matthew T

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

- ...is that here I learned the meaning of hard work, teamwork, and leadership. Curt D
- ...my whole experience. The work was great, the views I saw were one in a life time. I hope to remember a whole lot. Luke O
- ...the long hikes up all those hills. Then coming on to the crew and having them cheer me on. Matthew T
- ...is to have low impact camping to take care of the wildlife. Zack K
- ...that dehydration can be a pleasant escape from reality in an unenjoyable situation. Mark W
- ...that I, a city-slicker, trudged through icy waters in my sneakers at 6:30 am. Theo C
- ...the bonds that were made this session. Jeff S
- ...the long, arduous treks through the woods, especially when we hiked 16 miles in one day. Scott C

...the long bad hikes while talking about video games with friends.

Matt L

At NYC I Learned...

...that I have some leadership skills which I need to express more often. Also, that hard work will get you far. And last, that conserving nature is something worth doing.

Curt D

...a great deal about myself and my surroundings. I've increased my leadership skills greatly and I feel I have gained a better work ethic. I am happy from what I get out of it.

Luke O

...how to be a leader, to respect others, and I don't like latrines.

Scott C

...to appreciate natural environment and habitat. And to build trail.

Jeff S

...how to make yourself a leader on a group. I also learned how to build trail and do low impact camping.

Matt L

...that the human capacity for mental/emotional suffering are greater than I have assumed.

Theo C

...leadership skills and outdoor living. Also, I gained lots of friendships.

Zach K

...that trails on the side of a hill should have a 45° cut bank.

Mark "Supreme Lord of Earth" W

...that iodized water plays havoc with your stomach. Like it made Jeff fart hardcore for five weeks.

Matthew T

Red Crew

Payette National Forest Krassle Ranger District Coxey Creek Trail

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

We woke up today at 5:30am. We packed up our camp, and loaded up the van and trailer. We drove to the Forest Service Station, unloaded our gear, and then drove to the trailhead. After everyone had their packs on, we started hiking a grueling 19 miles. Almost everybody got blisters except for me, Erika, Justin, and Madeline. After 16 miles and 6 ½ hours, we stopped and camped. We made dinner and then went to bed.

Josh C

We woke today at 6:30am, packed up and then hiked the last 3 miles in 1 ½ hours. We set up camp, ate lunch, and then went to work. This week, our project is to rebuild the trail up the mountain to the top in 3 weeks. In this process, we are to put in turnpikes, cut down trees, pull stumps and roots, and remove rocks. The place we are staying is at Crescent Meadows. Great place, but the forest burnt a while back.

Josh C

Today was our first day of a full days work. We all worked hard and made it through the day. After work, all of us went for a dip in the creek and came back for chores. For dinner tonight, we're having some type of garlic noodles and water. We are all very hungry and can't wait to eat.

Hanna F

What I think we learned most was teamwork. It feels like we did more today than any of the other days. I think most of us are excited for tomorrow. We are coming together as a crew and family, the more days go by. By now, most, if not all, understand how NYC works. I think Red Crew is going to achieve unthinkable task that lie ahead. Rock on Red Crew!

Kevin H

We worked our day and did well. Some got dehydrated though. After work, we had some fun. Brownies were mixed, blisters were cleaned, and we had a blazing fire. Some stayed up real late and others fell asleep. Last night, the stars were really cool. The brownies turned out okay. The fires eventually got put out and the game of fart volleyball was put on hold. To take up space, I will write about how much room they give you for Friday! Anyway, accomplishments would include the trail we made.

Anonymous

Payette National Forest Krassle Ranger District Coxey Creek Trail

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

The general theme of our weekend was: sleeping and eating. After a late night on Friday, we slept in till about 9am on Saturday. We ate pancakes and after breakfast, we headed 3 miles up trail to explore an abandoned mining camp. We went swimming and after lying around all afternoon, we concluded the evening with dinner and Saturday circle. Sunday we slept in again, ate vast amounts of breakfast until noon, and then played ultimate Frisbee. And hour of swimming was followed by dinner and an early bedtime.

Madeline W

With the dew still moist on the blades of grass, the faint sound of “15 minutes” breaks the deathly silenced air. With one eye open and the other forcing its way open, the Red crew wipes the crust from their faces as if they were zombies, slowly rising and stumbling to breakfast. Then, as if going to war, the Red crew picks their weapon of choice and heads to the field. Then the crew is informed of the tasks that wait before them. The sweat gliding down the faces, the dirt being ripped from the ground and pounding into the eyes, the rush begins.

Anonymous

Today we had made more water bars. 14 were made and 150 ft of tread was made too. Zach and Stan made stakes and Cassie, Hannah, and I peeled logs for the water bars. Everyone else was installing them. Before we did water bars, we made the tread. Stan and I worked on a corner, which was quite large and very beautifully done. At lunch, Stan accidentally lost a yellow top and it rolled down the mountain. The water was tragically lost. Stan retrieved the remains, lid, and jug. While we were working, it decided to rain or more realistically speaking, hail. It hailed for about an hour. Everyone got soaked. That was our day.

Josh C

The crew learned this week to tolerate each other’s grumpiness. I think the crew is very compatible and efficient. I also think we kicked the hills’ butt hardcore. We physically learned how to conquer trail, water bars, and check dams. The trail is pretty pretty and we are at the top of the hill. We got to finish the trail by taking out the elusive bumps. The crosscutting is good. Some with the bench and corners and our bump lines are kickaXXX. We woke up in mornings better but its’ still hard. We learned a lot this week.

Lord Nathaniel B

Our 2nd week was our first 5-day week with 40 hours total. We dug a lot of new trail and put in countless water bars. Each day, we moved higher up the mountain, testing our ability to carry our water and tools to the top. Since it was the 2nd week, we were expected by our crew leader’s to work in a more skilled and efficient manner, putting more pressure on all crew members. At the beginning of the week, we endured a pounding rain/hailstorm at the end of one of our work days. The hail was huge. Some crew members were inspired by the exciting thunderstorm to work harder, and some were challenged by the wet state of their clothing. But all persevered to finish out the day. On Thursday afternoon, Lia joined our group and on Friday, she assisted us in fixing our switchbacks to make the trails less steep. We also used retaining structures such as staked in logs and rock walls. Friday night, we were surprised by the neighboring Backcountry Leadership Program crew joining us for the night. We moved into the weekend with our camp swelled to 22 people.

Madeline W

Payette National Forest Krassle Ranger District Coxey Creek Trail

Week 3: August 11- August 17

We could not get up because we were so tired getting back into the work mode. We worked a hard 9 hours and started on the last reroute. We punt in water bars, saw some more burnt trees. Our trail went high up the hill and we could see a great view of the valley and meadow. We were all really proud of finishing the trail, and starting our reroute.

Cassie M

Again, we worked 9 hours. We got about 500ft of tread made. Many of us were starting to get dehydrated. By the end of the day, we would just crash back at camp. Then we’d wash up in the creek, do chores, eat, and then SEED. Then we’d go to bed. When we slept, we slept hard until the next day.

Josh C

Our goal, as of Sunday, is to “power out” the last week of our project, in “River of No Return Wilderness Area”. We will make our trail crazy nice with perfect water bars, check steps, cut banks, flat tread, and

more. We want to impress our contact by finishing the last huge switchback. Most of all, we will survive the “burley” 9-hour workdays. We look forward to our plane flight out and dream about the milkshakes, hamburger, and moxy java drinks.

Anonymous

This week, we learned to work harder, more efficiently, and more independently. We learned to make our switchbacks HUGE, and then when you they’re HUGE, we make them MUCH BIGGER! We learned to keep digging down further than our minds could even comprehend. We learned about Kevin and Nate in their exciting, humorous, and uniquely expressed personally histories. We learned that making too much food can be painful for the entire group.

Madeline W

Wow, this week was, in the words of my fellow crew member, “friggin awesome!” Well, it had its’ highs and lows. We kicked things off by working on Sunday of all days. Only five hours, but tough nonetheless. We finished some switchbacks—taking down some tough trees. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we worked grueling 9-hour days, digging a huge reroute at the top of the mountain. We didn’t finish it, but we did more than our contacts expected. We also kept our cross-cutters busy, making 12 water bars on Wednesday. We had been observing growing amounts of smoke on the horizon and then on Tuesday, we received the exciting news that the fires was blocking our trail and we would have to hike 9 miles in the opposite direction and be flown out on forest service planes! The 9 mile hike on Thursday was a challenge, but we finished in style. Then commenced a several-hour wait for the planes—but it was worth it. We flew out over the awesome fire, and landed by our van, after which we drove 2 hours before dropping for the night.

Madeline W

Boise National Forest Idaho City Ranger District Corbis Creek Trail

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

Today we finished our crew’s hike, which was about a mile. Then we set up camp, did safety circle, and then worked. We did this by doing a nice reroute in about 45 minutes. Then we moved down to the bridge and made rock bars. We finished one side and almost finished the other side. Rocks were heavy at times. Many people got dehydrated too. After work, we did chores and did latrines and a sump.

Josh C

Lia came up to camp, to eat some munchies and help us work for the day. We worked a couple of yards from camp. We dragged rocks that were mondo!!! Also, we carried lots of buckets of dirt to cover the rocks we put by the bridge. It was really funny fun! Not!!! But oh well, it was all good. Peace out.

Cassie M

Our goal was to finish the job. The job was to make reroutes all over the trail—a small 50 footer and a 500 footer, and make a couple of approaches to the massive bridges that cost \$5000. Anyway, we make these massive approaches by moving massive rocks. We conquer all the projects way earlier than they are due. We got the latrines good and the food isn’t bad and we are all getting along in camp. We had a good talk with each other and Josh’s breakfasts are good.

Nathan B

We learned that time goes by faster if you actually work, and also we learned that dehydration really isn’t a good think cause a girl on our crew got really dehydrated and she talked nonsense, walked funny, and laughed a lot. Dehydration is not the cool of a thing because people can die. Ya.

Cassie M

The challenge of the 2 ½ mile ridge up hill both ways, getting chased by wild animals and our legs were broken. Other than that, it was okay. Another challenge of this week was to make our project look crazy good to impress our Forest Service contacts. We accomplished our last work week with a full crew of 10 people, and survived the 9 hour work days. We enjoyed our crazy run-ins with wild sheep, friendly mice,

and ghosts lurking in the woods. To celebrate the end of the week, Red Crew bathed in the hot springs, watched the stars come out in Atlanta Thursday night.

Denise T & Nate B

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

Week 5: August 25 - August 30

Friday after work, Red crew had a wonderful bath in the hot springs of Atlanta. (Population 37) While lightning flared and thunder erupted over head, Red crew began the weekend with this great treat. Saturday was just as exciting with the adventurous run-in with a mud slide as we headed towards Idaho City. Late Saturday evening, some headed off towards their solos and others jumped into the springs for another bath. Lazy Sunday arrives with a late breakfast of pancakes, potatoes, and spice cake, prepared by our cooks, Stan and Nate.

Denise T

We are spending this week in Boise National Forest building bridges and approaches, fixing old bridges and miscellaneous trail work including reroutes and trail rehabilitation. The trail is on an ATV trail. Today, we worked with three USFS workers building a big bridge and approaches. We are working four 9 hour days and some crew members have been sidelined by illness and shoe-malfunctions but all is well.

Madeline W

Today, Madeline, Denise, Nate and I went and finished the approach to the creek. Then we came back. Nate and I joined the rest of the crew and the ladies fixed water bars on the way back. They were a couple of hours behind us. The rest of us made a turn, took out a bridge. Kevin was digging rock and ended up riding a sturgeon. This morning, a giant mouse attacked us and I fought it. I got its hind leg and it skimped off like a beast that it was. When we got back to camp, a bear came in and we had to wrestle it. Ended up that it just wanted loving and Zack gave it a bear hug. The bear left unharmed.

Josh C

We learned teamwork, commitment, trust, hope, forgiveness, spirit, strength, love, courtesy, and others. We worked hard and made approaches. We hiked up a killer ridge. Perseverance. We never gave up and we talked about stuff we wanted to do when we get out and learned a lot more about each other. We don't get in big fights and we put up with each other's crap a lot, but we still get along. We have had harsh times and we have learned a lot.

Nathan B

Tomorrow, we disperse to the safety of our homes and towns or cities in which we live to face many people who have no clue what we have just been through. We have been through ups and downs from work challenges, pushed our last day of work hiking with pain in our knees and feet. We dealt with annoying, slacking crewmembers, who at times we wanted to strangle. We dealt with two grown-ups controlling our every move for 5 weeks. All of us have come a long way. We worked our butts off. We gained muscle, dealt with musky every morning, the coldness with nowhere to go to be warm, the hot sun, cold rain, rotting feet, no money to buy a burger in town, but I'm not saying everything was negative. No-sir-ee-bob! All of us got along just fine. We had some good dinners, tons of laughs, pretty hikes, and the feeling of— We're going home!

Hannah F

From Now on I Will Always...

...try to be myself and not be afraid so much about what people think! I will also appreciate my family, friends, and food more!

Cassie M

...continue to be the same person that I am. And continue to enjoy the outdoors.
Josh C

...live life to the fullest and become a better person.
Stanley O

...be myself. If a crew of 12 like me for who I am, then my friends and family will know who I really am.
Rock on RED CREW!
Kevin H

...continue on being open with people and tell slacker to get their butts up and help.
Hanna F

...be a strong, brave, mature person. Have more fun, speak up more, eat more ice cream, and be my rad-
mad self.
Madeline W

...show my true personality to others. Work towards goals that I often forget when I am at home.
Denise T

...read the NYC papers before signing them to be hired (*grin*). From now on I will try and show my
inner self and speak my dark mind.
Dustin S

...appreciate music more and never go camping.
Zack Z

...dig latrines and water bars every where.
Nate B

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...is all the fun times we all had together.
Cassie M

...the craptacular iodized water causing gas.
Josh C

...the friendships.
Stanley O

...is this crew—how no one quit and how they are so positive.
Kevin H

...the hard aching pain and the sheep.
Hanna F

...the good times, great laughs, dehydration, and ghetto highs!
Denise T

...the dark times in a good way, and the people of this crew.
Dustin S

...the plane ride out.
Zack Z

...the people and the good times.
Nate B

At NYC I Learned...

...to be myself!	Cassie M
...how to build trail, dams, check steps, switchbacks	Josh C
...new life skills to take with me into the future.	Stanley O
...friendship. And it's possible for 12 strangers to achieve great things.	Kevin H
...what Guardia is—no, I didn't get it.	Hanna F
...how to make water drainages.	Nate B
...that I can dig a mean hole.	Madeline W
...to wipe twice and to be precise.	Dustin S
...how to sharpen a Pulaski.	Zack Z

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...when we all had to hike to the van and our hike was hard! We hiked after work blazin hot sun, 2 miles up hill!	Cassie M
...the first 9 hour day we had to work. It dragged.	Josh C
...the last day being sick and trying to work and then hike out.	Stanley O
...the first day and our 19-mile hike, but we pulled it off.	Kevin H
...crosscutting, which led to mental breakdown.	Madeline W
...crosscutting with Crazy Justin!	Denise T
...waking up everyday for this Godforsaken job! *grin*	Dustin S
...waking up and being cold with nowhere to go. I feel bad for saying, because of the homeless, but I hated it.	Hanna F

...the first hike the first day. I was out of shape and didn't know anyone really well and was kinda losing interest in the program.

Nate B

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...the plane ride: that was so fun! We couldn't hike out over the fire cause there was a fire in our way so we flew over the fire in a 6-seater plane! The mudfights and the van getting stuck in the mud pit, the mud was so deep! I was up to my knees in mud! The last day of work was a blast. After work, we chilled in Hot Springs.

Cassie M

...the plane ride out due to fires, many hours in the van to get to job sites, and getting stuck in the mud with the van.

Anonymous

...most definitely the plane ride out of the backcountry, getting stuck in the mud, and the hot springs.

Stanley O

...the plane ride take off, beautiful view and the flaming beautifully brilliant orange and red fire. Seeing, hearing, smelling and hugging my mom at the weekend site. The sheep.

Anonymous

...the air life out and hanging with the Forest Service guy with the drums and I made him a bracelet out of hemp. Next was the hot springs on the day off. Last was the quad ride during the rock transport. That was fun and the times after work.

Anonymous

...climbing a huge mountain the first weekend, flying in a 6 person plane, and getting the best darn crew in the world!

Kevin H

...the "good times". Hot springs, getting van stuck in the mud, and thunderstorm with huge hail stones during work.

Denise T

...Kevin's huge grins on the plane ride, seeing Erica's face when we drove up with the van covered in mud, and van rides, Tom Petty, ice cream, hot springs—all in one day!

Anonymous

...the Dark Evil times. Eating ice cream till it shoots back. The poor chipmunks. The fire of the forest.

Dustin S

...Kevin's humor, the plane ride out, and our meals together.

Zack Z

Yellow Crew

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Victor Creek Trail

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

I have hiked to camp with my new crew and gotten to know them really fast over the 3 miles and on the job site as well. My day was really great because I got to know the crew even more today.

Justin L

Today we moved rock and made new trail. We had to hike 2 miles to get there. We have to put in turnpikes and switchbacks. Our campsite is next to 2 ponds and 2 streams and a big rock wall. The original trail is really steep and overgrown and we re-routed it.

Justin L & Jennifer V

Our goal for the first week is to get three rock walls done. We want to also try new fun games. The games we have played so far are fun. We have a lot of bugs so we hope they leave. The 3 rock wall groups are: Hill Billy, Mica, and Alexis in the first group. Cowboy and Josh are the 2nd group and the 3rd group is Jen, Peter, and Stephen. The 3 leaders of the group are: Lia, Florin and Patrick. We also signed a group contract.

Stephen L

Our crew learned how to make rock walls, switchbacks, reroute trails, make new trails, clean trails, move big logs and rocks. We learned how to sharpen Pulaski's and how to build rock bridges over a stream. We learned a lot about each other. We got 3 new members that night: Garrett, Philip, and Yvonne. They are cool and good workers. Today for work, we hauled rocks to the trail and we had a bucket run—where you filled up a bucket full of rocks and run up the hill and put them in a spot that needs rocks. I made the run 62 times and am really tired. Peter crushed his rock into smaller rock and on a final note; Alexis left and smiled for us.

Josh S

We now have over half of our work site done in one week! That was so cool. Our challenges have consisted of building rock walls and clearing out switch backs. Billy/Justin got sick today due to high blood sugar. It scared is a; and we are glad to have him back. Clearing the switchbacks was a lot of fun. It was very challenging, but loads of fun. The hikes in and out of the worksite were pretty hard but it's always worth the hike just to see the view. We got there in a reasonable amount of time this morning after eating our cereal with powdered milk. We're all getting along really well and I hope we'll all keep being good friends. Thank goodness it's Friday!

Philip F

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Victor Creek Trail

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

Today we woke up at 5:45am, and it was crazy cold. After eating moldy bagels and tasty hot cocoa, we proceeded on to Safety Circle. It was fabulous. Then we headed up the ridge on a steep mountain to work. Fortunately, today we didn't have to deal with evil rocks like we did last week. It was nice. So we were directed to maintain some old gnarly trail. In this process, we were honored with the opportunity to move and insanely HUGE log that had no desire to move at all, so we ended up leaving it there so we could take care of it later with a chainsaw. So basically we spent the majority of the day building and maintaining trail, which was lovely. Then we returned to camp and prepared to retire for the evening.

Mica B

Today we worked on a massive rock wall. The wall sits on solid rock. Pretty much all we did today was move rock for the wall. We must have moved 20 or so rocks. It was insanely tough and everyone is exhausted. I think almost everyone took a nap during free time. NYC has been such a blast. Even though I miss my home, I am still having a great time. I think everyone has been homesick at least once. After we get the wall done, our project will be over and we will move on to the 2nd reroute. While we were moving rocks today, one fell and crushed Peter's finger. It was cut all the way to the bone the length of his finger. I hope he'll be able to come back—he is such a great worker. I think everyone on the team is getting along really well. The rain today was weird. It would rain for 10-15 minutes and then stop for 5 and then rain again. The rest of the day is going to be finishing chores and doing SEED and then going to bed for the night.

Dwight L

We wanted to finish our big rock wall today. We did finish, but were slowed down by an injury. We have most of our project done in ½ of the time expected. We have finished 4 rock walls. I think that we will finish all of our side projects. Our day went well. We had some people building the rock walls and some people were crushing rocks with sledge hammers. We had a good day today.

Stephen L

This week our crew learned about the art of rock walls. No matter how perfect a rock looks, it will frustrate you for hours. But often the oddest rock will fall into place. In my experience with building rock walls, I feel that the hardest part is moving the rocks... uphill, downhill, all over the place. The beauty of a rock wall is not fully seen until you have built one. The respect of the rock is not fully seen. You know nothing until you have moved a rock.

Peter G

T.G.I.F!!! Today we finished our project and now are moving on to the next set of trail. I love being a part of this crew. We have just a great vibe going. We're all friends and if there is a fight, it is resolved quickly. We work well together and are becoming more like a family every day. Let's start with Dwight. It's a great guy who always has the ability to listen. Then there's Josh—he's always there to put a smile on your face. Mica is really nice and she is great to talk to. Stephen is like a kid. Always there to be a curious friend. Jennifer is really getting better and being so girly. She's really fun to be around and insists on wearing makeup. Then there is Garrett, a hard working man on the job and a great friend off the job. Trail building. Pete is really on the ball at all times, even though he only has one hand to work with. Justin, or "Gasman" has been great for stories and just for talking with. Pat, our trail leader, has got to be one of the coolest guys I've ever met. He's got a song for every situation. Florin or the Romanian Machine or Arnold or you get the picture. He is a literal machine on the trail and a great friend off the trail. And last but not least, there is Yvonne—a quiet type but positive in everything that she does and I that her positive attitude is spreading to us all. TGIF.

Philip F

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Victor Creek Trail

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

Saturday morning started out in full speed. Everyone was anxious to go to town. Everyone hurried to get out of camp and we were all on the trail by 7am. When we reached the van, everyone piled in and buckled up and we were soon on our way. It didn't take very long to reach McCall. We parked the van by the beach and were allowed some free time. Some of us went to the café and burger joint while others enjoyed shopping and playing games on the beach. When we all returned, we went to the museum, which was very interesting. We saw an old log house which used to house the fire chief. We also learned how the town was built by 40 people. Afterwards, we hit the beach, which was incredible even though it was raining. The water was so warm and refreshing. Well, the water wore us out and made us all hungry so we had pizza. MMM...yum. After dinner, we played tag which then fled to the campsite. There we talked about favorite places and then we slept.

Jennifer V

Today at work, the Yellow crew had an encounter with some very grateful and very friendly horse packers. After a grueling day at work packing an insane amount of rocks up and down a gnarly hill, we returned to camp exhausted and starving. We proceeded to do our chores and eat dinner, which consisted of garlic sauce and noodles. After dinner, we moved on to SEED where we had time to reflect and contemplate our perspective on nature. It was quite moving. Enjoying our free time, some of us went down to the creek to rinse off and relax. As we were getting ready to retire for the evening, we were suddenly approached by the friendly horse packers. With them they were toting a small grocery bag, which we soon discovered was filled with goodies...among the goodies was a RIB EYE STAKE (drool!) Peter took initiative and began cooking the fabulous steak with ½ cup of butter and lots of oil. We then circled the pot of stake like vultures and progressed to eating the steak. This was such a momentous event that we were inspired to write an extra journal in order to share our loving experience with the friendly horseman. The end.

Mica, Peter, Garrett, and Justin

We went on our rec. trip to a camp ground in McCall Idaho, where we spent the night. It rained most of the night and we had a tarp up so we could sleep under it. The crew woke up at 8am on Sunday morning. We got everything packed up and put away. Then we all went to town, ate breakfast at some café. We had from 9-12 to do what we needed to do in town. We all went in groups of 3 and we checked out all the little stores and shops. I bought a little violin at this music shop. It's neat. We all met back at the van and we were all on time which Pat really liked. We then drove to the trail head and hiked 5 miles to our camp. We took our time up the hill so we could be better and pace ourselves. We got some hot chocolate because it was raining while we were hiking and it was very cold while we did our chores at 4pm. I get to do my personal history tonight.

Yvonne P

Let me start off by saying Florin and Patrick are the greatest leaders on this green earth. They are always fair, always nice, understanding. They really seem to care about us and the projects. Florin is Amazing. He is the strongest and most handsome guy I've ever met. He always knows what to do and he has the cutest accent ever. Patrick is out of this world! We can always count on him to make us smile and work like savages. He's so good that if he had a religion and he was the preacher, I'd follow him till the day I die. Lia is the greatest woods boss ever—her smiles make me work as hard as I possible can. She's ALWAYS the best thing on TV. This session has been the single greatest experience of my life. I love everyone on my crew!

Josh S

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Crestline Trail

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

Saturday-free day. And Josh's birthday. Florin, Peter, and Justin went to town for a doctor's appointment. The rest of the crew went to Glacier Lake and swam. Stephen and Patrick had a mud bath. We laid around and talked along and when Florin etc, got back, we cooked dinner. After dinner, we had birthday cake and then we did a personal history (Josh's). Laid around and had fun. Oh yeah, we had pancakes and hash browns for breakfast. I love you guys! This was the best birthday ever!

Anonymous

Sunday-woke up at 6 to work at 6:30 and worked long and hard. Finished most of the reroute and played around and had crazy fun with bump line and laid around again for a while. Josh was on run. Lia came and we ate food. We had dinner and then supper and then brownies and cheesecake. It was great. We laid around and talked and we had a compass course where we found candy that Florin had bought. We talked and laid around some more. Lia got us to do push up challenges with 5 pushups and then sit-ups and ten played hot shalaki and then we slept. It was fun. A great way to end the weekend.

Josh S

Today our crew hiked across the creek to finish trail and to build a turnpike. The morning weather was cool but with strong gusts of wind. Soon after, it got pretty warm with a breeze. The crew split into groups which consisted of digging trail, smashing rocks, carrying rocks, and putting rocks in for the turnpike. At lunch we had a discussion on Justin because he was thinking about leaving. The discussion went well and everyone made him feel good enough to stay. We all went back to work and finished the trail and the turnpike. After we built the awesome turnpike we had a dirt line and covered it. Overall, the day was a great success.

Jennifer V

At the beginning of the week, our crew finished up the switchback on this side of the saddle and then covered up the switchbacks on the other side with dirt. It was really tiring being in a bucket line all day. On Monday and Tuesday, we worked on and finished the reroute. Today we maintained over 1 mile of trail on the downhill side. I was extremely exhausted from the work and then we had to hike 2 miles back to camp. The rest of the week is going to be fairly easy, hopefully. Tomorrow is going to be the toughest since we have to hike out all of our food and tents. Then we have a 9 hour day of more maintaining trail. The crew has been very tense because Justin has been fired and is going home in two days.

Dwight L

Today we worked over 5000 ft. of trail!!! Aside from the fact that we hiked our bags down first, it was like any other work day, albeit dusty and dry. We had only 3 yellow tops with water today and it was filled with chocolaty milky water steroid-like substance. It tasted awful, but gave us a welcome boost of energy. The van was a truly welcome site after work today. Soon after, we went to McCall to do some much needed wash. As soon as that was done, we headed back to a front-country campsite where we chilled hard until now, which also happens to be bedtime.

Garrett S

Payette National Forest McCall Ranger District Crestline Trail

Week 5: August 25 - August 30

This weekend we went on solos where we all had a good time. I saw some wolves in the middle of the night and it scared me, but all in all, it was fun. This is our last week here and I'm looking forward to going home. Don't get me wrong, I love being up here and I sure as heck will miss it. I love being with this crew. It's great and I hope that we will stay in touch.

Philip F

Today we finished the turnpike. The only thing we have left is dirt to fill in. Some of the other things we did were crush rock, stack rock, and haul rocks. Today was a good day to be born because someday I can look back and say I did something good in life. This crew has great vision of life and that's what helped me get threw. I cannot believe I have 2 more days left of work. NYC is the best program anybody could do because it is not only a good job, but it has good discipline also.

Cody B

This week, our crew's goal was to finish the giant turnpike we have been working on since last week. Another goal we had was to do some trail maintenance. Today some people on the crew made a small turnpike like thing on a climbing turn. But basically, our goal was to finish the turnpike and also finish as much trail maintenance stuff as possible with the given amount of time.

Mica B

We woke up at 6:30am. We finished taking down camp and worked for 5 hours—then hiked out. We stopped in McCall at the Texaco and had burgers and junk food. We also made phone calls and set off for the hot springs. I told my personal history on the way and we listened to Peter's personal history before we went in the hot springs. We stayed in the hot springs until 2:40 in the morning.

Stephen L

Our last day was great. It was full of hot springs! We had our last Saturday circle in a crew size hot tub! We all stayed up late to be in the Kirkham Hot Springs outside of Loman from 10pm to 3:30 am right before the big clean. I think it might have been one of the closest and most open conversations we've ever had! Then we got to do some big clean lovin on Friday and eat steak! Overall, this session was one of the best memories I'll ever have.

Anonymous

The first week, Yellow crew got 3 more crew members on a Wednesday. They were brought in like family. Yellow crew went into McCall over the first weekend, swam at the beach and went around the town to see cool shops and other places. At our first 3 week camp ground, we also went swimming on our weekend. During this swim, one of our crew members, Stephen, stayed in the water a lot longer than the rest of us. It was cold. He put mud all over himself and he was acting crazy. It was very funny. We had another weekend at McCall where we played freeze tag on the grass next to the beach. Lia came to visit us on a couple of times at our first camp. Our crew also had solo times, to be on your own for 24 or less hours. Everyone had awesome things to say. We also were making a very long turnpike and after a workday, we had a mud fight, which was very cool. Then Thursday, our last day to be a crew, we went to Kurkum hot springs, they were so warm.

Anonymous

My Most Challenging Day at NYC Was...

...the flood day when Lia came and dug trenches all around our camp. Also dealing with everybody.

Yvonne P

...orientation. Because I am totally xenophobic, but I got over it and it was worth it.

Mica B

...the first day on the hike up because it was physically taxing and made me push my limits farther than ever.

Garrett S

...the hike up was my most challenging day because I wasn't sure what to expect.

Philip F

...the first hike in because it was almost straight uphill and my legs kept cramping. I was glad to have everyone there to keep us going.

Dwight L

...hiking out with Cody's backpack strapped to mine and carrying a ½ full 5 gallon. It was mentally challenging but it was a great feeling afterwards.

Joshua S

...when I fell down.

Cody B

...the first full day. It was hard to hike with almost no oxygen.

Stephen L

...two days after I hurt my hand. It was hard because I couldn't use it and I got really sick and I worked all my hours.

Peter G

...hiking up the ridge to build the 8 foot rock walls. My feet were so sore with blood blisters.

Jennifer V

From Now On I Will Always...

...see the best side of everyone so as to make friends. Also, I will be very chill and not analyze all the time.

Yvonne P

...try to think of other people before myself and try to help people more. I will also hopefully try to take initiative to do things.

Mica B

...look at the order in which things need to be done, take initiative while working, take suggestions for what they are and non criticism.

Garrett S

...appreciate my mom and dad. I know they only care about me and want the best for me.

Philip F

...I look for the good side in everybody. I will also look for friendships that are diverse.

Dwight L

...be more thankful for all the stuff I have.

Jennifer V

...work harder and socialize more with other people.

Josh S

...dig a trench.

Cody B

...camp with better methods and leave no trace.

Stephen L

...work my hardest to achieve my goals.

Peter G

At NYC I Learned...

...how to get along with others and how to talk with others. Also how to do things right the first time.

Yvonne P

...how to use crazy tools and how to cook crazy nasty food. Good times.

Mica B

...to control my temper fully, what various tools are used for, and that it is possible to survive off pure carbohydrates.

Garrett S

...to work harder than I've ever worked before. I learned that I've got a huge energy sources that I've never tapped.

Philip F

...how to work extremely hard for a full 8 hour day. Also how to life with people 24/7 for 5 weeks.

Dwight L

...how to work hard, hot to use the tools, how to meet different people from all over and how to build trails well.

Joshua S

...how to camp with little or no trace.
Stephen L

...that everything is in the mind and you and anybody can do what they want.
Anonymous

...commitment and learning to live out of your comfort zone.
Jennifer V

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...dealing with the rain, hot sun, and having so much fun in the waters. Also making friends, and seeing all the cool sites.
Yvonne P

...meeting everyone and getting to know people I wouldn't ordinarily go out of my way to know.
Mica B

...meeting everyone, mud wars, and jumping in the lake after work.
Garrett S

...hanging with the crew. We became like a family. I also liked the swimming after work and the mud wars.
Phil F

...when Stephen smeared mud all over himself and pretended to be the mud monster. I was also very proud when we finished the 128-foot turnpike on week 5.
Dwight L

...Jennifer, building trails, and going to town.
Josh S

...playing in McCall, camping in the back country, and the people I met and liked.
Stephen L

...doing more work than the contact ever thought we could do.
Peter G

...mud fighting in the turnpike. Everyone was sliding around and getting dirty.
Jennifer V

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...that the past is mine. I can make it, build it, or fix it how I want. Also that I can be myself.
Yvonne P

...is the people and hopefully I won't lose contact with everyone.
Mica B

...the rides in the van.
Garrett S

...all my new friends that I've made.
Philip F

I will never forget the connection that our crew had. We were so close that we were more than a family.
Dwight L

...the first day I was half scared and half happy and then I started to talk to people and play sports with them. It was cool.
Josh S

...the first three days when I was breathing hard and swimming in the lake.
Josh S

...how much fun I had making money in the woods.
Stephen L

...this night it was our first weekend and Patrick was playing his guitar and I just felt right.
Peter G

...meeting new people and the bonds we have made.
Jennifer V