

Teens 'n' Trails – 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

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Blue Crew

Bureau of Land Management Roseburg District North Bank Weed Eradication

Week 1: June 14 - June 21

All the crew members showed up at NYC, then there was orientation and we met everyone. The other crew members and crew staff. Then we learned about all the other stuff we will be doing. On Monday we left to go to our first work site.

Tyler G

This week we are exterminating Scotch broom plants. We are near Roseburg on a BLM (Bureau of Land Management) road. The Scotch broom plants are noticeable by their seed pods and on some of them they have small yellow flowers. Some of the Scotch broom plants are extremely tall. Some are as tall as twelve feet and four to five inches thick. Our group is getting rid of the Scotch broom plants so the white tailed deer can thrive here once again. Our group is helping to bring back the population of the deer so they won't go extinct.

Daren T

Our goal is to get rid of all the Scotch broom. Today was fun because it wasn't hot. It rained a little this morning so it was more like a mist. Anyways, so far this week has been great! The worksite is fantastic except all the poison oak. Carver, our Rover, is leaving today to go to his Cousin Holly's wedding! I am really sad Carver is leaving because he is an awesome Rover! Kyle came last night and worked with us today. We will be getting a new Rover on Sunday!

Joanna R

I think we learned that Scotch broom is a pain in the butt. That daisy picking is boring, peanut butter and jelly is good, and writing journal entries is uninteresting. I don't really know what to write. It is cloudy, dinner is cooking, and Tyler, Shawn, and Noel are drawing pictures.

Anonymous

This week has been an awesome week. Our crew clicked like really well! Tyler got hurt on the first day but everyone worked together to fix the problem. A lot of emotions are running haywire though, not bad ones but funny and wacky ones.

Anonymous

I'm sure the first few days were tuff for everyone especially Tyler, but Thursday and Friday were a lot better. It was sad when Carver left because he was really awesome and we all miss him. Carver really helped everyone in the group in one way or another. Aneal is an awesome crew leader; she has really brought us all together and shown us all how to be a group.

Anonymous

Our camp this week was awesome. Some people walked up to the top of the hill and you could see forever. It was the best part of my week. Pulling daisies was tedious but Aneal kept the crew motivated.

Anonymous

Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Blue Ridge Trail

Week 2: June 22 - June 28

The first day was awesome. We got to make a trench and we carried a whole bunch of gravel from the road. We made a great team. We carried buckets of gravel in a long line about fifty feet

apart. We filled in long pits with gravel. The gravel buckets were up to fifty pounds and we had a wheel barrel to help move the gravel. It was a very cool trail to look at. We also carried really heavy bricks to put in the pits. In the deeper pits we had to put bricks in it and then fill it up with gravel. I think it was hard work for everyone and a great way to get stronger.

Noel S

This week we are in Blue Ridge. We are building turnpikes to keep the trails from eroding away. Today we moved logs and gravel to help with the turnpikes. We also filled in the ditches with gravel and dirt to make the trail look better. Today and Monday there were volunteers there when we worked. It's not easy work but it helps the forest and wildlife.

Miranda G

The crews goals for the week were like every body do their chores, and do the dishes and make dinner, etc. At the work site we all encourage each other to get everything done and to do it with accuracy and "Proudness". Some people's goals were to get through the week also without arguing and getting mad. Stay clean as in wash your face, because we only take showers at the end of the week. Your most coolest friend-

Shawn B

This week our crew learned about how the world and everything in the Milky Way was formed. Ben told us the theories on how the earth was formed by molten lava. We also learned about how the moon was formed. We learned how to make nice looking slopes on the trails we are working on. We also learned how to make the trails with ruts flat. We also learned a lot about each other. During SEED we share how our day went and we shared experiences that happened in our lives. I enjoy learning about my crewmembers and I can relate to them.

Daren T

It was extremely hard! We had to move a lot of gravel and bricks!

Joanna R

We built turnpikes, moved gravel, and survived. A lot of people discovered they had poison oak.

Rachel R

There were a lot of flies when we were working hard.

Noel S

There were many challenges along the way! It was really hard to stay on task because everyone was so tired that you just wanted to sit in the fire line. We also did a lot of brushing which was a really easy job to me.

Joanna R

Eugene Bureau of Land Management West Eugene Wetlands The Nature Conservancy/ Wetland Mitigation

Week 3: June 29 - July 5

This weekend we went to Clay Creek. It was a public campsite. It was parent weekend and most of us saw our parents later on Saturday. That night there was a talent show and the one with all the crew leaders in it was cool.

Coby H

This week we are picking weeds at Fern Ridge Park. That is we are staying. Our sponsor is really nice and we are or might be doing some solarization. But we are mostly picking pennyroyals and it really smells like milk. Well I guess Aneal wants me to write more or making me write more! I

hate writing, it looks like crap. We are going to be working close to where our camp site is. It's really boring and that's what I have to say !!!

Shawn B

Our work goals this week are to rid Vernal Pooli of pennyroyals and to clear blackberries. We are working in the West Eugene Wetlands and staying in Richardson Campground by the Fern Ridge Reservoir. On Monday our goal was to collect grass seed from the habitat of the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. Our other major goal this week is to get the dishes done faster. Our bump line has been pathetic. I think the personal histories have been an achievement this week. Everyone has been very open and trusting, and I think this has made our crew closer. I'm looking forward to hearing the rest of them. Blue crew loves blackberries!

Nicole G

This week our crew learned what grasses were native and we seeded some of the endangered plants. We picked Pennyroyals which we learned is a weed. We also talked about the fender's blue butterfly which is endangered and will only lay its eggs on a lupine flower.

Miranda G

This week I think was a lot more laid back than the previous weeks. I think one of our challenges was trying to find ways to overcome our boredom, and our anticipation for the weekend. Some of our accomplishments were making a day with blackberries go by a lot quicker with our sarcasm. All and all from my point of view at least, this week went by really fast. It was cool being at a campsite with running water, and showers, and a reservoir. I thought our work project was cool because we were directly affecting the area we were working on and also helping endangered plants and animals.

Rachel R

Benton County Parks and Recreation Department
Bezell Memorial Park
Bird Meadow Loop Trail

Week 4: July 6 - July 12

Today was a good day. We found out that this project is one of the hardest and there will be an hour and a half of extra work everyday because Shawn was asked to leave and the other crew didn't finish. Shawn was being uncooperative with the entire group. The window on our car was broken, that made me angry because we just fixed it five days before. We have a six hour workday on Friday because Tyler is leaving on Friday at 6:00p.m., so we'll make a lot of money

Sam D

Like Sam wrote, we have a tough project this week. We are laying geotextile on a trail and then having gravel to cover it. We secure the geotextile by hammering in staples, then haul in gravel with wheelbarrows. The trail has to be accessible to people with disabilities so the trail must be raked and smoothed well.

Nicole G

Our goals for the Blue crew this week are to finish the gravel trail. Also, our goal is to finish the last week at TNT (Trails n' Teens) and finish Yellow crew's hours, Shawn's hours, and Tyler's hours. My goal is to graduate this "Job" and that's probably the main goal for Blue crew. In the past week the Blue crew and I worked on a gravel trail. We worked eight hours a day for two days. It was very hard and stressful. We are carrying the gravel with wheelbarrows and we also have an electric wheelbarrow called the "Tank". The crew leader drives a tractor. I really think Blue crew can do it!

Noel S

The crew of Blue learned this week how to work machinery, how to lay mats, and we also learned a lot from some historians about the places we are at.

Anonymous

This week has been Blue crew's hardest, but most satisfying. Hauling gravel in wheelbarrows was a challenge at the beginning of the week, but people were carrying heavier and heavier loads by the end. Our biggest accomplishment was reaching the second bridge and working Yellow crew's and Shawn's hours and then two more hours extra. We laid out a huge pile of gravel and it was awesome to watch it disappear. Three loads of gravel had to be dropped off! It was a challenge when the "tank" broke down, but we made up for it. The tractor broke too, but Tyler fixed it. Everyone was sore by Tuesday but we sucked it up. GO BLUE CREW!

Nicole G

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...the first day was extremely hard for me.

Daren T

...the first day was really hard because waking up early and then going to my first day of work.

Noel S

...the last day or the first day was the hardest because on the last day it seemed to be really long and on the first day we had to get used to everything. The last day was easier than the first day.

Rachel R

...the first day, it sucked. But it was awesome at the same time.

Coby H

...the hardest day of the NYC was when I worked myself in a half an hour by taking five wheelbarrows non-stop and I was burnt out the rest of the day!

Joanna R

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...swimming, listening to Kyle talk, and free time.

Daren T

...working at NYC. Coming home from work and eating a nice dinner, and making new friends.

Noel S

...blackberries, because I just feel that Aneal and I had a lot of fun with sarcasm. The weekend sites, because it was a time to see my friends from other crews. And definitely the new experience of camping in the woods because there aren't that many woods in Chicago.

Rachel R

...weekend sites, free time, and games.

Miranda G

...sleeping outside and watching shooting stars. Going wheelbarrow crazy and getting really close to everyone in my crew and chilling in the afternoon with them.

Nicole G

...swimming, rafting, and making friends.

Tyler G

...sand boarding, end of the fourth week, and rafting.

Sam D

...learning to swim, making new friends, and going rafting.

Anonymous

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...how good my bed feels.

Daren T

...is how hard I pushed myself on the last week. We had to do two eight hour days and one seven hour day to make up for yellow crew and two crew members, and we still got two hours over our goal.

Rachel R

...all of the people I met here.

Miranda G

...all the people in blue crew and miss them. I will remember I can push myself and be a hardcore worker.

Nicole G

...the people.

Tyler G

...the slurpee filled yellow top.

Sam D

...my friends.

Noel S

From Now On I Will Always...

...carry the tools I use correctly.

Daren T

...wear two pairs of socks with new boots and feel a deep respect for wheelbarrows.

Nicole G

...thank my mom, and tell her how much I love her and learn not to be so selfish. Respect what I have and feel fortunate.

Rachel R

...respect my bathroom and shower.

Miranda G

...drink more water.

Tyler G

...appreciate home more, much more.

Coby H

At NYC I Learned...

...to work, make friends, and live out in the woods.

Daren T

...how to make a huge trail by lots of teamwork. Also I learned a lot of things in seed.

Noel S

...that every day tasks such as mowing the lawn, loading the dishwasher, and cleaning my room are not hard at all compared to building a trail, or having to go through four weeks of a real work.
Coby H

...the value of a hard day's work. That a watch is a good idea. I learned that if you are really into the experience you can make lots of friends easily.

Anonymous

...what hard work means. I also learned what good team work is.

Tyler G

...that teamwork helps even if you don't get along. We worked together and finished all our hours.

Anonymous

...how to use Pulaskis and a lot of other new tools. I also learned how to tough it out and live withten crazy strangers for four weeks.

Nicole G

...that I am a strong individual that can do whatever she puts her mind to. I also learned to be a lot more accepting of things.

Rachel R

...that understanding people and respecting them to the most of your ability makes the world go round! I also learned that it's not what you do have at the NYC that matters, it's the morals and understanding of nature and how to conserve it and make it fit in to your life, that's what matters! Also, I learned that even though you make the biggest impact in nature, you should do everything you can to fix what you've done and do everything you can to prevent the impacts in nature!

Joanna R

Orange Crew

Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Timpanogas Payco

Week 1: June 14 - June 21

Today was the first day of work. We are doing trail maintenance. It is one of the harder jobs, but it may be one of the more fun ones. We got up at six and started at 7:00am. We worked hard for about 3 or 4 hours before we were told how we were doing it all wrong. It was disappointing, but we learned from our mistake. We are back at camp and starting chores.

Chris W

Today we worked on making check dams and drain dips to catch the water and stop it from avoiding the trail and we cleaned the trail. We are about half of the way up the length of the trail.

Lawrence H

Today is the third day of work we have done. I woke up extra early so I could make breakfast for everyone. I made Breakfast burritos and I put tofu in them, nobody knew until after they had finished. Then we started off work by carrying logs about a ½ mile up the hill. Work went by fast and eventually made it to the top of the trail. Since we started work early we finished early. With our free time we hiked around Timpanogas Lake. We hope to finish the trail thoroughly by the end of the week.

Isaiah T

Today Kyle came and let us get off a half an hour early. Our work today was a switch back, check dams, flatten trails, water bars, and drain dips. After work we all went on a walk around the lake. This is the last day of the first week. I hope that the first week is the worst.

Nathan B

Today our crew packed up the car and trailer. Then we “committed” to four weeks of working our hardest. Finally we got into our car and drove off. About a half an hour later we stopped for food at “Ray’s Food Place.” When we started driving to our campsite we got lost. Then we got out and started unpacking and the mosquitoes swarmed to us. It didn’t take long for us to get our gear unpacked and ready. Dinner is almost ready.

Max A

Roseburg Bureau of Land Management North Bank Habitation

Week 2: June 22 - June 28

Today was our first work at the new area. We have to pull up thistles and weeds. The spikes on the plants are killer spikes that hurt a lot when stabbed into your skin. Also there were little black seeds that were everywhere and they stuck to your clothes and shirts. After work we went to a store to buy food and other items that we were missing. Brian was tight and bought us peanuts and Cheetos.

Max A

Today was our second day of work and we pulled lots of weeds. Some of us went swimming in the river. Kyle and Carver are tonight at about 7.

Eben H

Today we found out where we are going to work for the next week. It turns out we are going to cutting bushes. First we could not find the right roads, then we went too far. After that we turned the trailer and had to have the care taker help us. When we got back we put the tents up. Then we got a break but we all helped anyways. Most of us helped with dinner. We made ham and pineapple glazed with honey. After dinner Max and I got clean. After that we did a group activity. We had to work to get a floating bar to the bar.

Randall R

Roseburg Bureau of Land Management Pruning

Week 3: June 29 - July 5

Today we sawed trees again. I did the high reach first and did low reach second and then I switched off again and did high reach. Then we went back to camp and did our chores and had some free time (45 min-1 hour). After that we ate dinner and then we did SEED. After all that we went to bed (oooo yeah). Oh yeah, I forgot that the water we got had lots of flies and during seed we did a skit on bears.

Eben H

This week our goals are to learn to do everything around camp without being told what to do. Our other goals are to get as many tress limbed to 17 ft as possible. Today our other goal was to clear an area of road from brush and fallen trees. One of our other goals is to make it through the rest of this TNT session.

Lawrence H

This has been our last full day of work. Today we tripped trees again and did the high reach. Kyle wasn't here today like was yesterday.

Eben H

This week we pruned trees. Kyle came on Wednesday. He shared his hours with us so we got off 15 minutes early. We finished 52 out of 77 rows of trees. Besides the first weekend night, we finally had to use a latrine. Every time someone used the high reach, their neck would always be sore. Low reaches were much easier. And I'm proud to say that we worked all of our hours.

Anonymous

Eugene Bureau of Land Management West Eugene Solarization

Week 4: July 6 - July 12

This last weekend, the 3rd one, we went rafting on a lake. Many of us were disappointed because we thought that we were gonna go white water rafting. Even though we didn't go white water rafting, I had fun. We spent hours pushing and pulling people off the boats. We had to wear life jackets, which was kind of lame. When we had to go in to shore and pack up, it was really hot. When we got back to camp we had to make dinner for everybody. Most of the Orange crew worked hard and Isaiah made an interesting salad. Everybody kept eating one center piece from it. Later on there was the Raging Hormone dance. A lot of us were entertained and awed by Chris' dance. Today we packed up all our stuff and got ready to leave. At the circle Orange crew didn't win any awards compared to our winning streak from last time. We drove off to our campsite and when we got there we found out that we have nice bathrooms and showers, but we can't use the showers for various reasons. We also have running water which is really good. I hope the week goes by fast so we can get home sooner.

Max A

This weekend we went to the weekend site. While we were there, we went rafting in a lake. We tried to capture the other rafts. After that, we came back to the weekend site and later we had the R.H.D. (raging hormones/hippie dance). Then we went to sleep. Now we are in an actual campground. After cutting blackberries we went swimming and had SEED at the lake. Now I am sitting here writing this while the others are playing football.

Daniel A

Today was our second day of our “really hard job” but we tackled it like we were a mob. We first had to dig some small ditches and surprisingly no one whined about their work. Then we laid out some plastic and, darn-diggity, it looked fantastic. That was it for the solarization, luckily we did it without frustration. Then we had a little break and after that it was time to bake. We found out that we had to pick some really weird seed, it was small and light, yes it was, indeed. We learned that a pound of the seed was worth 6000 bucks. But to get people to pick that much, they’d have to be stupid punks. They were so small and hard to find, I thought I was going to lose my mind. It took hours but was pretty easy. After the day was over it felt really good, and everyone was in an okay mood. Afterwards we got to go swimming. It felt really good and now I’m sun tanning. That’s the end of what happened today, so peace out. I’m Sam, hay hay hay hay.

Sam A

My goal is the same as everyone else’s. Our crew’s goal, main goal, is to last the rest of the week. This is the last week. Today we picked weeds and gathered seeds for work. After work we swam and did chores like every day this week. Soon we will have our formal dinner, which I’m not ready for. Kyle is not here yet. Tonight’s seed might be fun also. I’m sorry I didn’t rap or jive. My last thing is, Are we in control of our destiny, or is our destiny in control of us?

Nathan B

This week our crew learned many things. This week has been full of great and bad things. This week we learned that SEED goes by a lot quicker if you don’t talk. We learned this for the fourth week in a row. I guess we haven’t actually learned it. We have also learned that although it will be nice to go home we will all miss the new friends we have made. Yesterday was fun-we had a great time with a leaf costume contest. It was who could come up with the best outfit made exclusively out of vegetation. Chris won the contest.

Isaiah T

This week our crew did many different things. The first day we were working in poison oak and blackberry bushes. We got off an hour early to wash ourselves with Technu. The second day we dug trenches and spread plastic over the plants and then barred the trenches with sides of the plastic and then pulled seeds. The third day we cut blackberries and pulled Scotch broom. After that we pulled three different kinds of seeds again. The fourth day we just pulled seeds all day long. Then on the fifth day we just dug trenches and barred plastic again. After every day we went swimming except on Friday when we packed. Even though I am happy to go home, I will miss all of my friends and my crew leader. I’m gonna miss it and I might come back next year.

Daniel A

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...the second day of work. We were doing trail maintenance and all day me and Laurence were carrying logs about 80-100 pounds all day. Then came lunch and Ethan came for the last half of the day and made us do bump lines all day. It was about 100 degrees so it was not easy. It was probably the hardest day of my life. I never dripped sweat like that before. If I had a choice I would have faked sick to get out of work that day.

Anonymous

My Favorite Experience at NYC Was...

Hi, my name is Kevin R. My favorite experience at NYC was the third weekend trip. We went rafting. It was real fun. I got to give it to NYC. They know how to have fun. We were wearing life jackets so none of us would drown. To be safe, even though I know how to swim, they made me wear one. There were nine people in each raft. In my raft the people were Rachel, Alex, Jessica, Chaz, Chris, Sam, Max, and me of course. We all rowed out and invaded all the other rafts. Nobody could throw me in. It was awesome. Afterwards Rachel and Alex and Max and I chilled on the raft while the others were still invading the rafts. Pretty soon we got out of the water. Rachel and I talked for a while. Then I ate food. Thirty minutes later I went back to the water because Austin wanted me to be the leader of this raft. We got together a crew and we went to the middle of the lake and waited for others to come and try to our raft over. Each raft failed. And when they did they became part of our crew. We were far, far out in the lake. We even had to go and pick up two people that were in the water. On the way back in I decided to swim back in, so I did. It was tiring but fun. We packed up the rafts and food. Next thing you know it's night. We were all at the raging hormones dance, which was fun, but that's another story. I guess you can tell I had fun.

Kevin R

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...there are many memorable moments that I have made during these last 4 weeks. One of my favorite moments and one that I will always remember is the time I was peed on. It was a bright and sunny day in the Douglas fir plantations to the west of Roseburg. We had just finished our third day of tree pruning, when we decided to go for a short walk. The purpose of this walk was to find a good view of the valley below. But our ambitions were soon forgotten. We were walking along when we came to a large rock. We all agreed that it was time for a pee break. The rock being relatively small did not provide enough room for a complete group urination, so some of the guys had to go down the hill a little ways to the side. I was one of those unlucky few. As we all emptying our bladders, the wind kicked up. As you might have guessed the wind picked up the pee of one of the guys goin' off the rock, and threw the yellow liquid right onto my face. At first I didn't know what happened, I looked to the sky for some rain cloud that has sprung up in the last 15 minutes. Then the horrible thought occurred to me, "Is there pee on my face!". It was confirmed, the stuff was dripping down my face, was in fact, another man's urine. The rest of that day I spent with a yellow top washing my face every few moments. That was the day I got peed on.

Isaiah T

From Now On I Will Always...

Work as hard as I can on any chore, project, or job that I might do with any person that I or someone in my family knows. The reason I will always work as hard as I can on every project I do is because while here at NYC I had to work my hardest or very hard to get what ever I was doing done. I will also work as hard as I can so that I don't have to do a job over again and I will usually be getting paid for the job. I also think that if I do a very good job I will hopefully be hired by that employer again and will have a good reference. If I get a good reference then it will easier to get a job.

Anonymous

At NYC I Learned...

...to go number two in the woods. Although I think that comes natural for most people, it still was hard. I also learned this really fun game called worm wars. It's where you all get in your sleeping bags in a small room and smash into each other. It's one of the funnest games I played at NYC. I learned the true meaning of a shower. We had to go a week without showers. But the end of the week we all smell horrible. But lucky for us we were in the all guys group so the girls didn't smell us until we took a shower. I didn't learn this here but it was heck of a lot of fun. During the

last week we went swimming in this reservoir and had mad mud wars. It was really fun hurling mud at people and crew leaders. On Wednesday, I had Sam, Max, and Laurence on my team. We were against Kevin, Brian, Eben (aka the Sponge) and Nathan in the war. It was as fun as worm wars. Over all I learned a lot and I'm glad I came here.

Chris W

Red Crew

Eugene Bureau of Land Management Wetlands Mitigation

Week 1: June 14 - June 21

Today was our first day of work. We got lost on the way to meeting our sponsor. We chopped bad blackberries off of BLM land called “The Wandering Reds” or “The Lost”. We played football and “keep-away” in the lake after work. We did NYC theater and talked about stereotyping in SEED. Here is my description of my crew. Sam G: totally funny. Faye T: very talkative, good ideas. Paige E: quiet, energetic. Adam M: serious, funny. Austin L: receiver. Thomas L: digs holes, looks hobbit-like. Fun. Darren M: tall hunter. Jason A: short swimmer. Jame C: open-minded, nice (as described by Frodo and Sam).

Jame C

The project we are doing this week is wetlands mitigation. We laid down clear plastic sheeting to kill some evasive plants. Sam kept singing Weird Al songs to keep us entertained while working in the hot sun. Today, around 9am, our rover Ben came. Tonight we are going to have a camp fire.

Thomas L

Today we dug more ditches. Same made me eat dirt and Frodo stuffed dirt down my shirt. Sam ate two handfuls of dirt in apology. I told him not to, but no. It almost rained today, but the cloud cover was nice. We got 11 ditches done. The boys had fun playing with a scaroadia bug during SEED. We discussed different ways to do SEED.

Jame C

We did solarization again today, in the Eugene Wetlands. We also did our first crew challenge, Nuclear Fence. It was quite fun. We have Ben as our rover, and our last crew member, Allyx, isn't here yet. Bummer. We are at Richardson Point campground, which sucks but doesn't. We get electric toilets and running water, but it isn't the “true NYC experience”. Annika is bummed out. I'm not really. Toilets are cool. You never realize how cool they are until you don't have them.

Jame C

Eugene Bureau of Land Management Whitaker Creek Campground

Week 2: June 22 - June 28

Today we found out that making tent squares is so easy but very complicated. We can only work 28 hours this week because the BLM is low on money. The work isn't hard like others say it is, but it takes a lot of precision. I'd never enjoyed a weekend so much on Friday, just hanging out and relaxing at the mall, so much fun.

Darren M

Today we went to the river. It was very cold. I did not go swimming because it was too cold but I went in the water a little. I can't wait for the weekend. It will be fun.

Austin L

This Wednesday we worked on tent pads. We were getting a lot done. We hammered the boards together after we built trenches. It was hard to get them level. Then we had to dig out the whole middle. It was really hard because we had to dig pretty low.

Allyx M

This week we are working on making tent pads. Almost every day we have gone swimming at the creek. It was pretty cold. The other day Austin ate a raw thorax from a crawdad. Today we saw thirty or forty crawdads.

Thomas L

Hey guess what? We didn't get lost on the way to our campsite! Instead, we didn't get on the road to the site till about 3:30pm. We had to get specialty tools from the main office and for that we needed Kyle with keys. So our afternoon was pretty hectic. The ride was loud but other than that it was pretty good. We have bathrooms (yes!) again, but they are really only glorified holes. There are mosquitoes here, but they are not too bad. The two tents are pretty far from each other, which is a good thing! There is this awesome tree (actually there are several) that has perfect perches. Austin won the pig award this week. Disgusting. We've got Allyx with us, and she's pretty cool. I can only imagine what it must be like, coming in a week late after the crew is mostly whole and friendships have been forged. But it evens out the boys/girls balance a little.

Jame C

Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Sixes River Trail

Week 3: June 29 - July 5

This weekend was a wonderful weekend in which the crewmembers, family and friends came to visit. Family arrived on Saturday and chilled for a few hours before dinner. Saturday morning the group slip up for trips to Florence and the dunes and some people even stayed at camp and swam. Saturday evening a talent show was held. Soon afterwards parents left and corpsmembers went to bed. Sunday morning food and personal supplies were packed and trailers were all loaded. A circle was formed to hand out awards and Orange crew received all three awards. Soon after the vans were loaded and everyone headed off to worksites.

Adam M

This week are doing blackberry removal. It is hard work. Today was easier because Kyle used the chainsaw. Tomorrow we are supposed to do trail work, which will be fun. The work is hard for me because I have only one good arm. Go Red crew!

Thomas L

This week has been fun! Cutting blackberries was easy because just a few vines held up a wall of them. The trail work was hard due to packing boulders on ledges and backpacking gravel up steep hills. Camp life is great, swimming is cold, people are good and everything is fine and dandy. A few small minor problems but nothing much. I can't wait until tomorrow and next week because of all the fun that happens around here.

Darren M

We did trail work again today. Same work, different place. Hard but good. We went swimming at a really cool, cold place called Hell's Gate. Freezing, but fun. Evaluations are being done. Nerve racking, at least for me. Other than that, just peachy. Our SEED last night was hilarious (and very fun) except for a problem with Austin and two of us girls. Just peachy.

Jame C

This week our crew battled Satan (took out blackberries) and built trail for gold panners on Sixes Creek. Everyone was kind of upset about the Himalayan blackberries because we did the same thing on the bery first day. The trail was fun though, we moved big rocks up a steep dirt path to make stair. Now that was hard work, especially since half of them we didn't use because they were the wrong size. Now that sucked.

Faye T

**Siuslaw Soil & Conservation District
National Oceanic Atmospheric Association
Weed Eradication**

Week 4: July 6 - July 12

This weekend our crew was last to arrive at the site because we had the longest drive. We then went rafting in Blue River Reservoir the next day. Along with all the other crews and stuff it was a lot of fun. We had the raging hormones dance. Everyone seemed to have fun. The next day we left and here we are in Florence removing invasive species.

Jason A

This week we are in Florence pulling Scotch broom and English Ivy. We spent Monday and Tuesday working on Scotch broom. To get rid of it we have to cut it or saw it off a few inches from the ground. Tomorrow we will be removing English Ivy. I don't know how yet but I know it involves loppers. Thursday we will be going out to an island on a boat. I'm really excited because I love boats.

Allyx M

Today was on of the funniest days out of the entire four weeks. It started out normal. We were on our way to cut ivy in a park. We got done really fast and our sponsor quickly found another place for us to work. While waiting for her to return Adam and Faye got stung by hornets from a nest we found earlier. Adam's eye ended up swelling completely shut and he looked funny. We had just gotten started working in our next area when Lori, our sponsor, stepped in another nest. She started yelling things like, "Bees! Bees! Get out! Abort Mission!" Being the brave crew we are, we stood there until finally Darren got stung several times and ran and screamed toward our crew with bees chasing after him. Five people ended up getting stung. We ended up working cutting scotch broom again but still having fun listening to music and working. I'm glad to have a fun day like this when we only have three days left.

Paige E

This lovely Thursday began like all the other Thursdays. The crew waking us up for breakfast to discover gross burnt pancakes with no syrup. Afterwards we put on our PPG (Personal Protective Gear) and traveled to the worksite. We arrived at a river which had a lovely scenic background and went on to safety circle. Then we were soon to discover that today would not turn out to be as normal as thought. Three or four loads of crewmates and we were all on an island after a joyous boat ride up the river. The particular island had the name of Cox Island and our job was to solarize. The solarization was much like the first week except we did not dig the trenches.

Adam M

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...the last day.

Jame C

...the first day because I had no idea what was going on and was not sure how hard I could work.

Darren M

...the last day.

Sam G

...the first day I worked.

Allyx M

...the last day.

Paige E

...the first day. Adam M

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...Red crew's first crew challenge, van trips, and rafting at weekend camp. Jame C

...the work, the fun, and the crews. Austin L

...rafting, our first crew challenge, the work. Crowddadding, working my hardest, finishing. Thomas L

...swimming, rafting, crowddadding, weird made-up games. Sam G

...weekends, rafting, meeting all of my friends. Allyx M

...weekend camp, the work, my friends. Faye T

...weekend camp, rec. trips, first crew challenge. Paige E

...friends, work, free time. Adam M

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...my crew and my crew leader. Jame C

...my crew. Austin L

...the friends I made. Darren M

...my crew and all the friends I made. Thomas L

...what scotch broom and blackberries are. Jason A

...my crew and Cracker Jack, our crew leader, and all of my friends. Allyx M

...all of my friends from NYC and the good times we had. Faye T

...my crew/friends and the times we had. Paige E

...my crew and the friends I made. Adam M

From Now On I Will Always...

...have good work ethic. Jame C

...work hard. Austin L

...remember the good times I had and continue to go further. Darren M

...remember all the good times and have a better work ethic. Thomas L

...work hard and drink lots of water. Jason A

...work a lot harder and take the initiative in the situation. Sam G

...appreciate every little thing. Allyx M

...think before I do things and not make decisions based on assumptions. Faye T

...drink water whenever I feel tired, lazy, etc. Paige E

...work harder and to my full potential. Adam M

At NYC I Learned...

...how to camp in an RV park. How to not be grossed out by boys. How to pack a trailer. Jame C

...to work hard. Austin L

...a lot more about nature and myself. Darren M

...lots of things to do with nature. Thomas L

...about the water cycle, trees, wetlands. Jason A

...how to cook camp food, set up tents, and how to work hard. Sam G

...a lot about nature.

Allyx M

...social skills, job skills, hard work.

Faye T

...tons about wildlife, working, and myself.

Paige E

...how to work hard and fill my full potential, and to drink lots of water. Also a lot about nature.

Adam M

Yellow Crew

Willamette National Forest McKenzie Ranger District Pruning

Week 1: June 14 - June 21

The last two days of camp have really showed the different limits that each individual in this group has. I love the fact that everyday each person wakes up and helps out with any and everything that needs to be done. I am very homesick. I feel like the friends I'm making here can relieve me of my pain. I feel that every person in our crew can make it through. Yes, this job is not easy, but we are there for each other and that is what makes us all come together. I have now talked to and gotten to know each person in this group and truthfully I have found that these people are crazy! But each one has at least one awesome act; like Katie, she is probably the most helpful person I have ever met. Scott has an amazing fart odor and Chaz has this one moment each day that makes me, if not everyone else, smile just to see her happy. So I hope to stay all four weeks and I know that from A.J. to Genevieve we can all make it through this rough adventure, and today was awesome!

Renne K

Spinning quickly, turning, swirling, and moving ever faster. Light and pretty, dark and deep, rocks lying down to sleep. In the clearness or the gloom, scaly sunlight dancing crazy all about twirling swirling strong and sure tis my river for sure.

Genevieve H

Hey where did we go? Day when the clouds came prepared with our raingear but still no rain came. Chopping and lopping, hey hey, sawing and searching. We're gonna prune these white pines. We say, "Hey, no blister rest for you". My five needled pine, you're my five needled pine. We cooked up a fat meal, filled our bellies, man I was starving, I can't eat anymore peanut butter and jelly.

Luke G

The day is going good. We of course are still getting to know each other. I don't even know every one's names. We are a little slow getting started but I think we'll be okay. I have a good feeling about this group in a way that I can say they and I will make it.

Steven S

Today we packed up camp. All us girls plus Trevor packed the trailer. Everyone else laid around in their sleeping bags. Breakfast was burnt and evil. I think it was supposed to be blueberry muffin mix but it tasted evil. Can't wait for the weekend site, It's going to be so fun. He-he I get to see other people!

Genevieve H

West Eugene Wetlands Wetlands Solarization

Week 2: June 22 - June 28

Eugene wetlands are where we're at this week, and we are doing solarization. Basically we're putting tarp over roots we want the sun to kill.

Genevieve H

Over the past week and a half my relationship with God has reached a new high. This makes everything else worth it.

Trevor C

Hey, it's week two. We just finished solarization. It was fun but it wasn't that hard. Our rover this week was Nicole and she was awesome. She talked about pooh with me. I wiped my butt with poison oak and now I have to go to the hospital on Sunday.

Renne K

Bezell Memorial Forest Coos Bay

Week 3: June 29 - July 5

My crew this weekend went to Clay Creek and spent two nights there. It was parent weekend and we all had our parents bring food to the park. We had a dinner with the parents. Some of the parents stayed the night at the park. The creek is pretty fun to swim in and was quite warm. Some of us went up to Florence and some of us went to Veneta.

Thomas S

This week we're hauling gravel for Benton County. We're making a gravel trail for people to use in the future. Hopefully it will be done soon. They have a few trails done so hopefully the next crew can finish for us.

Anonymous

This week we learned a lot about trail work and working together as a crew. When you're making a trail it teaches you to push yourself in a different way. Hopefully tomorrow will work out fine. I also think that as a crew we are learning to work together because of Tom.

Chaz C

The gravel is the best yet and will be the best. It is so much fun to me but for some people it's hard. But we are all going to make it. We have Ben this week and he's cool.

Anonymous

Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Blackberries

Week 4: July 6 - July 12

My crew went to camp at Cougar reservoir this weekend. We slept in a big field that was full of rocks. We woke up about 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Then we went to eat huge pancakes. After a couple of hours we went rafting at a lake. We had wars with the boats and threw people off the boats. It was very exciting. Then after that we went back to camp and had free time and then dinner. After dinner we had a dance. Then we went to bed. Then we woke up and packed everything and headed out to a new weeks work.

Josh M

This week we ate at Coos Bay. We ate blackberries. Right now we are all doing chores. Renne is plucking Colin's eyebrows and he is such a complainer. Nicole wants them to get back to work.

Katie S

Blackberries are really annoying in the Northwest U.S.; they take over everything and choke other plants.

Trevor C

Well, it's Friday of the last week of Teens 'n Trails! Today everyone is excited to take showers so that they can be cleaned up to meet their families tomorrow. This is our last day of work and we have four more hours of blackberries! Then we are off to the BIG CLEAN! I am going to miss everyone so much... Thanks for being such a great crew!

Tina T

My Favorite Experience at NYC Was...

...when Renee got poison oak all around her rear. Next I fell into the river with pants and boots on. Last but not least when Colin tried to get Renee to like him.

Josh M

...when I found out that Renee got poison oak on her butt. When Rachel brought out her purse and Kyle told her she was the first person at NYC that he saw with a purse. Also when we went to the dunes for one of the camp trips for the weekend site.

Chaz C

...when I fell in the reservoir.

Trevor C

...that day when they let me nap, but I didn't get paid. Learning to use a phone card. Going to the weekend sites.

Colin P

...when Tom made up jacks. Free time when I got to skate.

Scott B

...Thomas talking to squirrels and playing with caterpillars. Brushing my teeth with Sam. Sitting on top of the waterfall at a weekend site with Sam. Oh yea, can't forget Randall mooning me. That's all folks.!

Genevieve H

...getting poison oak on my butt. Getting to run gravel up and down a hill for 3rd week. Getting to know all the people in my crew.

Renee K

...watching all the guys doing stuff, jumping, kick boxing, etc. Playing the mobster game in SEED. Hanging with the girls in the tent at night having deep discussions.

Katie S

...me and Tom were making noises in the tent after bedtime. Hanging out with Luke on the first week, Hanging out with Nicole on the second and fourth week.

Scott S

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...the first day that I started. Getting up at 6:00 a.m. and working for six hours.

Josh M

...on July 1st, my second day of hauling gravel with my crew. I had to push myself more intense than I ever have had to do. I have learned so much more from that day.

Chaz C

...when we got lost going to the weekend site and I went insane.

Trevor C

...the first day, because it sucked.

Colin P

...taking gravel down the trail and dropping it off at the end, over and over.

Scott B

...the day...I mean the night after we got our parents for the weekend. They had 2 Harry Potter books and good water. It made me miss civilization and my fish, cats and dog plus random pets @ home. Leaving will probably be harder. I'll miss my crew and Sam. Well I guess everyone, at least a little.

Genevieve H

...my hardest day at NYC was when I went into an anxiety attack. It wasn't anyone's fault. But I guess that my body was just tired of the poison oak and the Benadril that I have been taking. But I will be o.k.

Renee K

...the first day we had to hike up the fifty degree slope full of brush. Lost a yellow top and not seeing anyone else, but it got better, way better.

Kate S

...when I was helping with the gravel and I had to hold on to the tank that was on the back of the tractor trailer.

Scott S

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...is when Colin tried to get Renee to like him.

Josh M

...is when we came up with our crew song.

Chaz C

...when Colin thought Renee was in love with him. When Renee wiped with poke. When Josh showed up.

Trevor C

...the dutchie tasting like cigarettes. Renee's poke, and when Renee fell in love with me. (i.e. hot seah). When Kyle came at 7 p.m.

Colin P

...Tom and his sunny socks.

Scott B

...Nay getting poke on Bum-Bum. Itching it, scratching it, talking to it. And of course showing it off to the guys. (Not). Well I don't think I'll ever forget, winking squirrels, friendly lizards and the good friends I've made over the last three-and-some weeks. That's the most important stuff.

Genevieve H

...this whole time that I have had at NYC. I have met many interesting people. Even though I wish I would have had more time to spend with the people that got fired, I understand why they had to leave. My time at NYC has been an adventure every day and I will always remember HUMP DAY, and the no humping rule! Kyle is awesome, along with Nicole, Tluz and Luke !
p.s. I will never forget poison oak!

Renee K

...the friends I made and how weird you people are out here at the west coast. I will never forget Renee sing or Chaz's songs. Colin's weirdo sayings and Scott doing dumb stuff. How sweet Tina was. I will never forget you silly people.

Kate S

...Tom !!

Scott S

At NYC I Learned...

...at NYC, what hard work is and what parents have to deal with everyday at their work.
Josh M

...to love my crew and appreciate things I have.
Chaz C

...that working with P.Oak is a bad idea because you get sick. Water flows down hill. Water is cold.
Trevor C

...how to hold and swing a Pulaski. Cook. Poop in a hole.
Colin P

...how to get along with people I do not agree with.
Scott B

...to poo in a hole, live with peoples bad foot funk and kick it in the woods a month and just make it.
Genevieve H

...how to deal with others not being motivated to work not having the physical strength that is needed to be an overachiever. I learned how to use an assortment of different tools. I learned how to not be homesick.
Renee K

...not to gage what someone has done, it is not how they are. That positive energy flows and so does negative energy, you choose what to spread.
Kate S

...how to cook some things. To use new tools. How to work with other people.
Scott S

From Now On I Will Always...

...know new strategies to do work.
Scott B

...go out of my way to avoid PB&J sandwiches and will forever be grateful for 1- to who ever invented T.P. I'll also always be thankful for having a water bed, running water and a phone. He He.
Genevieve H

...never wipe my butt with poison oak. This was the worst nature related accident that has happened to me. From now on I plan to look ad study the leaves that I use to wipe with. But actually I will probably use toilet paper and hopefully use an actual toilet.
Renee K

...look before I step. I fell many times. I had so many bruises on my legs.
Kate S

...work my hardest.
Scott S

...know what a real job is like, and what hard work is.

Josh M

...carry this experience with me. I will have the memories of the past three weeks with me which is awesome. From now on I will always try to tolerate things about people that bother me even if they drive me crazy.

Chaz C

...sit by the window for a long ride.

Trevor C

...be able to read a paycheck.

Colin P