

August 2013 Overview
Yosemite I Backcountry Trails Crew
Supervisor Larissa Fuller

Overview:

Greetings from the Yosemite I Backcountry Trail Crew! August has been an exciting month full of epic backpacking trips, awesome rock work, a maintenance spike, celebrations, and even a surprise camp move! The crew is learning to roll with the punches better every day, and only getting stronger for it. As the day we say our bittersweet goodbyes draws closer, the mood of our crew positive and determined.

The crew split up during the first week of August, with half the crew continuing their rock work projects towards Volgelsang Pass while seven of us went on a three-day spike to do some sorely-needed maintenance on the trail heading to Babcock Lake. Maintenance was a breath of fresh air and we also got to build a rock-retention wall as a special project. Individual rock work projects are providing us with a plethora of opportunities to hone our skills in drilling, high-lining, terracing, and creating quality steps, checks, walls, rip-rap, and water bars.

Curriculum this month has been full of corpsmember biographies and classes. CM, Kelsi, Kai, and Tera shared their life stories with the crew. Pricila's class on constellations came in handy for the August meteor shower. Tera taught us about collaborative art, Chris Main held a Leadership class, and Amy shared a team-building workshop. Other classes this month included: Backcountry Inventions, crew expectations, transition out of backcountry, whiffle ball training, and a thank you letter-writing session for those who have supported our crew through the months.

We've taken advantage of the short time we have left in the park we call home on our weekends. Trips have been made to Tuolumne Meadows, Bernice Lake, Parsons Peak, Amelia Earhart Peak, Twin Bridges, Echo Valley, Mt. Lyle, and an all crew-mate trip to Cloud's Rest for a gorgeous sunset, followed by witnessing the next day's sunrise on top of Half Dome! Future plans include Labor Day weekend Thousand Island Lake and revisiting Red Devil Lake to summit Red and Grey Peak.

Thanks to the collaboration of the T-shirt committee and the art work of Tera and Liz, Yosemite I has incorporated some of the seasons best memories onto its personalized shirt; we can't wait to see the finished product! The Sunday-Funday committee planned crew whiffle ball practice in a nearby meadow. Lastly, the party committee organized an epic Star Wars party - in a Backcountry Camp far, far away - where crew members and sponsors dressed up as characters from the saga and ceremoniously destroyed a Death Star Pinata in honor of the Rebellion.

Visitors to our crew this month included: the Munoz family, CM's long-time friend Shelley, who hiked to the sunrise area, and Kaibin's brother, a Backcountry Trails Crew graduate, and friends, who traveled all the way to Bernice Lake. Huge thanks for their heartfelt efforts, gifts, food, and company.

The crew celebrated Amy's 23rd birthday this month. We were also surprised with another camp move - which was carried out with impressive grace and efficiency - including carrying twelve bear boxes for more than a mile uphill to our beautiful new home. As we settle into our new home, we look forward to

our last month of this amazing program. Although the end is in sight, we do our best to stay present, work our hardest every day, and enjoy all the wonders this park has to offer.

Our words of wisdom this month come from Yosemite Park Ranger Shelton Johnson:

"Now I know my shadow as it fell to the earth, cooled it a bit before moving on. Now I know you can never have too much quiet in your life if it is quiet that finds you in the mountains or the forest. You can never have too much light if it's the kind that falls out of the sky at dawn or dusk. You can never have too much darkness if it's the blackness between the stars. You can put too much sugar in your sweet tea, but the sweetness that fills the air with every step you take as you wander through Yosemite Wilderness, how can you have too much of that?"