



## **Teens 'n' Trails – 2**

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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

### **Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Noxious Weed Eradication**

#### Week 1: July 19 - July 26

This is the very first weekend and since we haven't really been to a weekend site, I'm just going to write about orientation and things that we did. We were able to meet the rest of the teens that are doing TNT 2 (Teens n' Trails). We are a very fun and interesting group of young adults. We met all the counselors and played "name games" to get each others names pounded into our heads. This morning we woke up early, ate breakfast, cleaned up, and the sad moment came where we were all separated into our assorted color groups. It wasn't really a "sad moment" but more of the anticipated moment when we are separated into our future group, whom we are going to be spending the next four weeks with.

Genevieve T

Florence, Oregon is very beautiful, all the birds and the river. The first day of hard core work, we cleared a field of Scotch broom. Wow, lots of hard work. We had only two breaks in a seven hour work span, first starting with breakfast at 6:30a.m. On the field we started with a safety circle and we got right to work. After two and a half hours we got a break. After another two and a half hours we had lunch, after another two hours (not very accurate timings), we had a lady named Lori talk to us about the environment. She explained to us that Scotch broom is not native and therefore takes over.

Gyorgi F

This week our crew has been working hard at killing Scotch broom. For this week our crew wants to work more as a community than a group. We want to take stress off of everyone; this would make our work better and faster. We would also feel closer together. Also by the end of this week we hope to get a lot of work done. It is fun to work for a while but after that it becomes boring and that is when people need to work harder. Most of the time our crew works fairly hard, and everyone tries to do their part.

Matthew R

We learned about Florence. We also learned that the sand dunes at Honeyman State Park beach will be gone in a hundred years. The reason why is because there is beach grass growing on the sand dunes which weighs down and so when the wind blows the sand off and before more sand can come, the beach grass grows over the top so that is why the sand dunes will be gone in a hundred years! We also taught the ranger that taught us about the dunes how to do the beaver dance.

Grace A

On Monday and Tuesday we pulled and lopped Scotch broom! It was a lot of work but we did it and did it very well. Mike, Josh, and I had a "system." It worked very effectively and we cleared it very fast. Everyone worked hard and Heather and I were dubbed the "Drag Queens." On Wednesday and Friday, we pulled Ivy. Kyle was with us on Wednesday and energized us by singing and acting crazy. On Thursday we all took a boat ride out to Cox Island. It was a short ride but Kimberly was very afraid. She cried but was very brave and dealt with it very well. On Cox Island we laid tarps down to kill out Spartina. It was a nice break from the tougher work that we had been doing. Another fun part of Cox Island was the trenches. They were all filled with mud, which under the first layer, was black and really, really smelled. Aneal was the only leader that we had that week. I know that it had to be tough for her but she did an awesome job dealing with our weird combining attitudes and "drama". We loved having only her so that we could really get to know her.

Genevieve T

**Willamette National Forest  
Middle Fork Ranger District  
Opal Lake Trails and Oakridge Trails**

Week 2: July 27 - August 2

We arrived at the weekend site at around 8:30 Friday night. It was a four hour drive from our worksite for the week. All of us got out of the car and greeted all of our friends from other crews. Then we quickly unloaded out stuff, put up the tents and messed around until dinner. One of the crews (Orange) did not arrive until we were all asleep. One of the crew members got sick and had to be rushed to the hospital. The next morning we got up at around seven. We ate breakfast and then everyone greeted the crew that arrived late last night. Then we all divided up and went to all different places for the afternoon. After dinner, we had a meeting. We talked about the things that happened in the week. After the meeting we had free time, went to bed, and woke up the next morning. We packed up and left to our next work site for the week.

Gyorgi F

We are at Opal Lake where we camped last night. The mosquitoes drove all of us insane, some of us to the point of crying but we are all getting along pretty well. We worked on brushing plants off the trails so hikers can enjoy walking up the trails. It was hard restoring a trail especially when mosquitoes drive you insane, but Aneal and Luke were able to pull us together. After work we went for a swim and man it felt good and refreshing.

Gyorgi F

We started out at Opal Lake. This lake had tons and tons of mosquitoes. All of the girls broke down on Sunday night because all of us were so irritated with each other and the mosquitoes. It was even a challenge to eat breakfast the next morning because they were everywhere. It was the start of our trail work job. We did SEED after a few of us went swimming. Then (probably the highlight of the week) we were told to evacuate our campsite because of a nearby fire. We packed up very fast and were moved to a new campsite outside of Oakridge. On Wednesday morning, Kimberly found out that her Great Grand-dad had past away. She was upset but we all helped her through it. She went home for the funeral and we hoped that she would return soon after. We worked on the trail for the rest of the week. We went swimming after work on Wednesday and Thursday. We found an awesome swimming hole. Heather and I were re-enacting the Titanic. It was an awesome little spot and the water was coming from Waldo Lake. It was a great week and we all had fun.

Genevieve T

I'm so glad that I've stopped eating mosquitoes. They tasted good at first but after a few hundred my tongue felt like a sponge. Kyle and Carrie came and gave a SEED about cooking with creamed plantains in Japanese flambé style with the middle age period in mind. Carrie swung two twelve pound sledge hammers simultaneously until she squashed the lunch sack, then she only swung one and a McLeod. Kyle did "foot donuts" around the trail while singing a Carole King song. At the end of their week we were sure glad that these two freaky weirdoes were here to serenade us with the fables of spandex clad samurai warriors battling hippo activists. Hooray for Carrie and Kyle.

Anonymous

**Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management  
Edson Creek**

Week 3: August 3 - August 9

This week we are right out-side of Bandon. Today we cut blackberries and made huge piles to be burned. Today we had Kyle working with us which was awesome. Today was very cool outside, not too hot, not too cold. It was nice weather to work in.

Kimberly W

Today was a very beautiful day. It was hot but not too hot, just perfect weather to work in. Today Kimberly sat out for half the day because she did not feel good. Closer to the end of the day Heather vomited, it was not pretty. We got a lot done when all of us are working. We all really enjoy working with Ben Johnson, he really is an awesome guy and I'm going to miss him next week. So anyways we came back to camp and took down tents and went down to the river. Only Ben, Grace, and Matt got in "COLD!" so there's our day.

Kimberly W

Our crew's goal for this week is clearing all the blackberries. On Monday we cleared two areas and now we are clearing a different area. At first we were using a rope method where we tied a rope around an area of blackberries and lopped the bottoms of the plant and then we discovered that it wasn't any faster to do it that way.

Naomi G

Today we worked a five and a half hour day killing blackberries! Yum, they tasted so good! Today the Bureau of Land Management got footage of us working. We worked hard today but everyone felt really sluggish. We are going to the beach for dinner. Everyone is looking forward to the weekend so we can take showers and meet with friend. Today we found newts over on the other side of the little creek. That's when the day ended.

Gyorgi F

The whole NYC group was in Florence. We took recreation trips to the beaches and played in the ocean. When we returned to our weekend site, the parents were there and we had a BBQ. We also had a talent show. Aneal, Heather, Kimberly, Grace, and I did a "Remix Spice girls". I don't think that I have ever done anything funnier in my life. All of us were really laughing and the best part was that we put it all together in that day. Well, we had a picture in our minds but still it was a fun talent show and a fun weekend.

Genevieve T

## **Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Oakridge Trails**

### Week 4: August 10 - August 16

Today we got to sleep in a little longer than usual, it was awesome. We all got up and packed up all of our personal things, then down came the tents. So we then packed up all the trailers and had Sunday circle. I think our weekend went ok. We had a little thing with just Blue crew girls but it got all worked out without a crew leader which was awesome. On Saturday night we had a dance which was ok. I didn't dance I just watched the other people and that was fun. He, he!

Genevieve got out there with Heather and danced, it was so funny, and then Heather got kneed in the nose when they were doing the "Can-can". On Friday we just hung out. Also on Saturday people went rafting and swimming. So this week our last week is twenty miles out of Oakridge and we'll be making a trail. I think that for our last week we have started out pretty good and our camp site has very beautiful scenery. I hope this week is awesome. Another good thing this week is that we get to eat dinner with Yellow group. They are also in Oakridge doing trail maintenance. Well that's it for today and this weekend.

Kimberly W

Today was our first day at our new work site and first day of work for the week. Everyone got up rather quick and fast and ate breakfast and went off to work. We had to hike a little way to work. When we got to the trail that we were going to work on it looked like there was nothing to do, but there was tons! Kimberly sat out for half the day not being able to work. Then Grace fell into a hole and hurt her ankle, but she kept on going. "You go girl." Heather worked her behind off, it was wonderful! "Love you Hun!" Today went by fast and it was awesome! So that's how our

day went. Oh yeah, today was our first day working with Nicole and she's awesome. "We love working with you Nicole!"

Kimberly W

Today Mike and I worked an eight hour day and everyone else worked a six hour and forty-five minute day. So we got more money. Today was an awesome day. I was making a tread and Ethan walked by and said what I was doing was perfect. The crew got a lot done on the trail today. It was really rad.

Demecio O

Today was the first day of this work week that we got to eat cereal for breakfast. Then we started down the road to where we started down the road to where we have safety circle. After our daily stretches and safety concerns, we head up the trail. The first thing I did was pull a big root all by my self! Up until first break, we were doing a bump line up the trail. Then after break, Devon took me, Kim Matt, and Josh down the trail where we actually started building a trail. We cleared it and brushed it. After lunch, all of us went down and built the trail all the way to the end! It was so awesome! Now we are here back at camp doing our chores. And it is our last Wednesday of NYC. We all can't wait till graduation.

Anonymous

Today we woke up really early in the morning and it took us a long time to get ready for work. We worked with Ethan today on the trail. After work we went swimming and all but three of us got in. It was cold when we got back to camp. We packed up and took down tents, then chores. That's all that happened today.

Josh P

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

...probably one of the first days at work because I was getting tired quickly. But I have learned to re-energize my self too!!!

Michael B

...going to mosquito heck and carrying all the boxes down a steep hill.

Demecio O

...the day we were evacuated from Opal Lake.

Matthew R

...being at mosquito heck and having to work and do chores and everything with mosquitoes biting me.

Naomi G

...as mosquito heck. When we were attacked by clouds of mosquitoes and still had to do chores and evacuate. Taking everything we packed back up two miles up hill

Josh P

...coming back from grandpa's funeral and having all these different emotions, then having to worry about work and people. But I did it and I'm happy that I did.

Kimberly W

...going to mosquito heck and then having to work at mosquito heck as well. I got through it.

Gyorgi F

...trying to work with all the mosquitoes.

Genevieve T

...having to sleep in a tent full of mosquitoes.

Heather D

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

...meeting Josh, Mike, and Matt, chillin at the beach, and meeting Heather because she's rad.  
Demecio O

...getting hurt, working, and weekend site.  
Matthew R

...meeting and getting along with peeps on my crew, just hanging out with the people on my crew, and working.  
Michael B

...were making fun of people in my crew in a joking way, getting along with most of my crew, and being able to keep up with all of the work easily.  
Anonymous

...sleeping outside in the rain, getting to know Matt, Mike, and Demi, and getting to use the latrines.  
Josh P

...getting to know everyone the first week. Sleeping in the rain, thunder and lightning, as well as working in it the next day, and learning new things about camping.  
Anonymous

...building trail, watching Aneal do the beaver dance, and sleeping in a thunder storm.  
Gyorgi F

...making friends with everyone here, playing Titanic with Heather, and just NYC as a whole. It was an amazing experience and I loved it.  
Genevieve T

...making life long friends. Watching Naomi take out her hair, and getting hugs from Aneal at night time.  
Grace A

...farting on Josh during SEEDS, going swimming at Honeyman Park, and playing Titanic with Gen  
Heather D

### ***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

...is when Gen yelled "Lory" in a high pitched voice.  
Demecio O

...is when I jumped into some Scotch broom and hit the ground hard.  
Matthew R

...is all the people in my crew.  
Naomi G

...is when Heather farted on me during SEED.  
John P

...is the happy, sad, and emotional parts of this amazing experience. I will especially remember Mike B.  
Kimberly W

...the day Matt tried to jump into the Scotch broom and said "I didn't hit a darn tree".  
Gyorgi F

...was when I and Gen (in safety circle) were doing the pony and I kicked her feet up so she fell.  
Heather D

...when I yelled "Lory" and Mike and Demi were making fun of me from then on about it.  
Genevieve T

Aneal, she is one wonderful person. She is so nice, fun, and fun loving, I love her to death.  
Grace A

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

...remember to tuck in my stuff so bees don't fly up it and sting my arm and sting me four times.  
Demecio O

...work till I am supposed to stop working.  
Matthew R

...have better work ethics and be able to work longer without breaks.  
Michael B

...I will be able to eat the same thing for lunch every single day for a month.  
Naomi G

...be able to poop in the woods.  
Josh P

...not take for granted what I have at home and be more responsible.  
Kimberly W

...I will always value what I get.  
Heather D

...not take my things for granted.  
Gyorgi F

...hate PB&J and I will make sure not to judge people before I get to know them.  
Genevieve T

...respect people with the respect they deserve.  
Grace A

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

...that it's really important to be there for your crew and do what is needed of you. I have also learned to be more independent and take responsibility for things and be more thankful for the things and people I have at home. I have learned more social skills and know how to get along with people even if I don't like them.  
Kimberly W

...a lot about different people and also about the environment. I learned how to build a trail.  
Gyorgi F

...a lot about trail work and how to value the friendships that I make.  
Genevieve T

...how much friendship is important in life.

Grace A

...that PPG was the most important thing to have at work.

Demecio O

...that self discipline is very important and taking responsibility is needed here and is a good skill to have.

Michael B

...the importance of friendship.

Matthew R

...that I can deal with people even if I don't feel like it.

Naomi G

...there is no limit to how far you can push yourself and deal with all kinds of stress!

Josh P

## Orange Crew

### Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Blue Ridge Trail

#### Week 1: July 19 - July 26

Today was out of control. I saw a bear with shaggy hair. It lived in the ghetto of the wilderness. Work was insane, but fun at the same time. Everyone worked hard and got tired but we continued until 2:45 p.m.

Ryan M

We worked very hard and Ryan got kicked off the clock. A lot of drama is going on and it's not fun. On Friday we get a shower, ha ha.

Derek B

This week our crew's goal was to work harder and better as a team, and not to get fired, and not to get taken off the clock. Today was like a soap opera with mad 7<sup>th</sup> grade style drama. It was wack, people taking things way to seriously.

Anonymous

Our crew learned to face challenges and overcome them. Today Brian, Tina, Amelia, and I chopped through two heavy tree trunks. It was really hard, but in the end we were all tired and proud of what we had accomplished. After work our crew had to move the tree trunks. Then before we all got in the vans we had a chugging contest. Tina's team won but Brian chugged for like two and a half minutes. It was out of control!

Angel R

I think that Orange crew's biggest accomplishments this week were that even though we had fun and talked during work, we accomplished one and three quarter miles of trail maintenance. The crew had its ups and downs, we argued with each other but nobody actually got into a fist fight and I really find that impressive, for a group that had the most drama. Even though we had accomplishments we also had challenges like personal problems crew members had to resolve to be able to work together and accomplish all the great things we did. We had a blast!

Yorma H

Today was really fun, as soon as we picked up and said goodbye to friends, we headed off to the middle of nowhere. Right when we got out of the car we started setting up, the funny thing was that the boys started setting up their tent like ten minutes before the girls and the girls still got there's up first. So today was really fun but there's work tomorrow. The car ride was really fun; we got to know each person better and even listened to music (which I for one really missed). We only made one stop but we tried to make it count as best we could.

Amelia H

### Eugene Water and Electric Board McKenzie River Scotch Broom Eradication

#### Week 2: July 27 - August 2

This week we are working on Goat Monster Island. We're working to clear Scotch broom. I don't really know why we're clearing it because no one lives here and it's really hot. Also, there are a lot of bees here and we've all been stung or bitten. I don't think there are any of us that like this work. It's really hard and it's way worse than trail work. I think the only really good thing about being here is the river.

Amelia H

Our goals for this week are to clear all the Scotch broom from our island. Today Kyle brought Aaron to the island and letters to us. We all got to go swimming and Brian gave all of us sodas as a surprise for mystery madness. After lunch we had SEED. Nicole did SEED about anger and stress management and she taught us a relaxation exercise.

Angel R

Well this week of work was ok but we learned a lot of things like that the Scottish brought all kinds of invasive plants to North America, like Scotch broom. We learned a lot of things especially in SEED. Thank you Nicole! We learned about Geology and the web of life. It was fun to learn about all these things because we had an exercise that involved movement.

Yorma H

This week we worked on Goat Monster Island which is a bee infested chunk of land that becomes way too hot by noon. We worked split days all week except for Monday and managed to complete sixteen acres of Scotch broom. Everyone got stung about two times each except for me and our rover Nicole. I think everyone hated it there because of the heat even though we got to swim in the river surrounding it. Overall I think the island was okay and would have been great if it had been cooler.

Tararosa G

## **Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Bunchgrass Trail**

### Week 3: August 3 - August 9

This weekend was so much fun even though some parents were too far away to come. The parents came and we had a great time. The kids did talent shows that everyone enjoyed, (I think). The crew also had time to go to the beach. It was so much fun playing in the sand because the water was too cold, but we had a great time.

Yorma H

This week our project is to do trail maintenance at Oakridge. The work is good. The only bad thing about the trail is that it's steep and makes people's legs hurt. The trail needs help in the way that it's too skinny (the trail I meant) but other than that we are having the time of our lives, sarcastically speaking.

Yorma H

Our main goal for the week was to restore the Bunchgrass trail which is approx. four miles long. Today our goal was to get the whole middle section of the Bunchgrass trail. We mostly cleared sluff and berm. We completed our goal, and we'll complete our main goal tomorrow. We not only completed the middle section of the trail but the whole trail which was 2.7 miles. It felt great when we completed the whole thing as a treat for that every crew member got an Oreo cookie.  
LOL

John M & Yorma H

This week was good. Last night one of the crew members taught SEED. It was a nice change. Yorma taught us about the Dominican Republic. She taught us about the culture, the God, and its history. She also taught us about the dancing and the parties. That was one of the best SEED'S ever!

Amelia H

Today was only a four hour day. We were ready to bust out and finish the trail and finally finished the three and a quarter miles of trail. We were ready to go to the weekend site, get showers, and wash our clothes. It was a bit of a long drive, but it was a lot of fun while listening to the radio and having interesting conversations. When we finally got to the weekend site we set

up camp and did a whole bunch of chores. Dinner was really good. And finally after dishes we slept like logs!

Jon W

## **West Eugene Wetlands Wetland Solarization**

### Week 4: August 10 - August 16

We went rafting on a lake which I suppose wasn't real rafting, however I heard it was fun and everyone came back in a much better mood. As well, later we had the raging hormones dance. While only a few people actually danced everyone seemed to have an okay time just hanging out. Everyone always seems to look forward to the weekends and this one certainly did not disappoint.

Tararosa G

We are currently working in the Eugene wetlands, clearing invasive species of plants so that native species may survive and flourish. This means lots of hacking, sawing, picking, and griping. On Monday we were sticking, plucking, and tearing prickly thistles with Janice (she was cool, the job wasn't). After that, today we got to saw down trees to restore a meadow back to its previous state. Our sawing and gathering was accompanied by the roar of Bryan and Tina's chainsaws for the thicker trees. I can only hope that the rest of the week will be as interesting as the beginning of the project.

Aaron F.L.

Well this week the group's goal is to make it through the last week without any drama going on. We also have other goals involving our job. We have to clear all the trees from the wetlands so that all the native plants and animals that have perished can come back. We expect to have the best week ok work-week ever (hopefully).

Yorma H

This week our crew learned about the Eugene wetlands. We learned about how to stay strong even though it was the last week and we worked eight hour days. We also learned about how much money we were going to make approximately. It was a great last week and now there's only one day left?

Amelia H

We managed to get through yet another week without too many rough spots and the ones we ran into such as normal crew drama were resolved well. I think we will all be leaving with more heart and patience for other people as well as many new friends and good memories. We all felt proud and happy today when the final tool count was called. We realized that after four weeks of complaining and fun we had made it.

Tararoasa G

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

...the Thursday of the second week we were on Goat Monster Island and it was 5000 degrees and we had to work the day all the way through instead of splitting the day in half like we were used to. This was very challenging for everyone and we were all cranky and dehydrated by the end of the day. But we went swimming after work and that was great. After a challenging day of work we all felt good about ourselves and gave each other a NYC high five. Now to go into the verbal imagery, the sweat was dripping down our faces like it was raining cats and dogs. We were drinking water like refugees and eating soggy peanut butter sandwiches like starving children. By lunch time I was so exhausted I nearly passed out down the river and during the end of the day tool count. Another challenging part about it was trying to avoid the many bees' nests buried in the ground next to the Scotch broom. This made it very difficult to swing our tools into the ground. Our emotional safety was at risk under these harsh conditions but we pushed on into the heat of the day and destroyed a mass amount of Scotch broom. Not only was it fun but we helped

protect the beautiful native plants of the Northwest. It was a great challenge and that is what NYC is all about.

Jesse F

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

The past month has been a wonderful experience for all the crew members even if they yet don't recognize it. The month has gone by so fast taking with it our hard moments, but not our memories of all the good and bad times. Even though we all had our good times we all had special things that happened at least every week that where my favorite experience at NYC. Well the experience that I would call my favorite would be when on the first week when we had a camp fire, it was my first campfire so it was very special because I live in New York City and I would never get the chance to roast marshmallows under the bright moon and stars. My second favorite experience happened the third week on the weekend site when all the crews got together and went rafting on a lake. I would say it was a great experience because I swam all the way across the lake with my friend Elizabeth for the first time ever. Even though my third experience isn't until Friday when Brian our crew leader buys the crew pizza it will be for sure my third favorite experience. Everyone will always remember the last day and every day we enjoyed at NYC along with all the tears, sweat, and joy we had for 28 days in a row.

Yorma H

### ***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

...is all my friends and the great people I met. The counselors and crewmembers totally made the summer a happy and pleasurable one. Every one here was so different but it's also amazing to find out how alike you might be with people who live hundreds or thousands of miles away from you. I also realized how much like a kid each counselor could be, they were almost like teenagers! Being in a crew like this for so long developed a kind of community and relationship that is also like family and usually in families you have to learn how to get along or the relationship falls apart. The crewmembers and counselors were so helpful when it came to these kinds of problems. Everyone had great social skills. We almost never stopped laughing, someone would make a joke, chores would take an unexpected turn, or dinner would be so called, "Interesting". You can always count on action to happen at NYC all the time. I have also noticed that everyone here likes to teach. Everyone has information to share. Sometimes crewmembers will talk of their visit to other countries and explain different cultures or explain certain skills they possess. Learning is a big part of NYC. Doing hard labor isn't so hard when you have a friend to talk to and/or play games and solve riddles with. Also, at breakfast it's twice as fun to admire nature and it's scenery with a friend. I also know that the friends I have here are reliable. If you're homesick they will comfort you, if you're hurt they will help you back up again, and if a problem occurs at NYC I will know who to turn to. I truly enjoyed this session. It was a challenge and a test but you always had friends to be with you along the way. In this excursion I realized even more that friends can give you the physical, mental, and emotional strength it takes to accomplish and I will always remember that.

Jon W

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

...do my chores without arguing. Usually I whine to my parents when they ask me to do things but now compared to the work here, it's going to be nothing to complete tasks at home. Also, before I came here I promise myself that I would get up in the morning to run. Since I woke up to do this every morning running won't be a problem. I'm going to make sure to appreciate everything I have at home. I'm always taking advantage of my free time when I'm at my house but every moment I get I'm going to use it well and make sure to relax. I'm not going to let my life fly by without using my time extremely efficiently. I'm especially going to kiss all the things I love fifty times a day and I'm going to definitely respect others and try not to judge people before I know them.

Anonymous

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

...to move outside of my personal bubble. I learned not to be afraid of making a fool of myself, like in safety circle when we'd do outrageously crazy things and call them stretches. I remember the first time our crew did things like the yeti or the beaver, I felt so stupid hopping around with a bunch of hippies and now they're things I like to do. I learned to be more responsible about the things I say and do. I try to start what I finish and follow through with things. I've learned to be more responsible about what I say because I've learned that things affect others differently. Most importantly I've learned to live and work with others as a team. I've learned to not be selfish because what I do affects the others around me. I've learned to depend on my crew when I need them, to carry my own weight, and to help others when they need it. I've learned to listen when others speak and try to make my voice be heard in a positive way. I love you guys!

Angel R

## Red Crew

### **Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Clover Patch Tire Tie-Trail**

#### Week 1: July 19 - July 26

Since this is the first week at NYC, we didn't get into our crews until this morning. Yesterday we pretty much learned how everything works, and all the expectations. We got up this morning at 7:15 a.m., ate, did chores, and got into our crews. After packing our van, we drove out to Lowell, Oregon. We set up camp, ate lunch, played some games, and started preparing for our day tomorrow.

Jade M

Today we got up at 6:00 a.m. and ate breakfast. We started working at 6:45 p.m. Since today was the first work day everyone had a hard time. The hike back to camp after work was really annoying. Most people forgot to drink lots of water and ended up dehydrated. Work was hard but swimming afterwards was fun. I have a headache. Tonight we're having hamburgers for dinner.

Marc B

Today we watered the plants that were going to be cut down with the chainsaw. We did this so the dry plants would not start a fire. Carrying the water to where it was needed was the hardest part of the day. The piss pumps were really heavy and hard to walk with. We learned first-aid and Ben put ketchup on his arm so we could learn how to clean cuts without infecting yourself. Also we learned about trail first-aid and what to do if someone gets hurt on the trail.

Julie C

We learned all about the OSHA stuff like about all the fire safety stuff like how to dig a trench and stuff about blood born pathogens and stuff. We have learned how to work as a team. We learned how to cook various foods. We learned how to make trails, learned how to manage with Mark and Kyle's flatulence, and we learned how to always bring all the food for lunch. Obviously Food.

Drai B

Julie didn't like the jelly but she had to put up with it. We got a new crew member and his name is Daniel. Earlier in the week we had a lot of gossip going around. On Monday we worked pretty hard for our first day.

Anonymous

### **West Eugene Wetlands Wetland Restoration**

#### Week 2: July 27 - August 2

This weekend was our first weekend site. We spent the weekend at Diamond Lake. We got there on Friday afternoon. On Saturday around noon we all went our own ways, and went to different lakes. When we got back we made dinner and hung out with the other crews. On Sunday morning we found out where we were going and left. We got a new Rover too.

Jade M

This week we are picking Pennyroyal and we are in the wetlands. It is really hot and humid. We are getting along good except for a few bumps and ruts along the way. We got to go swimming today and we are using flushable toilets this week. It's great.

Kimberly C

Tuesday at 5:00 a.m. we woke up; we ate breakfast, and left camp at 5:40 a.m. We went to West Eugene and did safety circle to start the day off. Then we all got our gloves and hats and went and picked Pennyroyal in ninety degree heat. We did tool count and went to the other side of the canal and picked tool thistle and teezele. We went and did some swimming and some SEED and some personal history.

Curtis B

Today we learned about different plants and seeds. One of the main plants and seeds we learned about was Camas and death Camas. By the fall, the seeds of Camas are black, and the seeds of death Camas are tan and shaped like a banana. Camas are edible and death Camas isn't. Another plant we didn't exactly learn much about but picked a lot of was Pennyroyal. We did learn that it is in the Miut family. The first day it smelled good and after that it started to stink.

Daniel B

Well our crew has been pimping out with mad brushing skills. Today which is Thursday and tomorrow we're brushing the whole entire time, anyways about the camp/crew goals, I don't really know what they are except we want to clear as much as we possibly can and that our sponsor is happy, so that's about it for this question.

Mariah C

## **West Eugene Wetlands The Nature Conservancy Trail Maintenance**

### Week 3: August 3 - August 9

Drama, drama, drama! Well first we went to the dunes in the morning then we went and played in the ocean. Then after that we went back to camp and met up with our parents and families. Then on Sunday we said goodbye and we were on our way to a week of plain happy anger.

Marcus A

Our project this week is fixing trails up. We're going through an old trail and cutting branches and trees three feet on both sides. We're fixing the trail so it's easier for hikers to go on it. We might be working in the rain tomorrow. It's not really sunny here. A lot of people's stuff got wet today cause of the sides of the tent. And our tarps are really bad. We only have three more days here though.

Jade M

Our crew's goal this week is to clear the trail three feet on each side all the way to phantom bridge. The first two days we had to hike up a very steep trail and work our way further up the trail. We went swimming and it started to rain, it was really fun. We got our wacky surprise lunch today; we had browns and turkey sandwiches, and sodas. We also had a short store stop and water fill up thing, it was really cool.

Kimberly C

We learned how to brush a lot, how to bicker, and how to cook and clean. Daniel says he learned how to be lazy. Jade learned how to get stung by bees, and everyone learned how to have drama and we learned how to deal with certain crew members.

Drai B

Well this week Red Crew was brushing and widening a trail. Red Crew's biggest challenge would probably be drinking water/being and staying hydrated. Our best accomplishment would probably have to be either getting a lot of trail done and dealing with all the hiking that we had to do to get to the work area. Oh and dealing with all the mean bees! The crew is definitely the best crew of them out! I'm sure that everyone is totally going to miss each other in a couple months. Sarah sang and she has a good voice!

Mariah C

## **Roseburg Bureau of Land Management Plantation Pruning**

### Week 4: August 10 - August 16

This weekend Red Crew went on a recreational trip to Blue River to go rafting with all the other crews. On Saturday night we had a dance and we were all camping at Cougar Reservoir! It was so much fun!

Elizabeth O

Well we are pruning and having fun. We are cutting down branches all the way to eleven feet high, it kind of hurts when a branch comes crashing down on top of your head, like the sky is falling.

Anonymous

My crew's goals are staying on track, being careful of bees, and having a blast. Those would be my crew's goals. That's about all since this is the last week. I hope that we can all have as much fun as possible.

Mariah C

This week we are learning about pruning trees to create a "Super Tree." Essentially what we do is we cut off the bottom eleven feet of branches so the trees will grow taller and stronger and straighter so they can get more usable wood out of them, it's really quite a fascinating procedure. The environmental effect hopefully will be that they can cut down fewer trees for more wood and so they can preserve the old growth (there's only about 2% left in Oregon!).

Daniel B

My crew's challenges are working faster with the same amount of consistency, drinking water/staying hydrated, and finishing the little things. My crew's accomplishments would be working seven hours everyday for a week and we worked a seven hour day without Kyle because he couldn't stay. This is the second to last day so this is the last entry.

Mariah C

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

...the first Friday.

Jade M

...the first few days.

Kimberly C

...the first day was the hardest because I got there a half hour after everyone.

Julie C

...the day we had a store stop close to my house and I wanted to walk home.

Marc B

...when we were doing laundry in Eugene and I wanted to go to my friend's house.	Mariah C
...the first day was the most challenging because I didn't know anyone.	Marcus A
...was the first few days.	Elizabeth O
...when I got heat exhaustion.	Drai B
...when we where making trails.	Curtis B

***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

...the first weekend site, parent's weekend, and the last day of work.	Jade M
...parent's weekend, every person in my crew, and showers.	Kimberly C
...going to Crater Lake, playing bumper cars with the clothes carts at the laundry mat, and finishing my last day of work.	Marc B
...all the weekend sites, Heather's jokes and songs, and playing bumper laundry carts.	Mariah C
...weekend sites, raft fight, and the last day (but saddest).	Marcus A
...parents weekend, the weekend sites, and the rafts.	Elizabeth O
...playing songs with Rohan, seeing my dad, and graduating.	Drai B

***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

...is Jade.	Marc B
...is the people in my crew.	Jade M
...is this whole experience.	Kimberly C
...are all the friends I made.	Julie C
...the good times and laughs I had.	Mariah C

...the fun and excitement the crew always had. Marcus A

...all my friends, the crew, and all the laughs we had. Elizabeth O

...my crew members. Curtis B

***From Now On I Will Always...***

...push myself harder. Jade M

...try first what I think I can't do. Kimberly C

...work harder than I think I can. Julie C

...work my hardest at everything I do. Marc B

...give everything a try before judging. Mariah C

...work harder and work my best. Marcus A

...do my best and work harder. Elizabeth O

...drink water! Draï B

...drink water! Curtis B

***At NYC I Learned...***

...about our surroundings, myself, and how to work as a team. Jade M

...how to cooperate with people I don't get along with, work as a team, and endurance. Kimberly C

...how to work my hardest and about many environmental issues. Marc B

...more about the environment. Mariah C

...how to work harder and how to work with other people. Elizabeth O

...how to drink water, how to eat, and how to put up a tent. Draï B

...how to cook and make trails.

Curtis B

## Yellow Crew

### **Eugene Bureau of Land Management The Nature Conservancy Eugene Wetlands Wetlands Restoration**

#### Week 1: July 19 - July 26

Today we packed up and went to our campsite. Aside from that we didn't really do anything. We're supposed to get up at 5:30 a.m. tomorrow, so we'll be going to bed early. I can't go to bed early! I can't go to sleep anytime before midnight, it's just the way I am, especially if I was just sitting around all day. Oh well. I hear we're having spaghetti for dinner tonight. I hope we also have Kool-Aid; grape Kool-Aid is so splendid! I also hope I'll get to know my crew better. I'm sure it won't take long. It's only the second day, but it feels like I've been gone much longer.

Audrey R

Today we went to the wetlands, it wasn't wet at all, and in fact it was rather dry. But that's ok; it was just nice to get away from the city. Everyone worked together really good. Overall the day was rather neat.

Nathan S

Today we went to a different wetland than we did yesterday. We pulled and cut thistles all day. It was kind of hot. Audrey ran into a bee nest and got bit twice. She is fine now though. We got a new member to our crew, his name is Josh. He has done this before so he knows everything to do with all the chores and the working. Tomorrow we will chop fruit trees. Today was Sarah's birthday. We bought pop and cake.

Sally C

Well, once again we got up at the crack of dawn, way before the rooster crowed and then drove past the old dudes happy and sound asleep in their RV's. We got into our safety oval and we met our new sponsor named Matt. He snored in the van on the way to the site while listening to The Cure. We got lost along the way and got more sleep on the way, which was totally rad. Anyway we separated seeds and put them in plastic bags for about two hours. Then our sponsor left. After six and a half hours of seeds we got to go home. When we got back we went swimming. On the way the crew listened to the Old 97's. After we got back, I decided to take Audrey's job and write this.

Rohan C

Our crew learned a number of things. We learned about an endangered butterfly and some other endangered species. For those of us who didn't know how, we learned solarization. Again we got up at the crack of dawn. Most if not all of us are excited to get to the weekend site and get a shower.

Sarah R

Our crew had some challenges. One of our major challenges was a crew member. We got a new crew member a couple of days later. All in all we ended up getting extra hours which was good because it meant we weren't behind; even though one day we had no rover but it all ended up ok.

Sarah R

## **Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Blue Ridge Trail**

### Week 2: July 27 - August 2

Today was really cool, yeah it was great. There was lots of shade, but the heat still made me bake. I tried to drink the water filled with iodine. It seemed to burn my tongue, but I was fine. Everyone was working, sweating hard and good! So then we changed and are going to the beach to swim and build a fire, and we're going to have some food!

Maggie B

Today was pretty hard; we got really far in our trail making.

Nathan S

Since our week is almost over, our goal for the next two days is to finish the trail we have been working on and I think we've already done more than a mile so we have a mile and a half to go. So far our crew has worked well together making things even easier to accomplish our goals.

Wynter D

What we learned this week is really quite a joy. We learned that personal history is definitely not a bore. Macaroni is the best food when you have nothing more to eat, and putting skittles in peanut butter and jelly is really quite a treat. We learned that the boy's latrine is better than the girl's. The Yellow crew is definitely the best.

Rohan C

Our crews' challenges were: completing our jobs, getting along with each other, facing, and accomplishing every single obstacle and challenge that came our way. Over the week our crew has bonded and learned more about each other. Personal history has helped a lot of us to see each other in a new light. We've also learned to cope with everyone in and outside of our crew. Whether it is because of how they really act or because of problems they've been facing. Tempers have risen but it's never affected our work and in the end they were dealt with.

Sarah R

## **Eugene Water and Electric Board McKenzie River Goat Monster Island**

### Week 3: August 3 - August 9

This weekend was parent weekend. It was insane. There were so many people there and so much good food. My parents brought ten pizzas so I stole two for my tent alone to have. My weekend trip was to Hobbit beach. It was nice there and I wrote my name in the sandstone walls and then just hung out with friends. All and all it was great seeing my parents.

James L

The lemonheads are stranded on the dreaded Goat Monster Island! It actually isn't as bad as everyone made it out to be. We get to swim every day and there are plenty of ripe, juicy blackberries. It rained while we were working today, and for the most part we enjoyed it. We're getting rid of Scotch broom and I'd say this is our best project yet. We haven't seen any goats, or goat monsters, but we have found these huge animal droppings all over the place which I say is proof that the goat monster exists. Wouldn't it be cool if it came into our campsite?

Audrey R

Our crew has a few specific goals. One is just to make sure our crew gases as much of the Scotch broom as possible. Another is also to maybe snag a few extra hours. Luckily our crew has

managed to keep some sanity through it all. Tension is building in the camp though some are trying to avoid the tension.

Sarah R

This week our crew worked full throttle. Well not exactly. During the challenges and accomplishments our crew has gotten closer. If I were to describe our crew challenges this week I think it would have to be getting rid of as much Scotch broom as possible and trying to avoid the drama. Our accomplishments, well, we had some trouble with the drama and we kicked “Ash” on the Scotch broom, and three fourths of the time the piles were taller than us!

Wynter D

## **Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District Alpine Ridge Trails**

### Week 4: August 10 - August 16

This weekend we went rafting, it was fun, fun, fun and had a dance. Well anyways we are now four weeks in and it's been good overall but the first week wasn't so great, the second week had too many horseflies, and the third week had devil plants that never ended. Now work's going fine for the first time in a month. Camp life has been sketchy since the first but now we are finally settling down to childish antics, slowly digressing to a Lord of the Flies level, but its all ok and we're having fun (well at least I am). Well, all and all in the end we get to go home at the end of the week. Some people will only get the paycheck out of this; others will get a memory to last a life time.

James L

This week we're finally doing some more trail work. I mean we're Teens n' Trails are we not? I was beginning to think this program should be called Teens n' Weeds! Anyway, we're widening a trail on a really steep slope and in some places if we stand off the trail to work at a different angle, we could slide down hill! It's a four mile hike back which is unpleasant after a long day of working in the hot sun. At least we got to swim afterwards. I can't believe this session is almost over!

Audrey R

It's hard for some of us to believe that this is our last and final week. We've bonded and we've also hated each other's guts. We've also found the time to hate or dislike our crew leader and rover as a community. Because after all isn't NYC all about “community?” We've also learned a lot about ourselves and each other. We've learned about weaknesses, about ourselves. And helped others learn about their strengths and weaknesses. Though we all came from different backgrounds, we've become closer as the weeks went on. By the time this is over all of us (hopefully) will have some pretty good memories and even though a lot of us moaned and complained at the thought of getting up at the crack of dawn, all in all this is an experience that we'll wish to remember.

Sarah R

It's hard to say what we learned this week. Our thoughts have mostly been of going home. However our crew seems to be making the most of our last days at NYC. I suppose we learned that hiking up a steep trail can either be energizing or exhausting. Depending on what you make of it, and that peanut butter and cornflake sandwiches really aren't as bad as they sound.

James L

What is this journey we're on? Is it just four weeks with the same people? Or is it something we'll refer back to? We meet these people, we bond, and we become family. Then in the end we go our separate ways. Maybe we'll remember each other. Or maybe we'll forget. Some of us will become nameless faces in old photographs, or faceless names in conversations and dreams. One leader, one goal, twelve people, all searching for the same thing.

Sarah R

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

...probably today. First, we had to hike up a steep trail to get to our worksite. Then, after working for a while, someone crashed into a yellow jacket's nest and we had to run all the way down the trail. As we drove to our next work site, we discovered that our sandwiches were peanut butter and cornflake (very original). We then had an even longer and steeper hike up the trail to our second work site, and I was exhausted by the time I got up there. We did mostly burming, which was very mind-numbing and there were yellow jackets all over the place. I started thinking every little itch was a yellow jacket trying to sting me. Not only that but I was sill tired form the hike and it was pretty hot out. And when the work day was finally over, we had to pack up our stuff and take down our tent, and I just wanted to crash on my sleeping bag.

James L

### ***One Thing I Will Always Remember...***

If I were to pick only one thing I will always remember, it would be my crew. They all have their individual traits. I will always remember how they helped me through the good and bad. How they never judged me how people usually do. How they would joke about one thing, but kept the situation how it was really meant to. I love my crew. I thank every single one who helped me become who I am now, and who I will be in the future. I appreciate every single person in my crew for their individuality. I never really had any drama but with the problems I did have I thank Carver for always being there to listen and to be understanding. I guess that's more than one thing to remember but I shortened it to "My Crew". GO LEMONHEADS!

Wynter D

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

...make sure what I'm getting into before I go. Since I've been here there has been a lot of drama and it's like middle school all over again. I didn't know it would be like this, although I did have a good time during work and after. I will always remember my crew leader Carver and all the things I learned while being at this great program NYC!

Kyle M

### ***My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...***

...my benchmark. Not because of the benchmark, because Carver and I had our very first really radical conversation during this time. My second favorite experience was probably my first shower and store stop, I am sure you can guess why. My third favorite experience was probably head banging and rocking out to Slayer and D.R.I. in the van with Kyle M.

Nate S

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

...that latrines are not to be taken for granted. No matter what background you have. PB & J's will now be a huge lunch factor in years to come. Yellow tops aren't always yellow & wasps hurt more than bee's. "There is no "I" in Team." You can't have Tarzan and not Jane. You can't have peas without the carrots, and you can't get anything accomplished without teamwork. 1440 hours doesn't come easily, it takes persistence & commitment. You can't have commitment without patience & I think we all learned that patience is a virtue. Getting up before the rooster crows can be hard at times. It sure beats baking in the hot sun picking thistles and chopping down a little Scotch broom. You might get uncomfortable on the ride but you can always count on Wayne the train Hancock to pitch in some feel good moments. Different lifestyles & different backgrounds can sure change the tempo. But I am sure at times we make ourselves quite a ho-down. All in all in the big picture NYC in the long run will benefit us a lot in life and other experiences to come. So I want to end with a quote by GN "Life's a dance you learn as you go, sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow." Life is a dance & you do learn as you go it takes leaders to be in NYC but it takes followers too, so...

Rohan C