

APRIL OVERVIEW

KINGS CANYON BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREW

AGNES VIANZON

Our journey has begun. Here we are with 17 new faces and many different emotions as we embark on this new adventure.

For the first time in Backcountry history all seven crews joined together for orientation at McClellan Business Park in Sacramento, CA. During our first week we started our conversations about Backcountry Standards and Expectations, community development, sobriety and so many other pieces that make up our season. By the end of the week, our minds filled with knowledge and training and our bodies ready to work, we bid goodbye and good luck to all our new friends and set our compasses south to Kings Canyon National Park.

The 2010 Kings Canyon Trail Crew is:

Alyssa (Andi) Anderson, Jerome, ID
Taurean Coles, CCC Fortuna
Dimitri Connell, Denver, CO
Hayden Counts, CCC Santa Maria
Alex Garcia, CCC Tahoe
Laura Gunter, Little Rock, AR
Brian Kovalick, Des Moines, IA
Noemi Larios, CCC Monterey Bay
Christopher (Dewey) Loft, Ventura, CA
Anna Mattinger, Cupertino, CA
Drew Page, LACC
Jenell Paulson, CCC Camarillo
Manny Salazar, CCC Pomona
Allen Schroeder, CCC San Luis Obispo
Mitchell Stephens, CCC Inland Empire
Meredith Stott, Dallas, TX
Julian Wearing, Albany, NY

We were greeted by Cameron Aveson (Kings Canyon 1993) and armed with maps in hand we descended from Grant Grove into Cedar Grove. I will never forget my first time driving into Kings as a Corpsmember and similar excitement was met as I now drove my own crew in. The first views of the canyon are stunning. The mighty Middle and South forks of the Kings River converge after being separated by the Monarch Divide. After an impromptu snowball fight and crew photos, onward to our first camp of the season, aptly re-named 'Peter' Lewis Creek. There we were greeted by our sponsors. Our foreman, Matlee Hagadorn (Kings Canyon 2007), Carlos Alvarez (Stanislaus 2002), Bobby Zekanoski (Kings Canyon 2007) and our amazing and wonderful cook Rebecca Tipton. We were home and put our heads down listening to the sounds of the river.

For our first week of work we continued our orientation with First Aid/CPR training and NPS orientation. We also finally hit the trails learning trail maintenance and chain saw logging runs. Although we've just started we were able to get 18 miles of maintenance under our belts.

CURRICULUM/ACTIVITIES: We have continued discussing ways to create a positive learning environment and also have started one at a time 10 minute question and answer sessions.

ODDS AND ENDS: Many thanks are in order to those who helped made this season possible and send us off to a good start. First off, thanks to David Muraki for his part in creating the backcountry program over 30 years ago, for your continued support as CCC Director and all your words of wisdom. Thanks to Philip Lafollette, Program Director, Tessa d'Usseau, Program Administrator, and Karlson Hubbard for all your hard work and dedication during the off-season and continued passion for the program beyond words. Thanks to Debbie Reid and Roxie Brown from the Fortuna Center for overseeing the hiring process. Mark Rathwohl for all your safety advice and well wishes. A special thanks for all our instructors during orientation week, Cynthia Aguayo, Marcia

Welch, Scott Sherman, Mike Morse, Jimmy Camp, Samantha Dunn, Tim Warren, Tony Cervantes and George "The Boot Fairy" Hawley. Greg Cutler and Jeanette Sipple for hosting all of us at the McClelland Business Park and Michael Kyalwazi and all the folks from the Cafe Le Monde for keeping us well fed.

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

April 23rd 2010

Day 1 in the Wilderness

"And here we are. Many of us have waited weeks. months. Some of us even a lifetime, and here we are. We are Kings Canyon 2010 Backcountry Trail Crew. Guided by our three elders: Agnes, Matlee, and Bobby Z; sustained by our cook Rebecca, and lead by some inexplicable force in hearts that burns hotter than our campfire. And as we sit together fat, happy, excited and spoiled ---- ignorant to what lies ahead, it makes no difference, because through we aim to make our own mark in the mountains, what we desire most is for the mountains to make their mark on us. And again. Here we are. Arm in arm laughing and singing as we walk into the dark together, hoping all 17 of us make it to the light that lies five months ahead. And here we are."

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