

August 2013 Overview  
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Klamath Crew  
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Overview:

Dramatic fire and ice set the stage for the Klamath Pacific Crest Trail. In thick smoke, thunderstorms, and pelting hail, our crew of 16 ascends through the arms of the forest, reaching the beige ridge top between King's Castle and Tyler Meadows. We work in a nutrient-deficient soil as red as Mars. The serpentine rocks we crush look alien until they are in the ground, sparing the trail from erosion and elements that besiege the Marble Mountain.

These mountains stand testament to all we aspire to be as a crew. Our ideal becomes a reality. On a different timescale, our bodies harden, brush frames our faces, and we stand tall, relishing the punishment of fire and ice.

Rather than plateau, our crew peaks higher and higher. As the Salmon River and Orleans fires range, blankets of hazy smoke surround us, evoking a sense of timelessness akin to the rolling fog of the North Coast. August winds blow through and reveal thoughts of conclusion. But instead of preparing to disperse and greet cities with new found self-confidence, we turn inward to save our last seven weeks together.

The season is finite—regrets are not. Hula hooping, dancing and singing in the dark, we revel in the bonds we've formed with each other. Sacrifices of missed weddings, funerals, friends, and family have sloughed off. Joy in camaraderie fills our souls. August brings a spiritual and practical imperative to be vulnerable and intimate. Honesty breeds trust. Each crewmember shares his or her skills, love and experiences and gets them back 16-fold. We feel freer now. There's not a lot of gold left in these mountains, but there is infinitely valuable and life-sustaining resources to mine from one another.

With our dirt-crusting cloths and shaggy hair, we now appear as rough as the rose and peach spackle exterior of the stones we place. But like the stones, we have the serpentine-green energy of youth and the peridotite-blue nobility of purpose in our cores. Just like the stone structure we build, our closeness and contact give our crew its integrity. This month we work as a more cohesive unit. We laid scores of checks and waterbars. Although the season's end looms near, the rock we leave in the mountains will stand as our legacy long after the season is over.

Our stone-masonry runs deeper than a job on a work-learning program. We work to make the world a better place. In newish philosophy, the concept of *Tekun Olam*, "making whole the world," says that we must partner with God in the work of Creation. Although the mountains have been separated from the sea, we must complete them by mantling the mountains with trail and armor from erosion. Move profoundly, the trails we build provide intimate access to a wild place of rare and primal beauty, where people commune with something transcendent, and in turn, gain more intimate access to themselves. Our task this season is to make whole the world.

Work Production:

Maintenance Miles 9 miles

Checks 148

Waterbars 17

Single Tier Wall 100ft

Curriculum:

What an incredible month for corpsmembers to lead trainings. Freddy, Rachel, and Gabriel guided us into our cultural diversity workshops with classes about Latin food and dance and the History of the Jewish Sabbath. Critical thinking workshops such as sterling course on Plato's "Allogamy of the Care" and Peter's in-depth look at American History subjectively. David and Patrick instructed us on Day Stone Masonry Safety Practices and "How to deal with burns?" was covered by Freddy and Nathaniel. Our guest taught us about team work and chaos. Thanks everyone.