

August 2013 Overview
Kings Canyon Backcountry Crew
Supervisor Tessa D'Usseau

Overview:

The month of August went by in a flash! It's hard to believe that we've only been here two months. The crew has caught on to rockwork quickly and are completing their first project and moving on to the next. The finished products look awesome and our NPS sponsors are happy with the results. We still have lots of wall to build before we're through. Besides the actual rockwork on the grade, the crew has had an opportunity to participate in a number of set-ups for blasting and pinning rocks.

Curriculum and special events:

Back in camp, we've been keeping busy with our usual evening curriculum and a number of special events. We started the month with a talented open-mic night with crew visitors from the NPS Environmental Compliance Division(Nancy Hendricks and Chanteil Walter) and budget analyst from the NPS maintenance department (Kris Thornbury- Former 5-year CCC backcountry cook) stopping by to enjoy the performance. The Olympics has been creating a lot of competition between corpsmembers over the last few weeks with highly "skilled and conditioned" athletes performing in events such as: wheelbarrow race, rock crushing, water pumping and drinking. The final events will be happening next week! Halloween was another event the crew planned this month with some creative costumes and lots of treats. Community meetings continue to be the forum for discussion of camp concerns and issues. This month's facilitators were Sandy Rose, Manny Sanchez, Dan Arce, Jeff Burnor, and Ivonne Del Rio. Weekly JHA's included burns, moving rocks, repetitive stress, food storage, and lighting. We continue to meet each morning for our tailgate safety circle-ups. The final consensus on the crew T-shirt design was solidified and mailed off to solo sports. We can't wait to see how it turns out. Corpsmember classes taught this month were Tea Party (Kelsey Kuhn), Skateboarding (Dan Arce), History of the Human Race (Andrew Merklingshaus), Calisthenics II (Andy Head-NPS), and continued monitoring of the crew's strength and flexibility.

Weekends:

Weekends find the crew taking advantage of this opportunity to get out and explore this spectacular area. They've been out to Amphitheater Lake, Bench Lake, Hester Lake, Cardinal Lake, Barrett Lake and to Split Mountain.

Odds and Ends:

Happy Birthdays: Nick Nelson- CCC, Edlyn Clevenger-NPS Crew Foremen

Thanks to Max Moly for visiting and volunteering to work on the trail for a week.

Thanks to backcountry alumni (Kings 2011) Kyle, Carson, Erin, Laurel, and Lisa for stopping by to visit with Greg and Andy on your JMT journey!