

# **Summer Conservation Corps – Washington 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

## **Blue Crew**

### **Linn County Parks McDowell Creek Park Royal Terrace Falls Staircase**

#### Week 1: June 7 - June 14

Today we drove through Sweet Home and to McDowell Falls where we set up camp. It took a while to decide who got what tent, but in the end, the girls got the tent not by dog crap. We are having spaghetti tonight...that should be good. We took a hike and found a killer swimming spot down the trail with a cliff to jump off. Hopefully Dan and Justin will let us.

Spencer N

Today was kind of fruity. My feet hurt. I have blisters. I guess today was okay, I had fun. I'm glad Latoya decided to stay. My feet still hurt. I'm tired.

Michele T

Today was a great day. We finally learned the right way to do the steps. We lost Latoya which is unfortunate. People went swimming in the river. That's gravy.

Kristen C

Today everyone was exhausted, especially me. I hope I have enough energy from this dinner so I can work hard like I did on Tuesday. I bet if Latoya and Amber stayed, we could get this stairway to Heaven done. I'm wondering if any other groups are having problems losing people. This means we all have to work twice as hard. I hope Latoya and Amber learned something while they were here for their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days; and everyone enjoyed your meal.

Garrett C

Today was definitely a good day. We started earlier than usual and finished really early also. The stairs I was working on all day collapsed and caused me a lot of distress. The attitude today was a lot cheerier than all of the other days, considering that "hump day" was extremely hard on everybody. Angie worked with us, which helped us a ton, while all of the crew members made stairs and really gave a lot of effort. I got to watch everyone slip and fall near the end of the day. He he he. All around the worksite were many hardworking bodies and I feel we did the best we could with what we had.

Nick Y

I believe the challenges of the crew for this week would be the rock steps. They had to be re-done over and over. It caused a lot of frustration for everyone. The crew's accomplishments would be finally learning the right way to do the steps. Everyone worked really hard and this is a gravy job.

Anonymous

### **Salem Bureau of Land Management Horning Seed Orchard**

#### Week 2: June 15 - June 21

Today was the first day of the week and everyone thought it was boring. But we did a good job weeding the big garden. While the week goes by, I hope we do some lopping because everyone is getting bored.

Kristen C

This week we are at Horning Seed Orchard, which is about 20 miles away from Molalla, Oregon. The main projects at this place are working on endangered species adaptation and plant altering.

Our contact, Bob, sounds like a really cool guy and I think he is going to be very helpful in the future. Our tasks vary depending on where we are working, but it is mostly weed pulling and also tree pruning and slash piling. Pulling weeds got very boring and it was a relief when we got to cut down brush. When we were about to chip everything, the chipper was sounding really funny and it wasn't working right. So we opened it up and found a bloodied glove and scraps of wood that had wrapped them on the spindle. But after 20 minutes, we had it cleaned and running well. Also today, Tim went to the hospital and we haven't heard from him yet.

Nick Y

Today was a great day! It was overcast and cool, which was a nice change from the heavy sun. We started our morning out weeding (like always) and then at our morning break, we picked up "homer" who was sick in the tent, and took the tractor up the hill to the orchards. We trimmed the trees and acted like the special ed group we are. It was very entertaining. After lunch, Angie left and then we all got a little rowdy. Michelle went nuts, which amused us all, between her and Dan Jr. running around with sticks in his hair, and Nick's whole "I wanna stand in a line thing" it was a very interesting day. Especially since we tried to pull off 10 hours. Which led us back to the trimming we did yesterday. So basically that consisted of Big Dan, Dave, Garrett, and Nick running the chipper, me and Spencer pretending like we were 8, and everyone else moving sticks from one pile to another all over the field.

Rachael S

We need to work on communication and staying focused on the jobs we are doing.  
Stamina→working hard the whole time KEEPING our members.

Rachael S

This week, we learned all sorts of stuff. How to trim trees. We learned about laying tarp to control weeds and different types of weeding. We took a tour of the Horning Seed Factory and learned about the different processes. We also found out that George Foreman got his boxing start here.

Rachael S

We had a fairly early day. We picked weeds for four hours and then we all took showers at the tree farm. We went into town and did laundry. I was having trouble breathing. After laundry, we had gotten on the road and my breathing got extremely labored and we had to go to the hospital. While I was waiting to be seen, I got to watch Dragon Ball Z. Then the doctor saw me and I breathed through a tube, got x-rays, got an inhaler and got meds. We ate dinner at Dairy Queen and got to the weekend site super late. The end.

Anonymous

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
White River Trail**

Week 3: June 22 - June 28

This weekend we moved camp up into Washington. We had our parents night on Saturday and were blessed with good food; barbeque chicken, potato salad, fruit salad, pickles, regular salad, and cherries. It was quite entertaining except for that it was pouring down rain the whole weekend from start to finish. For our rec. trip, we went to Mount St. Helens Visitor's center and watched a video about the volcano's eruption. Other than that, we went to this little town and bought candy and harassed Dan, Orien, and Mo who had the day off. It was great.

Rachael S

We are in Washington outside of Leavenworth on the Wenatchee River. We are lopping. That's it, lopping and then throwing what we lop and sawing the things that are too big to lop. But we have such a nice camp site so it is okay.

Tim J & Rachael S

Our goals are based entirely on how much progress we make. Yes, we have tasks like clearing a drainage thing. We hope to move as far along the trail as we possible can before we hit the showers on Friday. Well, move as far along as we can while also doing quality work.

Tim J

Today was pretty fruity as usual. We sawed limbs off trees. Everyone, well, a lot of people, had low energy. Maybe it's just me. The boys were bothering me. Well, the mosquitoes and horse flies were. Anyway, Tim coughing and sneezing. It's quite lovely. Oh well. ~Burp~.

Michele T

Well, we had many challenges. We started out with only 8 people, which was difficult. The work was easy, but there was too much lopping. Another challenge was keeping motivated because the work was so repetitive. It was incredibly beautiful though, which made up for everything but the mosquitoes. Overall, it was a good week.

Rachael S

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
Devil's Gulch**

Week 4: June 29 - July 5

Today we did some tread work. It was pretty fruity. I liked it...It hurt my back. It's beautamis out here. I had a bloody nose 3 times today. I saw a banded alder borer and a blue bellied lizard.

Michele T

Today we did tread and lopping work. It was really fun. Today seemed to go bye too fast. I also learned to build water breaks the right way. It was also a cool day.

Pam D

At first it was to get the trail done and then we finished the trail and went past where we had to go, so now we are just going over what we have already done and adjusting the bench in some places. Today was challenging and I got a blister. I was separated from Rachael for productivity reasons because of Melissa.

Spencer N

This week our crew learned not to get Rachael wet. She gets mad and violent, then even. I got wet for no reason and Rachael learned what a 5 person dog pile feels like. Stupid writer's block! Bye bye for now.

Tim J

Today was a good day. We hiked into our new camp site at Ingall's Creek, which is beautiful. The hike wasn't too painful and we did a lot better than last time. Tim developed an emotional attachment to a cantaloupe. We had a long lazy weekend and I'm psyched to get back to work tomorrow. I hope the rest of my crew is too and I hope they can appreciate the beauty of this place as much as I do.

Dan M

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
Ingall's Creek**

Week 5: July 6 - July 12

This weekend was very eventful compared to the others. On Friday, we hiked out of Devil's Gulch and went into Leavenworth for a little while and later that night, we saw the Matrix II at a drive-in. Saturday we got to sleep in late and we drove up to Wenatchee to walk around and check out downtown. Lastly, we woke up Sunday morning and Rachael's mom took us to breakfast.

Nick Y

This week we are in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Our camp is on Ingall's Creek. The most recent adventures in work have been brushing like mad and some huge uber rock moving. The weather has been nice. The water is flagged. Spencer keeps asking for matches. Time just cut up a cantaloupe. Spencer stopped asking for patches. The flag is blue.

Brian Saka "Caveman"

Today was great. Just knowing that Friday is around the corner makes it even better. We built tread and it looks so great. Today our leaders are making us dinner. I know it will be splendid.

Pam D

We learned some cool stuff this week. We did some drainage projects and uh...lopping... Anyway, today was good-it went by really fast. We lopped our butts off in the hot sun and got to come back to camp for watermelon that Melissa was way nice enough to hike in for us. Tim just got a weird feeling in the pit of his stomach. It could be love or he might just have to poo.

Dan M

We worked for half a day and then hiked out. Then we went to Lake Wenatchee and took showers. After that, we went to the weekend site.

Spencer N

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
Ingall's Creek**

Week 6: July 13 - July 20

It was our last weekend site and it was full of fun. We spent a nice long day at Lake Chelan. Saturday we had a big dinner and woke up early Sunday morning to pack out. We won the Safety Pup for the first time for our extra work at Devil's Gulch. Even though we're back at Ingall's Creek, Red crew is here also and not very far away, which is cool because we had a nice big group hike in. And hopefully, we'll meet up for dinner.

Rachael S

This week, we're lopping, pulling, and sawing up and down the trail. Our contact has asked us to reroute a trail and everyone will have fun doing it. We're doing it because hikers and horseback riders will feel grateful about it, and it's for the last week of work.

Garrett C

Today we brushed on the trail, sawed maples, and lopped bushes. The Red crew jacked our hard hats and replaced them with theirs. Today has been pretty fruity I guess.

Michele T

Today was a good day. I feel like we got a lot of stuff done. We brushed a lot of trail and rerouted a stream to prevent flooding of the trail. It's our second to last day of work so we're all giving it our all!

Brian S

The challenges our crew had during the week included tolerance because at this point we've pretty much all had enough of each other. We maintained a positive attitude and kept our bickering to a minimum. What we accomplished was completing the final week of work. It was really hard because we're all very tired. We also managed to divert a river.

Dan M

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

...making that connection with the people you thought you had absolutely nothing in common with. But it was all fun. You learn to really value sleep and a good meal.

Rachael S

...all of the hikes into Ingall's Creek were great and the double dinner with Red Crew was fun. Dumpster Diving!

Brian S

One prominent experience was the town of Leavenworth—it was a cool place to visit. The second was a Lake Chelan with all 40 kids. Lastly, I enjoyed meeting new people.

Nick Y

...was when I met all these people who taught me a lot and knowing the true value of bed and showers.

Pamela D

...the week with Dave as a rover, making drain dips at Ingall's Creek, and the last day.

Spencer N

...building the stone steps because it taught me a lot about myself and made me much tougher, the moment I realized exactly how wonderful nature is, and when I finally made it out of the hike and all my work for NYC was over.

Tim J

...liked the hikes into and out of Ingall's Creek. That place is really beautiful. There were so many moments that seemed to just shine.

Dan M

...having dinner with Red crew at Ingall's Creek. Seeing the falls at Ingall's Creek Trail, and going to the drive-ins on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Michele T

...fixing dams, creeks, and trails...

Garrett C

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

...the hardest thing for me about NYC was changing what I consider "normal" and realizing it was stuff I took for granted~ electricity, my bed, etc.

Rachael S

...the hardest thing was to fit in with everybody after they had been together for 3 weeks.

Pamela D

...the 4 mile hike into Devil's Gulch. It was even worse than the 7 mile hike into Ingall's Creek.

Spencer N

- ...the first Friday I was here because it was pouring rain and my boots were heavy with mud. It dragged on forever.  
Tim J
- ...the hike into Devil's Gulch. It was extremely hot and a long hike.  
Nick Y
- ...all the different personalities. Sometimes it was hard to deal with it—emotionally overwhelming.  
Michele T
- ...making stairs at McDowell Falls.  
Garrett C
- ...every day was a challenge for me. It was really hard to keep my energy up and stay focused at work.  
Dan M
- ...the first hike into Ingall's Creek. My pack was about 110lbs.  
Brian S
- One Thing I Will Always Remember...***
- ...how on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our crew leader took us to the drive-in theater. At the drive-in in Wenatchee, we watched the Matrix Reloaded. Some of us sat on top of the van and watched it. There were beautiful fireworks going off on both sides.  
Michele T
- ...the beautiful places we visited—the mountains, the rivers, the old growth. Nature is so beautiful and I feel bad for people who will not get to experience it.  
Dan M
- ...that the earth cannot be taken for granted.  
Garrett C
- ...those perfect moments when our whole crew was doubled over laughing at break or after work (usually at Tim) and you'd look around and everything and everyone was beautiful.  
Rachael S
- ...the beauty of the Northwest and the laughter around camp.  
Brian S
- ...the way I was able to adapt to all the changes that arose. I was never before aware of this adaptability. It will definitely help me in everyday life.  
Tim J
- ...the experiences and life lessons I have learned here.  
Nick Y
- ...me diving over the seats and falling out of the van.  
Pamela D
- ...dumpster diving in Leavenworth and getting my pink shirt.  
Spencer N

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

...be more aware of what's going on with the environment. When I go home, I plan on educating myself more about environmental policy and what's going on in my area. I will also be more tolerant of other people with different opinions other than mine.

Dan M

...not to judge people from a first impression and try to get used to them.

Nick Y

...be more conscious of environmental politics and wilderness logging in my area.

Spencer N

...have a little more care for the living world around me. I never really appreciated the beauty of nature and all that is within it. From now on, I will always try to protect it.

Tim J

...make sure to observe the things around me, the environment and the people. And I will do what I can to make it healthier and happier.

Rachael S

...be more open minded to difficult situations and always make the best of them.

Brian S

...try to appreciate the world around me and try to make it a better place.

Michele T

...focus and work harder.

Garrett C

...be careful what I buy.

Pamela D

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

...what words like integrity and respect really mean, and that I definitely have aspects of my life and personal relationships that I need to work on.

Rachael S

...more tolerance than I have had to practice before. I have expanded my leadership ideas and how to tell time with my hands.

Brian S

...more about how to protect the environment by watching what kind of clothes to buy.

Michele T

...to focus and work hard.

Garrett C

...so many things here—how to tolerate and understand people with a different upbringings, how to cook on an open fire, how to build a switch back—I could go on and on...but I won't.

Dan M

...there are a lot of wilderness areas fading away and that it is up to us to stop it.

Spencer N

...that the harder you think something is, the harder it becomes. Also that we are destroying the environment in many ways. Lastly, I learned how to work hard.

Nick Y

...that I can work harder than I thought.

Pamela D

...that there are many different people that are cool. Going outside of the circle you're usually in helps you grow in different ways.

Tim J

## Orange Crew

### **Willamette National Forest Sweet Home Ranger District Linn Co. T3 Sweet Home**

#### Week 1: June 7 - June 14

Our group was tailor made. We get along so well; our personalities just match so well. Some funny things happened today. Bennett ate dirt, a jumping slug found its way to Stephanie, (courtesy of Ryan) and Bennett and Danny (Speedy-G) had a mosquito eating contest! Things are going fast, everyone on our crew is hard working, and we worked for nine hours today. No one complained all day, all fun and games and stiff boots so far.

Mary C

Orange crew, ya know the one that totally rocks, is restoring trails and digging trenches! We are in the Cascade Mountains, not too far from my home! It's totally beautiful up here.

Stephanie D

Orange crew's first hump day of the session was a crazy one. It started off with cereal, cocoa, and or chemical mixture (yum, yum). Frustration and stress were shared by most of Orange crew in the morning but after going over our trail (about three times...) we were finally successful. Our awesome crew is still positive and smiley, so I'm sure we're going to have many joyful hump days together in the future, even if Speedy-G screams "Bleach" for the rest of our lives!

Kayla B

Orange Crew did a slight split today to work on some sections of trail, and we met up in the middle for afternoon break. Both teams worked really hard and the trail looked fantastic. Ryan fell down a slope a few times but he's okay, Danny introduced the Michael Jackson jokes to the crew and kept us in high spirits all day. I worked with the loppers and sang the lopper song. We had big fun and played a game with blindfolds, and Stephanie and Danny had a wrestling match while they were blinded, Bennett ran into a sign, and I skinned my knees.

Cassandra C

Shoveling buckets, sweat, reworked frustration; pride reconsidered in stride, soil's shift awakens.

Bennett C

### **Linn County Parks McDowell Creek Park Royal Terrace Falls Staircase**

#### Week 2: June 15 - June 21

This weekend was cool. Everybody was looking forward to their first weekend site after a hard first week in the woods. All the crews were tired but they still had plenty of energy to goof off until 10:30. Some crew stayed up even later in their tents. The next day we went on a four mile hike to a place I like to call the middle of nowhere. Then after we were all tired and hungry we went and ate at Taco Bell.

Joshua K

Today was a play day. Today I picked out a very big rock as big as a duchie and crushed my leg and my arm in a ten minute span.

Ryan B

One of our most prominent goals was to make the cheese last throughout the whole week. The next goal was basically to finish the stairs and trail that we are working on. The last goal I think all of us wanted was to complete all of our forty hours.

Danny G

We were building rock stairs so we learned how to properly build rock stairs. We can now build stairs so that they do not break. We also learned how to mortar. We had trouble with it at first, but then we caught on and did them right. We also learned to conserve cheese.

Jacob F

We got up early to pack up camp so we didn't have to do it after work. We worked hard for about 4 hours and almost got the job done. Earl our contact said that he would love to have NYC out there again. So we got off work about 11 a.m. We went to the YMCA for showers. Next door they were having an open house so we got a bunch of food. It was great! Keep up the great work Orange crew. Y'all are bomber.

Crystal A

## **Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District Ingalls Creek Trail**

### Week 3: June 22 - June 28

This weekend we camped at Mt. Saint Helens and it sucked because it was raining and our recreation trip went to a close town and we watched a movie about Mt. Saint Helens exploding.

Danny G

Orange crew has become a big family of loppin fools. Lop, lop, and lop. Lop all day long. It's all worth it though because we are camping on a breath taking river that runs through the mountains. The views are spectacular and the sky is clear. We're all dirty and our feet smell, but Orange crew is so lucky to be here.

Kayla B

Our crew has many secrets and people telling lies so our crew is striving to be more honest and open with each other. Also when we get off of work and we are really tired, then we are lazy and slacking with our chores and things that need to be done around camp! In our crew we have many differences and tend to argue with each other.

Stephanie D

On the trail we learned how different wilderness trails are from National Forest Trails. We also learned that rattlesnakes are not that aggressive. Another thing we learned was that in order to get the job done we need to do only what is necessary. In SEED we learned about dichotomous keys and plant identification. Later in the week we were taught the basics of maps and compasses, which would have been a lot better if we had a topo map.

Jacob F

Orange crew successfully fought the temptation to observe the awe inspiring glaciated peaks, waterfalls, and old growth forest of Alpine Lakes Wilderness and actually complete an awesome week of trail brushing. Josh became orange crew's official Sherpa or bump master while also accounting for his and other's safety on the worksite. Melissa surprised everyone with an awesome fried potato breakfast on Thursday, while removing the guy's tent was the only way to wake them that morning. Kick butt week!

Park W

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Chelan Ranger District  
Horton Butte Trail**

Week 4: June 29 - July 5

Orange crew busted out some awesome work on the Fish creek trail today. We did some lopping but mostly working with the hogs and Pulaski's. Got back to camp and the guys got an awesome bear hang going on. Danny was a mess but who cares we are in the back country. It's been long enough, now we are happy we have it. ☺ Good luck Orange crew. We have made it this far.

Crystal A

Orange crew is at Fish Creek Trail until July 10<sup>th</sup>. We've been doing mostly trail maintenance so far with a few little projects like drainage dips and such. Our bump line on the trail is improving mostly entertaining ourselves by creating new ways of saying "Bump". Such words would be something like Danny and Bennett's "buck it up" or my own "movin it up bleach". We're still lopping that godforsaken vine maple that Kayla and I are convinced is taking over the whole freaking world. Ryan and I spent some quality time together today, just lopping and talking. Our back country tents are so small compared to the Hilton-style tents we're used to. We girls are having space problems, well, everyone but Stephanie; she just throws her stuff everywhere. Orange crew has survived yet another day in the life of NYC employees.

Cassandra C

Our dusty little camp was really quiet today with Park and Crystal gone. Lucky for us Danny made enough noise in the evening to make up for both of them. Our time on the trail today was filled with ashy dust, stupid jokes and country songs. The boys realized the thrill of rolling rocks, Danny already plans to spend all day Saturday pushing boulders down the hill. Orange crew's keeping Crystal in their thoughts and hoping that everything works out. The day like the whole session, has flown by.

Kayla B

This week was the first time backpacking for most of the crew, so pretty much everything was a learning experience for us. We learned everything from packing a backpack to lighting a backcountry stove, to hanging a bear hang (a very interesting experience). In SEED we learned about the web of life, Northwest geology, and search and rescue (Danny made a good victim).

Jacob F

As an honorary member of the orange crew I must say, I have most assuredly enjoyed my time as the contacts for this crew. The positive outlook and hardworking attitude of the crews vary. This week we completed maintenance of a four mile section of Fish Creek Trail and began reconstruction of Horton Butte Trail. Both trails are looking great. It has been fun for me being an outsider observing the crew and the way in which its diverse members come together. It has been even more fun to be welcomed into the crew. Lots of laughs and interesting conversations have ensued. My favorite parts have been the firewood ambushes and the Park's political banter and laughing with and about every member of the crew. And Josh's many funny stories and Danny in general. I'm not sure exactly what more to write... I know its wide open but I've said enough. They've all accomplished a great deal and will continue to do so. Thanks.

Reeb W

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Chelan Ranger District  
Horton Butte Trail**

Week 5: July 6 - July 12

Today the crew worked ten hours cutting trail. The trail has been closed for two years so we're basically cutting new trail. Yesterday was our day off. A lot of us stayed at camp slept and wrote

letters but four people climbed a mountain that we're not working on and with the Forest Service permission rolled huge boulders down a burned mountain side. It was spectacular to watch and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Mary C

We were working on the Horton Butte Trail. We all worked ten hours that day. We made new trail and made it easier for people to walk on. After work we split up and attacked every body with fire wood.

Ryan B

We all had a tough time crawling out of our sleeping bags this morning with a long day ahead of us. Before heading to work we said goodbye to Reeb with a big group hug. Josh was heartbroken all day. Stephanie, Orion, and I spent the afternoon wrestling out a stubborn log with the crosscut, a little rock and a pretty strong stick. Right before tool count the log finally gave up and we claimed victory! In the evening we all chilled out a little and had the opportunity to reflect on how lucky we all are to share this incredible experience.

Kayla B

Another ten hour day... The last one, thank God. The crew is exhausted but happy we're finished. We did SEED on knots tonight, and a few crew members gave some okay examples of how to tie them. We're all looking forward to catching the ferry out tomorrow afternoon; we're all rank and raunchy and we need showers. Orion needs to shave but he says he won't until sessions over. Josh is waiting to see Reeb. I wish he'd just tell her he's in love and be done with it. I'm getting bored with it and so is everyone else. Steph and I need to get back to civilization; we're nearly choking each other. We don't mix well when we're in the backcountry for two weeks in a row, especially when we've worked for ten hour days in a row. Otherwise, the crew is sticking together like usual, we're one big Brady Bunch Family... Well, not really, but it sounded good in my head. One week and one day left, orange crew, stay strong!

Cassandra C

One of the crew's biggest challenges this week was staying focused. We had been in the backcountry for two weeks and almost everyone was ready to leave. Another challenge was getting our hours done in four days while being down a member. We pulled through with fourteen hour days. Getting chores done efficiently is another big challenge for the crew (just ask Park). We're working on it though. As we are nearing the end it is getting progressively harder to stay focused and work hard. The whole crew seems ready to head home. Some notable accomplishments for the week were finding Danny in the mock search rescue, knocking the huge tree down the mountain, and pulling off a forty hour work week in four days.

Jacob F

## **Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District White River Trail**

### Week 6: July 13 - July 20

Rec. trips went to Lake Chelan, some vans went to a thrift store, and Josh picked up a brown wool jacket. At the lake, Cheeto ran straight into the lake clothes and all, the best part is he doesn't know how to swim. Sunday we drove to our new site and hiked in. The hike was very nice, flat and shady. We have a gorgeous campsite right on the White River. We're going swimming.

Mary C

On Tuesday we were cutting vine maple. We got chased by some bees. They stung Kayla on the lips and they swelled up so big she looked like a duck. It was an awesome day.

Joshua K

Jacob and Mary were leaders of the day! We lop-a-lop-a-lopped and lopped some more! Jacob forgot to iodize the water and tried to kill us all! Cassie had abdominal pains while I had a UTI and after work Park, Cassie and I hiked out to the trail head and went back to Leavenworth to go to the hospital to get checked out! Everything turned out fine and we only missed an hour of work the next day to hike back! Mary and Jacob were great leaders!

Anonymous

Today Danny and Ryan were the leaders of the day. After a rude awakening from them the day flew by. We worked ten hours, so we only had to work two tomorrow. We played a SEED review game. I won both times. We learned more than we thought on this trip. A big thing we learned is don't torment bees, they sting!

Jacob F

Last night I lay in my sleeping bag on the beach of White River with my crew snoring all around me and watched the stars. I can't believe how fast these crazy six weeks have gone by. All night I thought about how sad it's going to be to say goodbye to orange crew. I love them all, we rock! I'll never forget lopping out vine maples and singing on the trail or chilling out to Darrel Scott in the van or dancing around on the ferry or teasing Josh about Reeb, or the crazy weekend sites. I hope everyone on orange crew remembers all that we experienced out here in the woods together. I love you guys!

Kayla B

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

...the day when Angie came during the first week and we had to rework the whole trail.

Bennett C

...fourth week when we hiked 3.8 miles straight up a mountain.

Cassie C

...fifth week when we had to work four ten hour days in row.

Stephanie D

...fifth week when we did four ten hour days.

Ryan B

...the last ten hour day was really long.

Joshua K

...fourth week when we hiked 3.8 miles all up hill.

Mary C

...the first day getting to know people.

Jacob F

...Sunday, fifth week (our first ten hour day) was crazy. My sister and I ended up screaming our brains out right before tool count and then I was "attacked" by Danny in the fire weeds.

Kayla B

...the sad day we watched Bennett leave.

Danny G

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

...the ferry access, Lake Chelan. Our many swims and by swimming I mean wading into knee deep water with shoes on). Seeing a bear and even better talking about seeing a bear.

Bennett C

I loved the Ferry on Lake Chelan. Our recreation trip on the fifth week was really fun, so many things happened. Letting Judy (Red crew) beat me in arm wrestling (everyone thought she really won).

Cassie C

...swimming in Lake Chelan. The trip to Chelan for the second weekend rec. trip.

Ryan B

...second weekend visiting Kayla's and meeting her dad, swimming under the waterfalls, and the ferry across Lake Chelan.

Mary C

...the salmon debate, the river through the lava tubes near Cougar, and the fourth weeks lazy weekend.

Jacob F

...dancing, coffee and other great things (wink, wink) on the ferry across Chelan, our chill evening and morning at Moore Point after two weeks in the backcountry (the stars, fire flies, brown sugar, and beautiful Lake Chelan), and our weekend site under the space needle in Seattle.

Kayla B

...the rock-rolling rec. trip in the backcountry, hiking out of the backcountry, and getting on the Lake Chelan ferry, and all the rec. trips.

Danny G

...the rock rolling trip, swimming with Reeb in Lake Chelan, and waving at hot chicks on the highway.

Joshua K

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

...a night of excitement and pleasure in Park's tent with Danny.

Bennett C

Danny and Bryce (Red crew) having a chick fight in bikinis. That was great.

Cassie C

Orion, Kayla, and I were extremely frustrated with a log across the trail that wouldn't move, and then Orion pinked up a very small rock and started chucking it at the huge log.

Anonymous

...hearing Danny and Bennett in Park's tent.

Ryan B

...everything, I'll remember everything, but mostly I'll remember the laughs.

Mary C

...looking across Lake Chelan at the Glacier Peaks.

Jacob F

...meeting Reeb.

Joshua K

...starting R-11.

Danny G

...all the beautiful memories we made with the most darling, obedient newt in the Northwest. We love you Newty, may you rest in peace.

Kayla B

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

- ...how to tie rope knots and how to do a crazy Russian foot dance.  
Bennett C
- ...that I can be an individual and count on myself other than any friends.  
Cassie C
- ...more about many societal issues and made me think more about things than just clothes, make up, jewelry, etc...  
Stephanie D
- ...more about my self-esteem.  
Ryan B
- ...that the cliché, actions speak louder than words, is true, and how to deal with irritations without becoming angry.  
Mary C
- ...more about the government and being informed.  
Jacob F
- ...hard work and responsibility.  
Joshua K
- ...that you can exchange other emotions for anger.  
Danny G
- ...what it feels like to be a platypus.  
Kayla B

## Red Crew

### **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Silver Falls State Park Silver Falls**

#### Week 1: June 7 - June 14

This weekend everyone got to know each other, had positive attitudes with each other, got along quite well, and did not have any fights. Everyone participates in everything. If someone needs help, we are in there hands, helping them if we are done with our chores and we are on free time.

Anonymous

We made a 700 foot trail in the Silver Falls National Park. It is awesome. We got done in less than 7 ½ hours. I thank everybody for the excellent support and you guys are gravy dude. Thanks

Anonymous

Today we made a very fun and exciting trail. We weren't even tired. It was 600 ft. It was nothing but bush. We went "bushwhacking today". We were all pumped in the morning but then after lunch, we were all dead tired.

Anonymous

Complete trails and satisfy the Forest Service. Try not to be lassoed by Kody. Work hard. Don't fall into the latrine. Be courteous to other crew members while working. Push ourselves. Think before we speak. Don't say, "hey you," anymore. Have fun. Motivate others.

Crow

Today we worked the hardest I think we have worked all well and all the crew showed such great resilience to the labor at hand. Two of them showed no inclination of stopping until the job was done. For this I commend Cam and Bobby. Good job, Red team.

Anonymous

Well, we started out early in the morning and moved our things around and made room for other crews. Then we went to work and went to the store and Subway and laundry. Then we came back here and people came over and the whole crew came for dinner. We worked in the rain. It was cold.

Anonymous

### **Salem Bureau of Land Management Molalla Resource Area Hardy Creek**

#### Week 2: June 15 - June 21

Today we had to hike really far to get to the work site, but the view was worth it. We all met up at our camp site and played various games. We all helped with the chores. We also get to go to town and visit the falls. It was a blast ! Then we packed and departed.

Tina B

This week, we all went to someplace close to the 6<sup>th</sup> circle of heck to improve/rebuild trail for mountain bikers and horseback riders. Well, they call it "Hardy Creek." But seriously, where else do towering flames and screams of pain exist?

Lance

Today all we did was clear trails. It was the perfect weather to do it. Not too hot and not too cold. After break, we discovered a bee's nest on accident while someone was going to the bathroom! Then somehow at lunch, we got into a big food fight. Bobby seemed to get it the worst. Then after lunch, it was all down hill.

Bryce H

This week we learned that slugs are not poisonous and are also tasteless. It also seems ticks like Cam's butt. Another interesting thing we learned was how to empty a crapper. That was fun.

Anonymous

I sat and slept in the van with Orion today because we haven't been feeling very well. The rest of the crew worked a few hours and tried to keep an eye out for our lost hazel, but no luck. We got to Mo's house for showers—it was so nice being inside and watching TV—Austin Powers. We had a little trouble finding the weekend site at Mt. St. Helen's, and the weather wasn't too great, but it was nice to be with the big group again.

Anonymous

## **Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District Chiwaukum Creek Trail**

### Week 3: June 22 - June 28

Mount St. Helens was where our weekend site was this time. Even though it was raining almost every day, we still had fun on our rec. trips to the caverns or the rock lava. On our trip to Leavenworth, our crew had a few incidents involving at Amy and Tina and unfortunately, they are no longer with us. But we will still stick together as a team and try to make it through these next 3 weeks with high hopes. We also had a record time of setting up camp on Monday. Way to go!

Bobby G

We're clearing more trails. We're right next to Leavenworth in Washington and we are cutting branches with loppers and saws and widening in some areas a couple of drain dips. Finally we came back after being gone for a few days being all sick and stuff. Most of us think that Tina should still be here, but some don't.

Kody A.W.

Our goals for the week:

To not get down or frustrated after the events of earlier this week To work extra hard to compensate for our lower numbers. Impress the contact with our stellar trail working talents. Not spread gossip or badmouth a current or former crewmember at the weekend site. Stay safe-don't jeopardize your own or anyone else's safety while working or playing.

Laura B

This week the crew learned: Da lop-lop song... Coping skills  
Swamping and miscellaneous diddly squat

Lance

We went to Leavenworth to do our laundry. Then I had to leave earth and go have my toe nail taken out. We went to a gym to take our showers and it was pretty nice and we found out that Adam is very happy. Other than that, we had a lot of fun. Oh and we packed up camp and then found out that it was our weekend site.

Raymond W

Well, we found out that brushing up hills isn't the most fun thing to do. We made the contact happy and we did a lot of trails. We had a lot of trouble with Bobby always falling in the river but other than that, we just had fun.

Raymond W

**Mt. Baker National Forest  
Skykomish Ranger District  
Iron Goat Trail**

Week 4: June 29 - July 5

This weekend was pretty fun. After having the other crews come to our site as the weekend place, we all went to Lake Wenatchee to relax, play around, or go swimming. Then to Leavenworth we went. We walked around town for an hour. As our crew was getting ready for our next week of work, we unfortunately found out we would lose Crow. We all said our goodbyes and gave him our address. In return, though, we did get Edwina as a new crew member and we hope she stays.

Bobby G

Today went pretty well. I guess we're building a rock wall at Iron Goat Trail. Today at lunch, I ate a slug so now I'm officially in the Red crew. Anyway, Laura and Dave got rocks smashed on their fingers and I hope their fingers will be okay.

Edwina D

Goals for this week: To finish the rock wall and make it look really nice so that the people don't throw a hissy fit. We are trying really hard not to get hurt because we have already had two. Laura got her pinky slashed and smashed and Dave got his left index finger smashed between 2 other rocks. To catch more mice and most of all have fun.

Raymond W

We learned how to build a rock wall 8 feet tall. We also learned the history of the Iron Goat Trail. We built a contraption to catch mice.

Judy J

Our challenges this week were to move rocks ranging from golf ball size to rocks over 1000 pounds. We were to build a rock wall that was going to be 4 feet tall, and ended up 8 ½ feet tall. Another challenge was that we got a new member and we were already going through a challenge with her. A lot of us had to work really hard because we are two people short. But we gave it all we had and got the wall done.

Bryce H & Cam C

**Mt. Baker National Forest  
Skykomish Ranger District  
N. Fork of the Skykomish Trail**

Week 5: July 6 - July 12

We got 2 new members-Justin and Dan. We met Dave's girlfriend and we watched the fireworks and had pizza. It was a lot of fun. Sunday, we went to the mountains.

Anonymous

Our project for this week is building turnpikes and water maintenance in a big giant mud pit. Today we put in three drain pipes and cleaned a few out.

Anonymous

This week, our crew learned: How to make good ditches with 45° angles. How to make good turnpikes. How to substitute for all kinds of other foods. How to best dry boots on a fire. How to make due without a shovel. How to mine garnets. Always wear dry socks.

Anonymous

Challenges this week were:

To stay dry and make the drainage “pipes” look good. To keep a high spirit and not to have any negative attitudes, because we didn’t want to have any quitters. We were mostly trying to keep up the good work and have as much fun as possible. We ended up making the contact very happy and he liked our work so we accomplished all that we wanted and were very happy to get away from the mosquitoes.

Raymond W

## **Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District Ingalls Creek Trail**

### Week 6: July 13 - July 20

We uhh...met up with the other four crews, said lots of stuff about everything, consumed lots of food, and got 1<sup>st</sup> place in all the NYC Olympics, somethin’ blab la bla...’bout it.

Lance

We walked 6700ft which is more than a mile and we brushed the whole thing.

Cam C

The goals for this week would be clearing tread. So including cutting down trees, cutting bushes that form in front of the trees, clearing brush that falls onto the trees, a lot of hiking and crossing streams. Red crew always has fun. One of the most important goals is to be the best, which we accomplished a long time ago.

Dan H

We learned how to play a harmless but hilarious prank. The higher you go, the better the view. PB&J’s after two weeks don’t taste very good.

Dan H

Hiking out this Friday was exasperating! Work this week was brushing. Oh, how tedious.

Anonymous

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

...meeting new folks. Maybe we can all be friends for a long time.

Edwina D

...hanging out in the van.

Dan H

...Leavenworth.

Judy J

...the awesome view of the landscape at the work site or camp.

Bobby G

...Leavenworth.

Bryce H

...Leavenworth. Justin D

...the whole time. Cam C

...getting together with everyone at the weekend sites and exchanging all sorts of stories about the ups and downs our crews faced the past week and just hanging out. Laura B

...kicking back with Dave n' Mo. Lance

...when we ate slugs, when we were in the van. Kody A.W.

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

...what to recycle and that Leavenworth is cool. How to build trails and clean up trails. Judy J

...how to control my raging hormones...kind of. \*wink wink. Anonymous

...to avoid weekend sites and eating dirt. Lance

...how to survive in the wilderness-literally-and use the proper tools right on the work site, and how to be more precautious around people when working. Bobby G

...to have fun, to appreciate the things I have and not to take showers for weeks at a time. Anonymous

...to adjust to the surrounding environments. Justin D

...that family/crew is the most important thing to remember. Kody A.W.

***From Now on I Will Always...***

...run up to dishes and "bump" my mom. Lance

...be more critical and judgmental of the trails I hike. Laura B

...think of different ways to finish a project. Kody A.W.

...know how hard people work on trails and I'll appreciate them more. Anonymous

...talk about Leavenworth. Also, I will most likely be waking up early and make breakfast for twelve. Judy J

...know how to make a sump, latrine, set up camp for 12, and cook breakfast earlier. I will also look at the local trails differently around my neighborhood and think about the people who helped build them.

Bobby G

...have a scar on my arm and fingers from my fellow friend, Cam.

Anonymous

...take pride and joy in taking any shower.

Justin D

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

...Leavenworth was cool.

Judy J

...one thing—well actually, it's a person, I'll never forget Kody. He's so cool and so awesome to be around. He's one of a kind. I love you Kody.

Edwina D

...the fun memories with my friend, Cam.

Bryce H

...everyone here because you are all great friends and I hope it stays that way.

Cam C

...days of ups and days of downs, days of tears, days of frowns, but no matter how hard it is, I will be there for everyone.

Kody A.W.

...friends, family, the happy thoughts, the sad ones, but will always remember NYC. It's nothing fancy, but it will always be part of me. My friends, family, and for the sweet and bitter.

Justin D

...Bobby's falls and his flawless release of Mo's voice.

Lance

...the way each person ate their slug—especially Judy because her slug came back up a couple times. I'll also never forget the experience of shoveling crap into garbage bags. Nasty.

Laura B

...is the great times I had with my crew leaders and members, especially Cam, Bryce, Kody, and Dan.

Bobby G

### ***My Biggest Challenge At NYC...***

...surviving the last week's hike.

Lance

...being able to cooperate and get along with everyone on our crew and make it last through the whole 6 weeks.

Bobby G

...making it up all the hills with asthma and a bad knee so it was very hard, but we did it all together.

Kody A.W.

...sleeping with no pillow and with bugs.

Justin D

...it was hard not to be in Leavenworth.

Judy J

...hiking up a hill with really large backpacks.

Edwina D

## Yellow Crew

### Salem Bureau of Land Management Hardy Creek Trail

#### Week 1: June 7 - June 14

Drove around a lot until we decided to stop. We then set up camp for the first time and it turned out alright for the most part. Chilling now making dinner. You have two options in life. You can be the pigeon or the statue. Pulp fiction status now I'm writing about. Last night we were up until 1 or so in the morning. Woke up anywhere from 5:30 to 7:00, packed up and left. Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves: Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There's nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel secure around you. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. We are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Mark G

This weekend I met all the crews including my own. I had fun at the weekend site and met a lot of interesting people. Today was the first day of work. It was not so much hard as it was fun. We dug about 450 ft of trail plus a drainage dip. I feel better after a full days work. I think we are all 20. A spaghetti dinner is being prepared now. It seems like the perfect end to the day.

Chris W

On this day that is today, I and the group built a whole lot of check dams. We had fun. The group was very gassy. I and Mark did some hardcore rock gathering. Everyone worked their hardest, especially Chris. We're making dinner right now. Good Shepard's pie. For lunch tomorrow very powerful hummus sandwiches. The end.

Frumecio C

Today we got a little late of a start, but still early in comparison in what we are used to. We got up and started work by 8:00 am, after eating some pancakes with brownie mix. As a crew we worked really hard and got all the check dams finished. Even though the horses kept trotting over them and leaving presents. Everyone worked extremely hard to carry boulders from the bottom of the worksite to put on the switchback. In all we accomplished a lot.

Zane T

Team work. I would say we struggled for the first day. Then after that we worked it out and got it going. When working hard we got everything done. We worked very hard and I learned everyone's name. Got work done and went swimming. We learned not to make too much food because we have to stuff it down. We also learned moss and ferns are best.

Sam S

We were first challenged with lots of trail maintenance. Moving boulders, brushing trees, digging drain ditches and that's not even all we did. On Thursday we were asked to cover a fairly short trail with gravel and later that day we moved to a different work site to clear some trees that had been chopped down into the river. The problem was our chainsaw was not working properly, so we ended up cutting it up the good old fashioned way, with axes. I'd say we accomplished a lot, from digging switchbacks to simply picking up trash around the campsites.

Anonymous

## **Roseburg Bureau of Land Management North Bank Fencing Project**

### Week 2: June 15 - June 21

We got to our new site after driving a long time like last week, and then we set up camp and crashed. Then we started working around 9:00 to 9:30. It went slow. The temperature was about 80 to 90. Then we went to killer swimming hole, which was probably better than any other crew's spots. The water was extremely warm. Then we crashed.

Mark G

This week we have been building fences. We are in Roseburg. It's a small town, good scenery. I and my friend, Mark, hiked to the top of the hill. The view was magnificent. Overall, this seems like it will be a good week.

Frumecio C

Our crew's goal was to construct a fence to benefit the cattle ranchers. We also attempted to kill blackberry bushes and find a water main for the BLM. Other than this, Mark attempted to become a fairy but failed because he could not fly. Sam attempted to prove his superior intellect by trying to make people guess a number from 1 to 100 and then congratulating himself when no one could guess the number he was thinking of. We also had many pointless arguments and Thursday was designated as "Jimmy Buffet Day."

Anonymous

We learned how to build fences. There are many steps to building a fence. First of all, you gotta drill the fence post holes. We tried to use an auger but have the time we ended up digging them out ourselves due to the rocky terrain. After that, it was pretty easy, pounding in the t-bars and lining the fence wire and barbed wire. A few of us already knew how to make the fences so they didn't learn much.

Chris B

Well this week was kind of a tedious project but it could have been a lot worse. At first everyone was glad to slow down in pace, but soon after, the feelings of boredom ensued. Everyone started complaining about not having anything to do and why were we doing this type of job, (building barbed wire). We all felt like nothing was getting done compared to the previous week. But they just had to have a little patience and wait for the person ahead of them to finish. Maybe it's just me, but in general people don't realize that everything we go through is there for a reason. Possibly even because we set those obstacles in our own way. You just have to step back and find the reason behind things.

Zane T

The past two days were our first experience at a weekend site. It was a nice break from the grind of the week. It was nice to have time to talk to people in other groups and enjoy some free time. I liked going in to town, especially with our van group. I wish we had more time at the falls. I would rather have had more time at the falls and less in town. I am glad that they made us go to bed because I was ready for a full nights sleep. It was a long drive to our next site, made longer by the fact that we had trouble finding it. This week we are doing fence work. I wonder how the post hole diggers will work if there are lots of rocks.

Matt P

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
Devils Gulch Trail**

Week 3: June 22 - June 28

The first day of summer! What is it like to be in backcountry? So far I don't know because it's the first day up here and we might set up a spike camp and one tent. We hiked up a mountain 2 miles with like 70-100 lbs and our spot is terrible but has a nice fire spot for cooking. And hey, we even have a nice creek next to us, like 20 ft away. Although there is a very nice view of the Cascades and there are some pretty skinny spots in the trails.

Morgan W

This weekend my crew drove for about 7 hours or so from Roseburg to Mount St Helens. When we arrived at the weekend site we had to set up tents in the dark. A lot has happened since the last time I did journal. One of our crew members got really sick and had to go home. Since then we have gotten a new crew member. I can't wait to spend the next 4 weeks getting to know everybody better.

Chris W

Well, today we're in Wenatchee National Forest at Devils Gulch. Our work has mainly consisted of brushing with a bit of trail work on the side. The area of trail we've been working on is about 3 miles long and we're about half done with it. Today we ate lunch at the center of Washington, which was denoted by a little plaque on a rock. After lunch we continued to brush, and brush, and brush until we loathed the trail side vegetation with a burning passion.

Noah F

Well, our main goal is to brush about 2.5 miles of bush around a trail called Devils Gulch. It is very long, repetitive, and tedious work, but I think we can handle it. After all, it's only for five days. A little bit of trail work here and there kept our heads on straight. We also plan on raising the creek bed a few inches to make it easier for horse crossing and possibly making a simple bridge for drier crossings.

Chris B

One of the main things are group learned was perseverance. The brushing got boring very quickly, but we had to continue and keep our energy up. We also learned some interesting facts about conservation. Over half the world's forests have been destroyed and our petroleum reserves will have been depleted in about 50 years.

Matt P

Today we hiked out and did trail work on the way. The trail was called Devils Gulch and we did trail work in the center of the State of Washington. When we left today we did trail work on the way and we did trail work with our bags on and at the end we did more brushing. Then we drove around for hours looking for a shower. Then we found some at a lake and some girls hit on me and blew Cheeto and Chris off. Some accomplishments that we have made was 2 ½ miles of brushing, getting along with each other and most of us went on a five mile jog and another 5 out. When it got hot we didn't fight and we stayed focused.

Morgan W

**Wenatchee National Forest  
Leavenworth Ranger District  
Chiwaukum Creek Trail**

Week 4: June 29 - July 5

This weekend we went to the lake and swam. Brian, Crow, Chris and I were doing cappawada and a bunch of stuff. After that we went to the town of Leavenworth and I got talked to by the police.

He took my name and date of birth and he just left. The Red crew put a string on the steering wheel to let us know how close they were to taking the turkey. We were lucky.

Joseph C

Our project this week consists mainly of brushing trail in the Wenatchee National Forest. One of the perks of this job is that we get to use the huge two person cross-cut saw. We are brushing in order to keep the trail open for hikers and horseback riders.

Matt P

My crew's goal for this week is to brush about 3 miles of trail. We are all backcountry for two weeks and it is 3 miles to our next campsite. We hope by the end of the week we can brush the whole way there. Right now it is looking very possible. Today we brushed almost a mile. It was about 4100 paces and we all feel confident that we will complete this project.

Chris W

Brush, brush, brush, brush. Boring, boring, but this is the best camp site we have been in and have had a fire every night and morning. The stars are beautiful, the river magnificent. All in all it's been an okay day. Angie came after safety circle so I gave her half my lunch. Then we had some bets to better ourselves. To the person typing these up or what not, correct my errors. There is too much testosterone in the crew but it is all gravy.

Mark G

Well, each day was a little bit harder than the next I thought. Because every day of work brings us a little closer to the end of this, yet we are still far away from being done. One of the hardest things out here was having to hike 6 miles to set up camp with our heavy packs with all your gear and your food. Then to top it off, we had to hike in the dark and didn't get to the camp site until 1:00 am with only a couple of lights. Every step you take you could feel the severe burning sensation in the top of your thighs. Having to keep going for so long, it seemed to go forever. But it's one of those things in life you don't like doing, but when it's through it makes you feel a little stronger.

Zane T

## **Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District Chiwaukum Creek Trail**

### Week 5: July 6 - July 12

The most notable part of this weekend was definitely eggfest 2003 in which we consumed massive quantities of bacon and eggs. Other memorable moments included a 3 hour resupply hike back to camp which ended at 1 am. Watching Guitar Mark, and Chito on the streets of Leavenworth, the Bavarian village that we have all come to love so much. And finally, on Sunday, we did absolutely nothing. It was beautiful.

Noah F

This week we're brushing a lot. We're in the Wenatchee National Forest on the Chiwaukum Creek Trail. We're having a lot of fun helping the environment. We all get along and never argue. There was a great egg festival. We all ate eggs and bacon. The scenery around here is awesome. It really helps you appreciate nature and not being in the city, getting back to basics.

Frumecio C

We lopped like 3 miles total today and a couple of people swam in the freezing cold river. We beat our record for feet of lopping. Today we hiked down and some of us did trail work. Joseph caught a rattlesnake and yesterday we did a dress up formal dinner.

Morgan W

We walked up to the worksite, about 1 mile and brushed all day. Then we ate lunch and brushed some more. We went swimming after work and then did our chores. After chores, Chris did dinner and we ate faster. We did SEED after dinner. It was about squirrels and how to make traps. We washed dishes and got ready for bed.

Sam S

Our first challenge was to move our campsite up 3 miles from our original campsite. It wasn't as hard at first coming in when we had packs that were 60 - 100 lbs because we only had to carry left over food and personal stuff. We then had to hike 6 miles back down to the van to re-supply, but it wasn't nearly as tough as the initial hike in. Now as far as actual "work," we basically just brushed approximately 2.5 miles of dense and not so dense bush and trees. There was little trail work to be done but it was better than non stop brushing.

Chris B

**Okanogan National Forest**  
**Methow Valley Ranger District**  
**Methow Bridge**

Week 6: July 13 - July19

We did a lot of brushing. I caught a snake and 4 lizards. We swam in snow melt water and hiked 6 miles in the dark. We had a bacon and egg fiesta and we made friends with a flying squirrel named Jimmy. We swam by a waterfall. The captain was against it at first. That was when I saw a lizard. I held it for a little bit and then later down the trail I saw a webouwl snake and its tail was broken. It was brown on the top and lime green on the bottom. It was a good day.

Joseph C

This week we are working on the Pacific Coast Trail in Okanogan National Forest. We are doing trail maintenance, installing turnpikes, re-digging culverts, and deconstructing a bridge. Our worksite is spread out along approximately five miles of trail, so we've also been hiking a good amount every day. This trail is a beautiful area, most definitely the best area we've worked so far.

Noah F

My crew was faced with an interesting task of taking out an already downed bridge that was about 35 feet long and crossing a pretty calm river that seemed like it was 25 ° F. After we destroyed the bridge, we started falling trees that were going to be used for supports for the new bridge and enough wood to do about 10 turnpikes, then rip out the existing turnpikes and install some of the new ones.

Chris B

Our crew learned how to skin trees and how to spot for someone felling a tree. We also learned to use new tools like the draw knife to the spud bar. We also learned how to build turnpikes. In SEED we learned about human rights and about different leadership styles. We discussed the downsides of consumerism in another SEED.

Matt P

I believe that our crew has learned a lot. We pushed ourselves to finish the turnpikes, even though we had to put in two extra hours of volunteer work. When we were through with work we had to hike 6 miles to get a tool. So I would say we learned a lot about self motivation.

Chris W

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

...the 10 ½ mile hike down to the van on the last day of work.  
Noah F

Well everyday is pretty much a challenge. But what is really hard is staying positive when everyone around you is acting like immature 2 year olds at each others throats.  
Zane T

...definitely the last day when we had to hike 10 ½ miles in the blazing hot sun.  
Chris B

...was fitting in and getting along with each other.  
Joseph C

...the first week. I was so out of shape and use to waking up at noon. It was really a challenge!  
Chris W

...the last day of the 6<sup>th</sup> week. We had to hike 10 ½ miles in the hot sun with extremely heavy backpacks.  
Matt P

...when I was sick and we were leaving for the weekend site. It was horrible.  
Cheeto C

...on the 4<sup>th</sup> week, we were brushing that day and I was as sick as a dog. I had to hike 3 miles and threw up three times. It was a challenge.  
Sam S

... when I was the crew leader of the day because I had to get up early.  
Morgan W

I have to say the 10 mile hike out with 50 pounds and not passing out even though I had 9 blisters.  
Mark G

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

...building a stream ford. Slandering hippies and communists. Cooking.  
Noah F

...the hard work. Being able to enjoy pure nature. Being forced to work as a team.  
Zane T

...completing each job. Learning to work as a team. Learning new skills.  
Chris B

...new sites and I experienced hard work.  
Joseph C

...living in the outdoors. Completing a hard days work. Enjoying the company of my crew.  
Matt P

...swimming, getting to know people during SEED, and seeing how other people act when they're leader of the day.  
Chris W

...being in nature, working as a team, and building a stream ford.  
Mark G

...getting away from the city, our physics lesson, and building a stream ford.  
Cheeto C

...learning how to build some things, finding new friends, and seeing some cool scenery.  
Morgan W

...working, playing, seed.  
Sam S

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

...all the hard work we did and Sam as Pokeman.  
Noah F

...the variety of people and how attitudes of individuals can change so much when they are taken from their usual environment.  
Zane T

...sitting around the campfire getting in to deep conversations and deeper arguments about various topics.  
Chris B

...when the going gets tough there is always a good side to everything.  
Joseph C

...the friends I have made. Second I will always remember the seed that we did because I learned a lot about accepting other people's point of view no matter how outrageous they may sound!  
Chris W

...waking up every morning and being with my brothers and friends and eating breakfast.  
Cheeto C

...the fact that people work hard on the trail and you need to respect that, so you need to respect the trails too.  
Sam S

...the crew, the crew leader, and crew work was all cool.  
Morgan W

...the true beauty of the outdoors.  
Mark G

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

...appreciate the hard work that went in to building the trails that I hike on.  
Noah F

...make a conscience effort to take nothing for granted too much.  
Zane T

...respect nature.  
Chris B

...pay attention to important stuff job related.  
Joseph C

...not to base my opinions of people on my first impressions of them.  
Matt B

...nature and all of its wonders and beauty. Green Bay rocks!  
Cheeto C

...that a large hard to do task will become a small easily done task with only one thing,  
“teamwork” and only “teamwork”  
Sam S

...practice low impact camping and enjoy trails more, because I know the hard work people put in  
to them.  
Chris W

...fight for nature and to not destroy it. I will also be completely independent unless working in a  
team.  
Mark G

...try not to complain about doing a couple of hours worth of work just to do it and finish it.  
Morgan W

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

...the scoop on poop. How to maintain trails. How to deal with difficult people.  
Noah F

...hard work and determination. To look at everything in a positive aspect and doing things for  
other people that may not even show much respect for you.  
Zane T

...various different skills. How to do one very tedious job for long periods of time. How to dig a  
cat hole.  
Chris B

...how to be patient with all sorts of people even when they really frustrate you, you must learn to  
accept them.  
Chris W

...how to cook. I learned to work hard and team work.  
Joseph C

...that our environment is being destroyed and only humans can change it because they destroyed  
it.  
Cheeto C

...backpacking skills. I learned to work a 10 hour day. I learned to be patient with people for the  
sake of the group.  
Matt P

...how to log and skin trees. The evil human race is destroying the world and we must stop it.  
Change starts with yourself.  
Mark G

...to build a better character. I learned how to make trails look good. I learned not to wear socks  
when I go to bed and to keep care of my feet.  
Morgan W

...you must have fun.  
Sam S