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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 National Forest Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Oregon Dunes Overlook

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

The crew cleared some Scotch broom plants at the Oregon dunes today. We lost a tool (sandvik). After waking up at 6a.m. we ate breakfast and headed to work. After the first 8 hours everybody was happy to be back at the camp. Today was very fun and that's the way it will be for the next 5 weeks.

Kyle D

Today we started clearing Scotch Broom on the sand dunes. We cut large Scotch broom trees that we had to make trails to get to. I found a pet snail and named him Stu. Kyle lost him and I was really sad. Tonight we're having chilidogs with French fries.

Dawn M

Lots of weeds, lots of fun, pulled crap from the ground, it was hot. Billy is funny. The day went on and on and on till finally I looked back on the day and realized that it was over. Went swimming... well some did, I wrote words...

Jacob M

Today we cleared more Scotch broom and the sun came out and burned my head. We ate lunch and fell asleep in the sand, woke up for a great two more hours off work free time was putting up the girls tent cuz it was knocked over by the wind.

Dawn M

We had to chop down the god-forsaken Scotch broom all week long while people stood around and took pictures of us up on the observatory. It was very slow and dull. Sand was everywhere and in everything. When will this ever stop? Save us from the sand and Scotch broom.

Audree L

Wenatchee National Forest Naches Ranger District Chinook Pass Work Station

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

Lots of motivation and determination. Our days of pulling obnoxious weeds are still at hand. Our great mission is about half way complete. Red and Orange are about running in the forest. Our work day was hot and tiring. I ran like a machine. Don't combust core members. But hey, only four more weeks. Yee-hoo!

Jacob M

Well this week we are picking more weeds. Knap weed, daisies, and obnoxious weeds. Today there were pranks pulled by Red crew. They stuffed bags of weeds in Orange's van. Orange then took out all the seats and they argued. Blah blah. Looking forward to eradicating some weeds.

Matt K

Well today we returned to the airplane landing strip to remove more of the same obnoxious weeds. We had (or at least I had) a nice relaxed day. Today the cows were wandering around, leaving us fresher, more savory pies than we encountered yesterday. Later we moved to another site, where Orange crew was also working. We were ambushed several times by Duane and Rory.

Rachel S

This week we are in Natches National Forest, and we are once again removing obnoxious weeds/flowers. But the only interesting thing is how we are working alongside Red and Orange crews. Tonight we are supposed to dine with Orange crew.

Audree L

Woke up to some fresh donuts! We finished our weeding and are feeling good. Matt built his penguin from some dumpster dive materials. . . Woo hoo, alrighty then. Got through this week. The remembrance of Joe is a thing of the past. Walt Daddy Love and the Gabester are holding the fort down strong. Jacob is doing his thing. No eyebrows? What's going on? Piercings? Jeeze you guys. So we went to Yatema and took showers for free after going to "the dog" station. Listened to some Spearhead and some Grateful Dead. Did some laundry and headed for coffee at the post stop. Hyper! Get to a beautiful meadow and set down camp on some lumpy ground. Alright, go Blue crew!

Gabe W

Olympic National Forest Hood Canal Ranger District Skykomish Trail Reconstruction

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

We destroyed a bridge; we are half done and looking forward to another beautiful day of work. The day went by fast so that was super. It was Rachel's first day of work and Ryan's first day with the Blue crew. Back country is loads of fun.

Jacob M

This week's project is destroying bridges. This project is super-cool. Today was Rachel's second day on the job, but I'm adjusting well. We are working in the Olympic Peninsula, and it is beyond beautiful. We took down the major portion of the support beams and we still have to take down the last large beam. The bugs out here are eating our crew alive, but we're surviving. Go Blue Crew! Keep on surviving.

Rachel P

Well we finished the first bridge. We knocked that sucker down. Angie was supposed to visit today, but she's not here yet. I'm super tired and I hopped into the river after work.

Matt K

Today was pretty cool. Angie finally showed up. Woo-hoo for Angie showing up. Gabe split our group into two smaller groups. I don't know what the other group did, but the group I was in chopped logs all day long. We got a lot done though. Tomorrow is a shorter work day, and then we get to chill down. The bugs are still biting, but it seems to hurt less. Today and yesterday we bathed! Hooray for bathing! Go Blue Crew.

Rachel P

Today we only worked for a little while and hiked a lot. We had to walk back to the van and restock. The sun was out and it was very hot. Most people tried to cool down in the river. People just relaxed, while Rachel and I played her guitar by the water and everyone listened. By dinner everyone was getting back-rubs and ready to eat. This week went by really fast.

Dawn M

**Olympic National Forest
Hood Canal Ranger District
Lower Skykomish**

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

Well after an extraordinary restful weekend of nothing, but swimming and hanging out, it was back to work for us. We had two groups, my group started out hauling rocks from a riverbed to the bridge we were working on. Our two groups met about halfway for lunch and then we switched spots. My group went to the reroute we're working on and evened out the grades. Finished it!

Rachel E

Our project this week is to reconstruct bridges. We are taking planks and replacing them. The crew is anxious to go home. We are excited to see our friends and our families. We are in the Olympic Peninsula. It is very beautiful here. We like to hike in, but the hike out is like a chore.

Nate H

Today was fine. . . Why? We hauled gravel and ate cookies. Yesterday radio personnel came to visit; we all became "hams". The food is yummy. The work is getting more fun every day. Ryan is drab and lets us talk. NYC days in back country are super.

Jacob M

Well, today was a marathon- we worked until we thought we were done, and then Angie came and we ended up working more. But oh well. We came back to camp and then hiked stuff up to the van to be revived by music and care packages, which contained many cookies. Camp looks a lot like my bedroom, messy, but it's all good. Nick burned the rice, so we ended up eating random stuff, but the dragonflies are out in force, eating the mosquitoes, so it's okay!

Rachel E

We hiked out today after finishing the Olympic Bridge project. But first we had to work. I don't think one would have to finish on Friday if Angie had not come, but I'm okay with it, because we got paid for it. Back country was fun, but there are rumors of Blue Crew going back country again. My Mom is coming to the weekend site. I love my Mommy.

Rachel P

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

Week 5: August 25 - August 31

Today we went out to White River. All we are really doing is brushing stuff off the trail. Boring, but not so it still seems like hard work. We got a new rover yesterday. I've only known her for two days, so there's no real opinion. I guess we'll see. Even if there turns out to be a problem with her (or anyone else) there are only six days left. I think we all miss our homes. I know I do miss Mom. Go Blue Crew.

Rachel P

Well today we had some crew leaders of the day and we were greeted with Angela G. Nate, Cindy, Nick and Jacob were those leaders. They were alright. I'm enjoying the work and I will enjoy seeing the end results.

Matt K

Yeah today was blah, but we still got lots of stuff done. Today the billy-goat did not come out. . . Yippy! I'm a returnee, I don't need feedback. I know how to do the job!! BILLY! In other news,

our week is almost over. I'm happy, but more than that, this is my last session. Till BLP!
Everyone is having a great fun session. We love you Gabe. I'm burned out.

Jacob M

My crew learned not to trust Orange Crew this week. They said that they wouldn't mess with our stuff, but no! They just had to mess with our stuff. We'll get them back, you'll see. We are all ready for the last day of work. Our fearless leader, Gabe, always farts in the "leader chain". I think that we are all immune.

Nate H

Well today we got an early start. We finished off some work and then had a brisk four mile walk out. Quite vigorous, but rewarding. Then we drove and drove. Got pizza in Hood River, and are camping somewhere off 35.

Matt K

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...when I did two sessions in a row, then did this session. I was burned out, yet I still made it through.

Jacob M

...on the fifth week of back country, hiking in. I was burnt out, sick and tired of back country.

Audree L

...getting up early and hiking for like two miles.

Cyndi H

...the hike into the last week's camp site.

Nick G

Everyday has been so challenging, everyday was different, getting along, waking up, and working hard. So many, yet well worth it.

Matt K

...waking up early every day, just for weeding in the first weeks was really hard.

Dawn M

...the day that I pulaskied for eight hours. I was so tired and it was so hard to keep going, but I did and it felt really good.

Rachel S

...the first day I was alone with my crew. It was difficult joining a crew after they had been together for two weeks prior to my joining. I survived.

Rachel P

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...the deer that was ten feet in front of me while heading back to work after break.

Audree L

...the leader and the crew leader.

Nate H

...is that blood is thicker than water.

Jacob M

...the people here and our friendships.

Cyndi H

...the great scenery at the last work site. Nick G

...the fact that everything is so temporary and this just reassured that in a great way. Matt K

...remember everyone yelling at Gabe to get it all out with Jacob on the table. Dawn M

...the feeling of going to bed after a long hard day of work. Rachel S

...the members of my crew and the way that we all had to over come differences to join together. The bond we had formed will remain in my mind forever. Rachel P

From Now On I Will Always...

...be more aware of my surroundings. I will be more respectful of nature and its creatures. But most of all I will try to respect other people's opinions, more than I did prior to NYC programs. Along with respecting them I will try to understand, and look at things from other peoples' view. Rachel P

...remember how to live out in nature and on my own. Audree L

...go to the bathroom with leave. Nate H

...respect my outside environment. Jacob M

...get what I cook. Cindi H

...be more aware of what I'm eating. Nick G

...do my best to give people a chance to explain their views, even if they oppose mine. Matt K

...pay more attention to the food I buy, and the things I am putting into my body. Dawn M

...be more conscious of how to camp in a low impact way. Rachel S

At NYC I Learned...

...how to be out in back country and live with the mice, and animals. To eat everything I was given. Audree L

...how to be ready early in the morning. Nate H

...how to respect nature. Jacob M

...to understand the value of the dollar.

Cyndi H

.the terrible things in food.

Nick G

...respect for not only myself, but others and my surroundings.

Matt K

...how important the outdoors is, and how much we need to improve it.

Dawn M

In all honesty I'm not sure exactly what it is that I've learned in NYC. I feel like I've changed a lot since the beginning of the session, but I can't pin-point what it is that is different.

Rachel S

...acceptance. Listening to other people's points of view and not throwing them out immediately is so important. It teaches us to understand what others feel and why they feel that way. You can't learn anything except bigotry and stubbornness if you keep your mind closed.

Rachel P

Orange Crew

Marion County Parks Bear Creek River Access Stairway

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

This weekend, Orange group moved into our first campground in Oregon. After the first day of getting settled in and getting to know each other, we got to work. Walt 'Daddy Love' took crews out to clear trails, while crew leader Parker W.W. was trying to design a way to build a staircase down to the river.

Anonymous

This day we were brushing together with Walt Daddy Love, we finished all the brushing so the day was great. We are learning how to work together as a crew, it's a big difference for me but that's o.k.

Joey E

Today the crew split up into two parts, one to work on the staircase and the other to clean up a different park down the street. We also got the skill saw today and began making the first crucial cuts to really get moving on our project. The day was long and tiring, but it was fun to see the forward progress we completed today.

Tristan F

On Thursday we really started going on the stairs. We started cutting wood like crazy fiends. We got the skill saw and everything and actually made some progress. It was pretty cool, cuz we all worked over time and went crazy on those steps.

Rory M

This week the Orange crew was challenging because when we got there, the main project wasn't exactly like it was supposed to be. We had to find stuff to do, for most of us the first 3 days because they had to re-plan the project. Everyone thought the first day was the hardest and as the week went on it seemed to get a little better. On Thursday everyone seemed to be pumped and ready to work on the stairs. We worked our hardest and completed almost the entire project. When we were packing up to my surprise everyone wanted to stay and finish it. Overall it was a pretty good week.

Jeremy E

Wenatchee National Forest Naches Ranger District Chinook Pass Work Center

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

Today we met our contact "Darrell" we spent awhile in Blue group's campground. We waited for our contact. He came and showed us to our enemy "knap weed." We went to the first area and started the week long hunt. Our camp sits on a cliff over looking the river. Beautiful.

Ryan D

Today was the start of another weed picking day. We started at a site not far from where Red crew was working. It didn't take long for the two teams to begin the day long battle of words. They had some good rhymes, but Orange crew by far outwitted the opponent. Later the crew moved to a different site where our team broke into two parts waging a small war among the

ranks. Whoever could pick the most weeds wouldn't have any chores that day after work. The day ended well because of course, my team won and my chores were taken care of by the losing side.

Tristan F

Wednesday rain fell from the sky to help perpetuate life and refresh the land. During work Red crew filled our van with weeds so we took out all of the seats in the van and all of the tools and moved the van and lined all the seats up where the van was. It was stupendous and to top off an awesome day Park and I made Pine Needle Tea by cutting up the Pine Needles and putting them in the percolator.

Brandon W

Today was a frustrating day. We woke up to the issue of the stolen sodas. Everyone was trying to get the person who took them to confess. Nobody did so we missed the hike. We went weeding more instead. Still nobody confessed. Park told us we wouldn't ever get a store stop if no one ever admitted to taking them. Finally Joey and my self turned themselves in. We should've done it much earlier but at least we got a store stop.

Walt P

Okanogan National Forest Methow Valley Ranger District Path Restoration

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

The weekend there was three rec-trips and they all sounded really fun. I went to Deception Falls with Walt. On the way there we stopped at a rest stop that had a church thing that gave free coffee and other stuff. Jacob got coffee on the way there and one on the way back. Once we got back to camp he finished off the coffee. After he was done with that he started to go into withdrawals and itching all over, it was funny.

Robi P

Today is Wednesday the day our crew went to the Hospital because Duane smashed my hand and it swelled up. We got back to camp at 12:30 at night. It was a 4 hour drive it was so long and basically it sucked.

Anonymous

Today is the third day of building the rock wall/path. Our contact from the Forest Service (Justin) was breaking apart rocks. He was sliding them down the hill trying to hit the trail so we could use them in the wall. He yelled "rock" and a series of rocks came down the hill one rolled into the tool stack. One bounced off the top of the yellow top. The yellow top almost went off the cliff and down the hill.

Ryan D

Friday morning we got up to the sound of a chain saw. Park's fun way of waking us up. Then we went to work and finished our work on the P.C.T. then we lost a member of Orange crew. Joey decided to leave us. Then we packed up and headed to Wenatchee to the bus/train station. Park and Joey went to buy a ticket and we were waiting by the van. We were talking about train hopping so out of the blue a train hopper shows up from New York. He was a sun tanned man with many tattoos. He walked past us then turned around and started talking to us. He was telling us of his travels. He was going into detail about a recent sight in Seattle!

Ryan D

**Okanogan National Forest
Methow Valley Ranger District
Path Restoration**

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

Today was the first of our second week working on the P.C.T. It was tough going back to work after being off for awhile, I was really tired. It was also our first day working without one of our crew members. Joey who decided to go home early. Nothing else to big happened, just another day at work.

Anonymous

Today we met our new Rover Hanna. She didn't get to camp until after everyone got to bed, so we had to meet her the next morning. Before that we got done with our first section of the P.C.T. and made it to Windy Pass.

Joe A

The first day on the new trail we were all excited to be somewhere new. We hiked in roughly 2 miles and dug some drainages. Our goals for the week were to maintain our work ethic and try to finish our section.

Joe A

Our second day on the new trail we hiked in 4 miles and worked backwards. The hike in and the hike out were actually the hardest parts in the day for me and I learned not to whine and complain during the hike and to do something to keep my mind off of it. Some things are actually in your mind and if you think about how tired you are then your bound to be tired.

Brandon W

This week was pretty uneventful. We finished one stretch of the trail and got a new Rover named Hannah on Tuesday. We got taken up to the look out tower on Thursday. Today I finally got a shower that wasn't cold. Also got a good store stop.

Anonymous

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

Week 5: August 25 - August 31

Today was the first day of the last week! (Yeah) We started brushing and pruning vine maples. Vine maple is the devil plant! The crew is tired after the six mile hike in.

Ryan D

Today we cut down the trees that were hovering over the trail. It was really hot all day, so we were all happy to get back to our shaded campground, next to the river. After the chores were finished everyone went down for a swim. Tristan and I were walking to a waterfall where we were attacked by a swarm of bees! I was stung five times and Tristan was stung 12 times!

Joe A

We worked for a long time, then we ate, then we slept.

Robi P

So Thursday after working for four hours we elected to take a hike. The hike was the single hardest thing I've ever had to do and when we got to the top there was snow the first snow I have seen in a year and a half. Of course I have to step on thin snow and fall 6 or 7 feet to rocks below,

but it was fun. On the way up to the hike we came across Blue crew who were eating lunch and we chatted with them all. In all it was a killer day.

Brandon W

This morning we woke up at around 5:30 am to begin taking camp down and preparing for our six mile hike out. The task wasn't bad, though it left a mean pain in my neck. I was glad once we got to the car, not only because I could rest my back and knees but because it meant we were on our way home.

Anonymous

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

Thursday C8-287 was the most challenging day at NYC. After a 10 mile hike we worked until 11 or 12 then left for the hike. Fighting dehydration although we completed the hike.

Ryan D

...the first day. It was a neat experience getting to know each other in that kind of atmosphere.

Joe A

...the first day of the fifth week. We had a 6 mile hike, which isn't too far but I had an 80 lb. pack that killed my back, but once we got to the site we still got chores done in time to get a good nights sleep.

Robi P

Sunday of the fifth week because we had a killer hike in my pack wasn't too heavy but the stuff on the outside wasn't tight and it was unbalanced and bounced off my head making me insane.

Walt P

...was basically all of them in the first week, because I'm lazy and don't like waking up, or something like that.

Rory M

...the first day of the fifth week. We had a six mile hike in to our campsite. The hike wasn't too bad, but since it was our first time going back country it felt like it went on forever. I also carried the dutchy in which wasn't too fun since the lid was jabbing into my back about the whole way and there wasn't much I could do about it. But it's ok, because I get a cool sticker.

Tristan F

Thursday of the fifth week we had this hike that was the hardest thing I've ever done, at the end it was such an accomplishment.

Brandon W

The hardest day at NYC was probably Thursday of the fifth week. We walked 14 miles that day on a hike half the time uphill. It felt like it took forever and when I was done I had six blisters on one foot. I'm glad I did it though. I'll probably remember that hike forever.

Jeremy E

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...lots of things about my crew and the fun we had. The most memorable time was when Jeremy tried to kill a horse fly on his junk. He smacked himself so hard he dropped to his knees.

Ryan D

...will be the relationships I made with the crew leaders and crew members.

Joe A

...the most is the friends I made with the crew, rovers and the crew leader. I'll always remember how much fun we had and how everyone was unique and added to the group.

Robi P

...the bonds with other crew members and also the places we've been.

Walt P

...how much I goofed off and made Park mad! It was fun!

Rory M

...is how much energy I put into the work we did. It was a great feeling to see the finished product of very hard work from the past week.

Tristan F

One thing? Well I guess if it were to be one thing it would be the conversations I've had with my fellow crewmembers and especially my crew leader Park.

Brandon W

...is the people I met on this experience. I will never forget the conversations and experiences we had.

Jeremy E

From Now On I Will Always...

...think before I buy a product. After the SEEDS I will be a more conscious, economical and environmental consumer!

Ryan D

...respect the park service and trail maintenance crews. Oh every hike I go on, I will be analyzing the trail.

Joe A

...I will be clearer on what I want and what I need.

Robi P

...have more appreciation for people in poorer countries.

Walt P

...think before I decide to run my mouth uselessly.... well probably not but, I'll try.

Rory M

...pick every knap weed I see. Except those requiring me to move in any direction and/or bend down at any time.

Tristan F

...appreciate the natural world, give thanks for what I have, and respect people even if I don't get along with them that well.

Brandon W

...appreciate the things I have at home. I also will not take things for granted.

Jeremy E

At NYC I Learned...

...many things but the most important are: Don't hit yourself in the junk with a pick-mattock, don't eat turkey and cream, and look at your water before you drink it.

Ryan D

...a lot about people and a consumer society. I learned a lot about nature and how to protect it.

Joe A

...many things such as new card games, new plants, a large array of knots and that I am a pretty good chef, but most of all I learned that you have to accept people as they come because you can change what you are, but you can't change who you are.

Robi P

...new wildlife, better attitude towards life and appreciation for nature.

Walt P

...that being lazy isn't an excuse. I still plan on using it however. To never trout slap another crew member it brings bad karma.

Rory M

...to be more aware of my surroundings. I learned the consequences of ignorance and the rewards of environmental safety. All in all, I now have a greater respect for nature.

Tristan F

I've learned so much, a lot of it I haven't digested yet. The main thing I learned is tolerance, always important. I also learned not to stress the little things as much. I guess I left some of the child in me behind.

Brandon W

...was to try and keep a positive attitude. It makes days go by faster and makes you more hospitable to the people around you.

Jeremy E

Red Crew

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Silver Falls State Park Campground Nature Trail

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

Our first day on Red crew we came to our site and set up camp, did some SEED, and played some games. Monday we worked from 7:15 to 3:45 at Silver Falls State Park. We put gravel down on a trail to the amphitheater. Afterwards we went to the swimming hole! Only some swam in the cold water below the falls and um... chores are happening right now.

Robin J

We are continuing to gravel our trail to make a nice path for walkers in the State Park. Today we graveled about 200+ yards of trail. We also put in two culverts which took less time than I thought. Later in the day we had a wheel-barrow carrying contest to see how many buckets of gravel each person could carry in the wheel barrow, we had a couple of spills, but oh well James was able to set our first record 9 buckets of gravel up hill. We put in a good hard days worth and finished it off by going back to the waterfall again, everyone got in this time even Fawn went in his jeans and did a little sitting freak out right under the fall. I didn't know waterfalls could bite you. On the ride back to camp we listened to some "rock" with AC/DC and Guns and Roses and other bands. Now we are doing choirs, and this is my choir for today so here I am writing journal. Steven has the coolers or trailer. Fawn, Jeff and Kristi have dinner. While Moe, Anne, and Declan make shotgun and James cleans the van. Ryan gets the SEED ready. Wasting space is so hard especially when you don't need to waist it but I guess when you have a little space to write you can't write really anything that has meaning but oh well.

Joe O

Today we finished up the trail that we were working on for the last two days. We really didn't get to continue the wheel barrow contest because we were kind of tired so we all started out with 2 or 3 instead of 5 or 6. I think our crew is really getting into the team work aspect of NYC. Everyone was totally willing to pitch in where need be and it all worked out great. We got our first experience trail building today while Angie and Billy came out to help us. We got a lot of work done today!

Kristi C

Today we worked on the same trail. First we cleared it out and then we graveled it. It was hard work because it was all uphill, but we had fun. Declan, Fawn and Annie played "Going to Grandma's" and brought all kinds of things, including a nautica man, "enlargement" pilk and Singapore. James made up songs about how fun it is to push a wheel barrow uphill in the hot sun. Jim came and visited us, proving that we are his favorite crew! He probably walked on water to get there, because he is cool in that whole Jesus way except he's still alive and has a frosted mustache. The Statesmen's Journal interviewed us and the county commissioner came because we are so cool. We worked really hard today and got a lot done.

Anne H

We hauled gravel up hills, sang songs and on Friday we went to town showered and did laundry. Joe and I walked to Taco Bell and on the way back we bought a Darth Vader costume. Annie dressed up in it and terrorized people and everyone thought she was slow.

James O.D.

**Wenatchee National Forest
Naches Ranger District
Chinook Pass Work Center**

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

We had a blast we had all the crews at our site. We had a holabaloo and got to sleep in on Saturday. That day everyone went on a canoeing trip. Everyone complained and it kind of sucked when we couldn't go on the island. The rest was just preparing for the next week; we also had a fashion show which was hilarious and quite disturbing also.

Joe O

We're pulling nap weed at Wenatchee State Forest because we didn't get to go back country due to the extreme fire danger. But hey, I'm not complaining it was super fun and easy pulling weeds and hanging out with the other crews. We shouted taunts back and forth this morning it was fun too! The rest of the day we "busted out" and did a "bomber" job pulling weeds, way to bustle red crew.

Fawn B

Our crew goals for the week are to get Orange team back for stripping our van. We are also pulling weeds which sucks. Besides that we are looking forward to the weekend site so that we can get another job.

Anonymous

We walked 50 yards then picked 10 weeds then walked another 10 feet and picked 2 prickly thistles and so on until we hit a big patch of weeds. Nobody brought the shotgun bag because it was supposed to loop around the van but it didn't so we missed first break and took a 45 min lunch after Annie and Moe ran back a few miles and got the van. It got cold when we ate lunch but got hot when we worked.

Robin J

Our goals for the week are to get Orange crew back for stripping the van. We are also pulling weeds. Besides that we are looking forward to the weekend site so that we can get another job.

James O.D.

This week we had to pick knap weed. That is probably the worst thing to do. The work is just too simple and boring to exhaust us. The worst part had to work with the sun beating down on us. We cleared four areas of nap weed. We also started a practical joke war between us and the Orange crew. They will definitely lose. We also have pictures of Angie going face first into the lasagna.

Steven A

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

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a little town named Peshastin with a Laundromat in a pear tree. The wolf said too little red riding hood "Buy some fish if you wish." Stay away from those armpits of yours; they've never done you any good. The lord sent them through the railroad tunnels, and he saw that was good. Abraham begot Isaac begot Jacob begot an air mattress. He saw that is was bad, so he stabbed it. My mother came to me and said "what kind of a witch are you?" One fish, two fish, orange fish, your mom fish.

Anonymous

We are working on a trail called the White River Trail. It is cool but the bugs suck. Anyways we are in back country.

James O.D.

Today we did what else lopping and sawing. We worked until 3:15, then we got back to camp and most of us went swimming. The water was really cold, so cold it froze places where I don't think I need to go into detail about. When we got back we did chores and it's about dinner time so I'm going to go eat.

Jeff F

I think the crew learned the importance of working together and communicating with each other. I think we also learned the importance of staying on task.

Joe O

Today we packed up camp and headed out. We hiked a little less than half way out then stopped and worked a couple of hours then continued on our way out. Then we got to our van packed up our van and headed out. We showered and did our laundry then went and ate grubbin' pizza! Now we are at the weekend site 1st again.

Jeanine G

Wenatchee National Forest Cleelum Ranger District Waptus Pass Trail

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

This weekend we hiked out of White River area. Then we went and took a shower and did our laundry. We also got pizza in Leavenworth at Kodiak pizza. We then proceeded to go to the weekend site, for rec. trips we all went swimming. Sunday we started our hike to our crew campsite.

Anonymous

We are in back country and we are making turn pikes and bridges for a new employer of the NYC. I guess we are doing this to make the trail pretty.

Joe O

We want to build turnpikes so we're moving rocks and cutting down trees so we can really build them up really good. We will work really hard and get the project done because we want to impress the Rangers here in name of place because this is our first time working with them and we want them to like us real real good. So they will ask us to work again and turn their pretty smiles on us and we can bask in the warmth of their approval plus we will have a good legacy so other crews can build turnpikes too.

Anonymous

Yes ah yes today we finished our first turnpike and then we went down to the second and finished that also. Then after that we started deconstructing the first bridge and skinned a really big sexy tree.

Anonymous

Our challenges were making turnpikes level, which was hard, but we did it which was cool. We also are trying to build a bridge as well which is cool.

James O.D.

**Wenatchee National Forest
Cle Elum Ranger District
Waptus Pass**

Week 5: August 25 - August 31

On Saturday for our rec-trip we hiked 2 miles up a ridge to an even higher to a ridge over looking the lake. It was hard to get down because we had to slide down a rock ledge. The hike back was mostly flying down the trail. Sunday we worked a bit on our third turnpike and bridge. It was fun.
Kristi C

We are building turnpikes and a bridge to improve the trails in the Alpine wilderness. It's our most interesting job yet, but it is the last week we are all pretty antsy for it to be over. Only a few days left.
Anne H

Our goals for the week are to build some turnpikes and a bridge. So far we have made some really cool turnpikes. They took longer than expected, but its quality work. Back country is fun, but we are getting sick of the lack of showers and the excess of peanut butter. Home seems like a good place to be, but we all will sure miss NYC.
Anne H

Today is our last day of work. We finished the last turn pike today and cut some water bars. The started out looking like it was going to rain so some people wore their rain gear all day even after it cleared up. We ate peanut butter sandwiches again like we have for the past few days since we are out of jelly. We are trying to eat all the left over food so we don't have to pack out any but that's ok. There isn't much food left any way. Hopefully the 8 mile hike out tomorrow won't be too hard.
Robin J

This morning we got up and broke camp. We hiked out to our work site and finished our project. We then hiked to our van. It took 3 to 3 1/2 hours. It was almost uneventful a few people dropped about 400 yards from the van. That was an experience I would not like to have again. We had a store stop and now we are camping. So without further delay good night.
Steven A

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...the first work day because I'd never worked that hard.
Anne H

...when we had a contest on who could carry the most buckets in a wheel barrow.
Jeff F

...the hike up from Pete Lake on our last two weeks.
Joe O

...the first day was the hardest day of work because I didn't know what to expect.
Robin J

...my first week was the most challenging because I had to get used to the work.
Kristi C

...the hike out on the fifth week.
Steven A

...when I realized that I wanted something I couldn't have, and to wait three weeks to be with it.
James O.D.

...during the third week brushing the monotony was really weighing me down and I had to learn to take my mind off the work but at the same time keep working.
Declan F

...either twisting my ankle twice in one day or hiking up hill. 3 hours with no water.
Anonymous

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...the outdoors, my crew and my leaders.
Anne H

...the environment, the knowledge and my friends.
Jeff F

...people, food and work.
Joe O

...sleeping outside, being with the crew and being by myself.
Robin J

...being with my crew, meeting a lot of new and awesome friends and gaining some muscles.
Kristi C

...being with my crew, friends and having some piece and quiet.
Steven A

...weekend sites, rec-trips and camping.
James O.D.

...playing music, being with my crew and finishing work ahead of schedule on the last week.
Declan F

...dinner conversations, work conversations and being loud and obnoxious!
Jeanine G

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...my crew.
Anne H

...my crew of friends.
Jeff F

...my crew and all the people I've met.
Joe O

...how our crew got along so well and how fun it was because of them.
Robin J

...my crew and fellow NYC members.
Kristi C

...my crew and friends.
Steven A

...is the friendship I made.

James O.D.

...the realization that everything is easy.

Declan F

...how funny all my crew members were.

Jeanine G

From Now On I Will Always...

...trust my instincts and follow the flow of energy with groups with people. Always finding a way to refine and create a more harmonist center of being in my environment and my self. I will be aware of others feelings and find what will make my friends feel more at home with me. NYC has helped to create a constructive environment. I can put myself in others places and sense what would benefit us both. I am able to make logical decisions more effectively by the way that NYC was able to challenge my intellect and heart. I will always be in the flow of creativity with humor and good will.

Fawn B

...step back and realize life is simple and beautiful.

Anne H

...remember my crew.

Jeff F

...be stronger and more helpful to others.

Joe O

...be less lazy now that I know what real work is like.

Robin J

...enjoy all that life will bring.

Kristi C

...always respect the people who build our trails more.

Steven A

...be respectful of others and not take my luck for granted any more.

James O.D.

...force myself to be more aware of my surroundings.

Declan F

...to not take things for granted.

Jeanine G

At NYC I Learned...

...team work, selfless/effortless action to get a job accomplished. A wondrous array of new culinary tastes and skills. How to read situations, analyze and adjust myself to suit the given environment to easily obtain productive and new results for work projects that exceed expectations. I learned how to expand my imagination to integrate a fuller experience with my friends. How to remain respectful yet challenging to old patterns to create interesting variations in my life. I have learned to be a fully competent leader and inventor and how to effortlessly interact with any new challenging information and assimilate and reorganize it to make a simpler solution to challenging energy patterns. I am learning to accept all things as harmony and that which is

new and coming into alignment. I have learned complete openness and gentle assertiveness. I have learned gracefulness, or should I say 'remembered' grace in every moment. I have learned to be a weaver of my own unique and exciting experience. I have learned to dream.

Fawn B

...hard work and acceptance.

Anne H

...hard work and values.

Joe O

...learned patience and how to work hard.

Robin J

...to appreciate my surroundings.

Anne H

...about low impact camping.

Jeff F

...to be more helpful.

Joe O

...respect things as they are.

Robin J

...I learned patience and acceptance of everything.

Kristi C

...patience and faith in myself.

Steven A

...not to be picky and to give people a chance.

James O.D.

...to push myself.

Declan F

...that each session is unique.

Jeanine G

Yellow Crew

Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management Sixes River Trail Access “Himalayan Blackberry Attack”

Week 1: July 26 - August 3

After a great orientation at NYC headquarters, we fearlessly plunged into Himalayan blackberry thickets! Armed with our loppers we spent the day battling invasive plants as well as several bees' nests. In the afternoon, a BLM employee gave us an interesting talk on minimizing impact on the environment, which also afforded us a nice break from the blackberries! Our first official work day ended with a spectacular swim in Sixes River. The water is ideal for a summer dip, and the contrast between rocky beaches and forested hills makes for a pretty idyllic setting! As the day winds down, the smell of camp fire smoke is mingling with sweat, and we are enjoying the sense of satisfaction that comes from hard work and play.

Sarah P

Well its long and thorny, its blackberry vine. We are eliminating invasive plants, where you get scratched and poked. We also got work on the creek! We eat at a pick-nick table yeah! The sun on our backs, sweat on our faces and occasionally we pop a berry mmm... they are sweet. After work we go swimming in cold water at the work site.

Ray S

Our crew's goals for the week include: clearing blackberries in preparation for planting big leaf maples and getting used to the routine of camp and work. Not getting killed or seriously injured would be nice too. We found some more beehives today and people got stung. Way too much food was prepared for the second day in a row, so Chris, Garret, and I munched down a few pounds of beans. We were all getting way to full to play any games, so we went to bed early.

Sam S

We learned that stinging nettle is edible and taste like pea pods. Half of our crew ate the stinging nettles. Colin did not eat them though because he thought that was stupid. We also learned how to set up our tents. We worked all the way up the river to our camp. Then we went to the beach and played around the ocean.

Jason A

Right now we are in a coin-op laundry shop and Chris is being talked to by an eccentric old man who describes himself as “an old time hippy”. Good times. Oh yeah and he's drinking “something” out of a paper bag, the hippy not Chris. Blackberries are no good, well the berries are OK but the rest of the bush has no redeeming quality. I'm sure everyone else has written something like that this week, but I had to throw it in once more. Up and coming is the first weekend for us. A well deserved break. P.S. the hippy defended Roseburg by saying “my encounters with the police here have been wonderful.”

Colin S

An egg shape group watches a girl standing in the center 7 girl: ah man. Trippy techno world beats. In the van a couple of peeps tried to sleep. I heard a couple of heavy conversation. “Getting to know you.” Oh that pretty creek glows clean and green. The camp is built for fifty fire-fighters and all there are is the eleven of us. Tents in the shade, we got it made. Just chillin' here on the cool coast with those two fellows chopping wood. Safety's first, follow the rules, no climbing, boys away from girls and no running by the side of the pool. We are stoked because we got a fire for roasting marshmallows, were mellow. This crew here is Yellow, so listen fellow “I know we just got here, but the way were steering, aint nothing were gonna be fearing. We got fun, work and a leader with quirks.

Mason G

Mt. Rainier National Park Wonderland Trail

Week 2: August 4 - August 10

As we hiked to our work site this morning, we had the good fortune of encountering a mama black bear and two of her cubs! Although we didn't catch a glimpse of the third blonde cub, our experience was still exciting. The remainder of our hike was uneventful but invigorating. Our progress at the work site continues, and we are certainly enjoying the satisfaction of helping to create something that many people will be able to use and appreciate. In addition the view of Mount Rainier from the ridge line is spectacular! My favorite part of each day is the hike back to camp. Although we are sore and tired, hiking always feels refreshing, and the trail setting is beautiful. Especially compared to pulling blackberries, trail-building is great, and our fun and rewarding job is proving to be well worth the rough trek in!

Sarah P

Disclaimer: I do not especially enjoy writing in this form especially when the physical aspects in which I speak are just a small figment of my past imagination. Anyhoo.... These damnable insects are extremely annoying and I have found myself going on massive sprees of killing them. Then I feel guilty because I don't think that it is my place to decide that they should die. It's like I have put many of my morals on hold here at NYC. That kind of frustrates me because it feels like I am betraying myself in some ways. Damnable destructive and desperate human measures!

Ela N

This week we were in back country in the Washington Wilderness of Mount Rainier. This is fairly simple to write because I feel that the accomplishments are just the product of our challenges. For example the "enormous" boulders in the middle of the trail we are making were heavy challenges. We pushed through them and got the task accomplished though. By far the biggest challenge of the week was the hike in. Too much food and horrid packs made for a miserable 8.5 mile hike with 120 pound loads. A personal challenge was feeling disrespected and belittled when I had trouble with my pack. We got here, built our trail, and moved rocks. Those were our accomplishments.

Mason G

We went to the weekend site which basically everyone agreed was at least partially lame. We made dinner and ate it. It was cold by the time I got to it. We went canoeing and the guy running it acted like we thought he was some kind of all star because he knew how to canoe. We just spent 6 or 7 hours hauling all our stuff for the week into back country Mount Rainier. Ela compared it to experiencing hell. I agree with her. P.S. Sorry for the downer journal I will make up for it next time.

Colin S

Our project this week is to create a new section of the Wonderland Trail at Mt. Rainier. We are doing this because part of the trail has become steep and rough. This was our first day actually building trails. It went pretty well for our first go at it. I would estimate we got around 100 feet done today. Quite a few large rocks got in our way, but we got them out with the come along. Back country is actually pretty nice after the hiking is over.

Sam S

Mt. Rainier National Park Wonderland Trail

Week 3: August 11 - August 17

On Saturday we went to the lake and some of us swam. Yesterday Chris, Ela, Sarah, Garret, Colin and I got up at 5:00 to hike out for resupply. After the 8.5 mile hike we chilled at the lodge until Angie came an hour and a half late with our food and alternate. The alternate, our new crew member goes by Pam. She seems pretty cool but walks slow.

Mason G

This week we were working on building a new trail. We are doing this so people can get to this one easier. Today on the way to work I got lost, I walked 2 miles past our work site, which was kind of funny. Today is my second day of work.

Pamela D

Our goal this week is to bust out at least 500 feet of new trail. Yeah it's going ok I guess. The best part of making the trail is rolling large rocks down hill and seeing how far they will go. Yeah, I really hate writing. I was never good at English or Language Arts. Science and Math, that's my area of expertise. We played a game where we had to yell as hard and loud as we can until it has lost its fun, it was pretty stupid.

Garret B

This week we had a lot of hard work. It pays off in the end. We were in back trail building a new trail. When we thought we got this stretch done we had to do it again which was really annoying to me. We had fun anyhow; we played football at the lake on the Mount. We became a close group and I am glad to be on Yellow.

Ray S

The biggest challenge would be the hike into our camp. For the first week it would be walking at least a mile to work and a mile back to camp after work. I guess the next biggest challenge would be not doing laundry or taking a shower. The work is challenging too. I think our biggest accomplishments would be getting through everything in the first two weeks of back country.

Jason A

Wenatchee National Forest Leavenworth Ranger District White River Trail

Week 4: August 18 - August 24

This weekend was different from the last few. We weren't quite as used to the weekend site as the rest because of our 2 weeks in back country. We made a mistake on our idea for our skit on Saturday night, but we talked it out with Angie and Chris and we resolved quite a few problems. We drove out to our trail head this morning. The hike in was a piece of cake compared to the last one, and our new Rover Walt was surprised how well we handled it, and at how well we packed our backpacks. Dinner was good and now most of us are going to sleep outside.

Sam S

What we are doing this week is cutting viney maple and other brush. We are in Wenatchee National Forest. We are clearing the surrounding brush around the White River trail. Beast Master is fly because he has 2 ferrets, 1 tiger, and a hawk.

Jason A

Our goal this week is we are going to cut 3000 feet of viney maple, and get the mouse that is eating our food! Our camp is the shiz-niz, its right by the river; yeah that's right White River.

Anyway we are becoming a tight nit group and we are keeping it real with everyone. Walt is real comedian on the work site.

Ray S

We learned that week four is a mega-pain-in-the-butt. We learned the many uses of the weed's we found. We learned that Walt is a funny man! We learned that clearing viney maple would be easier if Taws was our crew leader. Mice suck!

Mason G

Although we were initially skeptical of what our new work site would be like, we were impressed by the amazing campground, which was a welcoming change from our site at Mount Rainier. With a view of White River's sea foam water, we had no difficulty enjoying our location. In addition to our new scenery, the hike into our site was sort of like a gift after the tough trek to Mystical Lake. At the beginning of the week meeting our goal of cleaning four hundred feet per day was our main challenge. After we quickly surpassed our target distance, enjoying the sometimes tedious task of lopping and sawing became our real struggle. The hot afternoon sun also put a damper on our motivation. From noon to about three, the prospect of diving into the river kept us working hard and gave us something to look forward to. Even though Walt returned to White River for a second week of brushing, he maintained a positive outlook, and his sense of humor helped us stay focused too! Imagining the various responses of Jaws (James Bond) in different situations was also a great source of inspiration. Unfortunately in the middle of the week a rogue mouse decided to raid our bear hang. Since we chose to pack in less food in the first place, we had to become a bit more creative with our meal planning. We manage to eat well and hold out until Friday. This week we continued to uphold our tradition of arriving last at the weekend site. After quite an adventure in the van we finally found the site, an appropriate ending to a week that tried our patience but proved to be fun nonetheless.

Sarah P

**Okanogan National Forest
Methow Valley Ranger District
Pacific Crest Trail Restoration**

Week 5: August 25 - August 31

We went into the weekend site. It was better then our second weekend site, but most of us did not want to be there. We all ended up having some fun and a cool time at the rec. trip. Then we went on an hour drive to our last week working for NYC.

Jason A

Yellow crew is in the North Cascades working on the Pacific Crest Trail. We are mostly busting rocks and widening trail. We are the mightiest caterpillar in the mountains. The systematic caterpillar that is. I do not need additional room to write because this is a "spectacular" prompt.

Mason G

These prompts are boring. Our goal is to make it to grasshopper pass and not go crazy thinking about Friday. We're going to try really hard to not hang "Walt the agro-motivator", but no guarantees. One of our goals was to stay capacitated despite the dehydration. I personally learned that marmots don't talk back to me. Small animals do not vocalize. We like water.

Anonymous

We learned that trail maintenance is easier than cutting vine maple. Squirrels can't climb out of a five gallon bucket with water and Chris' dad was crazy. Ray is a barbarian and/or Satan. War sucks. 95% wheat/grain is used for cattle instead of feeding the "people". Corporations suck; they make the rich people richer and the poor people poorer, and they are forcing advertisement down people's throats.

Garrett B

This week was our last. We were working on the Pacific Crest Trail which was a big pain in the “you know what”. The work was really fun; smashing through rocks, wearing cool PPG glasses, getting along with each other. Our contact, Justin, looked like he was about 17 so it was hard to take him seriously. As Monday came around we had to only hike a tolerable amount. The view was amazing, Mt Baker, Canada, mountains, etc. Then “Bub” ate with us. He liked vesper. Anyways we did about 7900 yards of trail. We hiked from one part to the other part in less than five days. When we got to the end the group was in a joyous mood after finally reaching the end. On Friday we had to only work for 3.5 hours then we packed up camp, which everyone was happy about. Then we slept at a park in the middle of the night like common hobos. How I know why Walt sleeps alone, for he has excessive gas. We had on heck of good run.

Ray S

My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...

...going up Mt. Rainier with 130 lbs on my back.

Colin S

...Yeah... What he said.

Sam S

...struggling through the hike to our camp at Mt. Rainier and then mustang enthusiasm for the following day of work was definitely my toughest NYC experience.

Sarah P

...when we hiked eight miles up rugged terrain with excruciating heavy packs.

Ela N

...hiking to our camp on Mt. Rainier.

Ray S

...the hike in at Mt. Rainier! Having a positive attitude after the eight and a half mile hike was too challenging!

Sararose R

...was the hike to Mt. Rainier.

Pamela D

...the enormous hike into Mt. Rainier. We got through it with no drastic, traumatic injuries despite the torment and pain.

Mason G

...the intense hike up Mt. Rainier but with team work we all made it without any regrets.

Jason A

...eating three to four pounds of refried beans for dinner.

Garrett B

My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...

...being a gnome and crawling into the maw of blackberries with Mason, hiking the eight miles out of Mount Rainier, and eating good food with the whole gang and knowing we were half way done with the week.

Ela N

...sleeping in on weekends, hanging with friends, and food.

Pamela D

...licking Mason’s face, looking off viewpoints on Okanogan, and my three showers.

Colin S

...orientation was funny, meeting the yellow crew, and taking three showers in five weeks.
Ray S

...getting away from home, sleeping under the stars, and actually being able to see the stars (no light pollution).
Sam S

...being able to stay strong with the labors every day for periods of time finishing the hike at Mt. Rainier and sleeping in the van! Staying with NYC learning new things.
Sarasore R

...waking up beneath trees at White River, being awed by the view from the Okanogan watch tower and hiking at sunrise through Mount Rainier are three of my most memorable experiences.
Sarah P

...hiking up Mt. Rainier, getting along with everyone, making new friends, and saying goodbye after five weeks.
Jason A

I loved just seeing a tiny glimpse of the cinnamon bear and her cub(s). The re-supply at Mt. Rainier was a muscle ripping blast. I'm nearly positive we all set personal records.
Mason G

Sleeping underneath the stars, the hike to Mt. Rainier, and looking at Mars.
Garrett B

One Thing I Will Always Remember...

...the exhilaration that I felt upon reaching the tip of a ridge along the wonderland Trail and being surrounded by Alpine meadows washed in morning light.
Sarah P

...the night we spend at a rest area.
Pamela D

...the whole trip to Mt. Rainier. Two weeks of back country.
Ela N

...the feeling of finishing the last day of work.
Sam S

...not quitting yet thinking about quitting every day.
Colin S

...the rush of being able to stick with the work we've been doing... Over a period of time in the pouring down rain, blazing sun or windy days!
Sarasore R

...never to eat three to four pounds of refried beans for one meal.
Garrett B

...is to keep an open mind to things and every body has views too.
Ray S

...how our crew accepted everybody's views and kept an open mind. I will especially remember Jason's realization about how he views Wal-Mart and how the terrorists view America.
Mason G

...the conversations between me and Mason.

Jason A

From Now On I Will Always...

...work harder; make people scared to work next to me.

Pamela D

...yearn after remote places, savor a hot shower, appreciate well gladed trails, listen to Johnny Cash during road trips, and sleep under the stars at least once a month.

Sarah P

...will always appreciate a well done trail.

Sam S

...never again think that I need all the modern conveniences to have a happy comfortable life. I will always give more thought to everything I consume and think if I really need to consume it, I don't like the word "consume".

Colin S

...miss being in tune with, and sleeping in nature, if I stray.

Ela N

...think toilet paper as a luxury.

Garrett B

...not take anything for granted no matter how small or big it seems. I can now enjoy nature more and understand my surroundings.

Sararose R

...be more cautious about how I treat Mother Nature and consume Mother Nature's resources.

Ray S

...have hope in the future and faith in my fellow people. I will again realize the sanctity of silence and a community that works hard together, not just chill.

Mason G

...work and rely on myself and not any one else.

Jason A

At NYC I Learned...

...to think and work as a group, instead of worrying about myself. I learned how to prevent my lower back from hurting so bad. I also learned that a lot of the modern "necessities" aren't so necessary.

Sam S

...that I need a lot less to live than I think I need. I learned that I am a lot of different personalities some which I hate and some I like. And I learned that people had to get along.

Colin S

...that metal external frame back packs are very uncomfortable and that I enjoy using human skin as a canvas for art. I also saw that many people are shining being when they open up and show their true selves.

Ela N

...that when you hike for a long time you don't want to become dehydrated because you can't think or see straight! Also you must have food to eat or you don't have any energy to work!

Sararose R

...how much we can enrich our lives by withholding judgments and seeking out the wisdom and beauty that everyone has to offer. I have also learned the importance of personal change and the necessity of spontaneity.

Sarah P

...toilet paper is a luxury, there are major corporations, and hard work pays off.

Garrett B

...that eight-inch boots are a wonderful luxury. I also learned how to get the best nature wipe in the Northwest. And I also learned people have ways of enduring through hard work and challenging times and raunchy smelly farts.

Mason G

...how to understand different people's opinions, I learned how to work as a team, I learned how to put up with rules I don't like.

Jason A

...to be a team player and get along with everyone.

Ray S