

# Log Steps

*The Official Newsletter of  
the Junior Ranger Program*



Session I

June 6 – July 1, 2016

The Junior Ranger Program builds a **safe** work experience **dedicated** to preserving land through natural **resource management** service. Through our work, we foster **awareness, knowledge** and **respect** for natural and human communities while cultivating personal **growth**.

**O**ur community  
**P**ersonal improvement  
**E**veryone contributes  
**N**ature is our classroom

**S**uper nice trails  
**P**urposeful work  
**A** amazing people  
**C**are for one another  
**E**nvironment is protected

**A**lways working hard  
**N**ever giving up  
**D**o what needs to be done



**M**any great ideas  
**O**n the road to success  
**U**pon us, responsibility is instilled  
**N**ew people are welcomed  
**T**eamwork is the ultimate  
**A** amazing at our job  
**I** am capable of more than I thought  
**N**o tool left behind

**P**ositive attitude  
**A**sk for help  
**R**eally try hard  
**K**now we will learn life-long skills  
**S**uper fun summer

## On Completing Four Years of Service

Open Space & Mountain Parks has been part of my life since I was born. I have grown from a baby carried by my parents up Mt. Sanitas into someone who uses OSMP for everything - mountain biking, to trail running, and canoeing. No matter the activity, I have always looked forward to discovering new trails and revisiting old favorites. The Junior Ranger program allows me to give back and contribute to the trails I have used my entire life.

In my final summer as a Junior Ranger, I have been contemplating how the program has helped me to evolve from an OSMP trail user to a dedicated public lands steward. Junior Ranger work is arduous, but when my crew walks down the trail at the week's end, we are rewarded with the unmistakable sight of an improved trail. Each time I step aside to let a child pass, I am reminded of the value of my work because I used to be that kid.



The true magic of the Junior Ranger program resides within each individual crew member. Each summer, youth from the Boulder area descend upon our work station with a unique common quality: the verve and dedication to give back to the lands they call home. It is the enthusiasm held by all involved that keeps us coming back year after year. I am always amazed by what we are capable of, the many ways crew members motivate each other to do their best, and how we teach each other what it means to be a Junior Ranger.

- Jackson Martin, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Crew 3



# Junior Ranger Dictionary

*By Crew 4 aka  
'Chi Warriors'*

**Braid:** A trail made by hikers, bikers, or runners that is parallel to or a short cut for the original trail. Braids are created when the original trail isn't the easiest path.

*(We closed down a long section of braids at Marshall Mesa and enjoyed returning to the area to view the impact of our work.)*

**Chi:** The central aspect of Crew 4's identity. It is related to finding your place in the crew and connecting with those around you. *(We enjoy centering our chi to find motivation for a long day of work.)*

**Hinge Point:** The meeting point of the tread and the backslope. *(We learned about this during a great day of work at Spring Brook.)*

**McLeod:** A tool used to spread dirt, duff, or other materials. It is particularly useful for tamping down material. *(We used a McLeod to gather duff to cover a slashed section of trail.)*

**Rock Bar:** A large metal bar that can be used as a lever for removing rocks. *(We learned about leverage and teamwork through the challenges of using the rock bar.)*

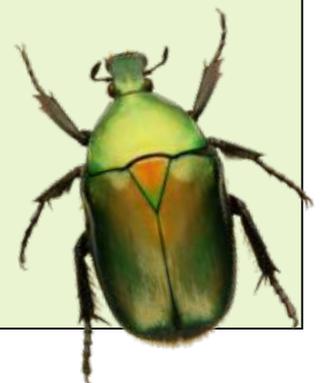
**Rock Set:** The process of moving a rock to a new location and securing it in the ground. Common places for rock sets are the ends of closed braids. *(To shut down braids, we used crush and loose dirt to keep rocks in their new homes.)*

**Rolling Grade Dip:** A structure comprised of an apron (ramp), berm (backramp), and outfall that helps remove water from the trail. *(This was the first thing our crew accomplished together.)*

**Slashing:** Restoring a section of tread or social trail by using a pick to rip up (aerate) the soil, and disguising with duff, logs or rocks. *(We powered through whole days of slashing to meet our goal of finishing the Marshall Mesa braid closures.)*

**Stretch Circle:** Each morning, at the base of a trail, junior rangers circle up and stretch before work. This helps to get ready for work by warming up and getting to know each other. Every day, there is a different topic of discussion that each person answers while choosing a stretch for the group. *(Some of our favorites include: spirit animals, superpowers, and favorite movies)*

**Tool Captain:** The person in charge of the tools for the day. This person keeps track of tools. *(Always count the tools at the beginning and end of the day to make sure we have them all!)*





Practicing navigation skills



Helping to improve OSMP's ecosystem with the Forest Ecology Management Program



Sharing passion for our lands



Working on the Dry Creek Trail project



Preparing for the day ahead



Team agreements build a strong foundation

## We Are the Wonderdogs

From waterbars to unbreakable scars,  
 curling rock bars, restoring land  
 so charred, we love our  
 work and we take it far.

The pain of the mundane  
 is not our passion,  
 so we're all thrashin' to do  
 some slashin' in our yellow/steady/strong fashion.

Segoi, Segoi – It is so.  
 buckets make me say, "Let's Go!"

Fire lines, fire lines,  
 our hard work should be a crime.  
 Stunning views and butterscotch pines,  
 Nature makes our work divine.

We are the meaning of a crew, we are  
 the Wonderdogs, we say  
 Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaooooooooooooooooo!

By Crew 1 a.k.a. One-derdogs



Drawing by Lily Horst



### Speargrass

**Speargrass, oh, speargrass  
 How you pain me in the back  
 You have earned your name**

- Ben Santos

### Summer

**The warmth of the sun  
 The crunchy grass and dry trail  
 All in a day's work**

- Quinton Dombrowski

### Tools

**Don't let them burn you  
 They help us to build the trails  
 And they are heavy**

- Jessica Booth

(Haikus provided by Crew 3)



## Crew 5 Considers the Community Value of Junior Rangers

### Why is the Junior Ranger Program important to the city of Boulder and to you?

I believe that the Junior Ranger Program is very important to the city of Boulder. One reason I believe it is important is that it gives kids the chance to help restore and maintain the trails they love. The program helps keep trails in good condition and restore parts that have been damaged. Looking at the work we have done involving fixing flood damages is really inspiring. Also, all of the people in this program set a positive example for the city of Boulder. We treat each other, our environment, and our community with respect. This program also helps get kids involved with the city of Boulder so they can help out and see the kinds of things the city does. Doing this job has helped me learn so much about nature and the trails, specifically what goes into maintaining and keeping trails in great condition. It has also taught me how to work as a group and learn new skills that may help me later in life.

- Michael Conde, 1<sup>st</sup> year, 14 years old

Often Junior Ranger work goes unnoticed, but it provides an unseen support system to the trails of OSMP. The program gives high school students a chance to engage in a very helpful work environment. Junior Rangers is often a person's first job and it lays a great foundation for work experiences to come. Junior Rangers lets teens give meaning to their summer. This time is spent outdoors learning about the environment, creating bonds with new people, and working to make a difference in OSMP. Junior Rangers gave me the chance to meet people that I otherwise would not have known, and this made the transition into high school much easier. It was very reassuring to see a familiar face as I started high school.

- Abby Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 15 years old

## How To: A Guide to Junior Rangers

1. Wear Yellow and shine bright!
2. Be a master of trail terminology
3. Work hard for your Boulder community
4. Embrace the sweat
5. Learn the difference between “Hiker Up!” and “Hiker Down!”
6. Do your part
7. Be unable to tell if you’re tan or just covered in dirt
8. Make water your best friend
9. Keep spirits up
10. Learn to love the heat and protect yourself from the sun
11. Good shoes = no blisters!
12. Get into the activities
13. Immerse yourself in the experience
14. Know your crew members
15. Keep your integrity

- By Crew 2 -



## THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK: Junior Rangers as an Opportunity for Growth

Junior Rangers isn't just a summer job. The skills a Junior Ranger acquires and the experiences they have during four summer weeks are carried with them throughout their entire life. Here are a few examples of how my three years with the Junior Ranger program has influenced my life and helped me become the person I am today.

Junior Rangers has helped me to learn the value of teamwork. I have always had a hard time working on group projects for school, but after seeing what can be accomplished when working with a crew, I feel more confident and can work more effectively with others. Junior Rangers has taught me to appreciate nature and the outdoors. Spending six hours a day in the beautiful Colorado foothills has inspired me to spend more free time outside camping, hiking and exploring. Finally, as a returning Junior Ranger I have gained confidence in my leadership skills and taken on leadership roles on soccer teams and at school. The skills I've learned in this program are truly lifelong skills. I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to participate as a Junior Ranger.

- Alana McClements, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Crew 3



# JUNIOR RANGER'S

## -SAFETY BADGES-

These are the Junior Ranger safety badges, which represent the safety concerns we must consider while working on the trail.



By Grace Freeman, Crew 2



Sharing accomplishments with the entire JR staff.



Training to become better "Industrial Athletes"



Improving drainage on Spring Brook Trail



Learning to use a map & compass



Maintenance under sunny skies



Building a strong team



Taking pride in the work



Grace  
Lukas The Kiwa Alex  
Michael Traveling Louie Julia  
Quinn Josh  
Jack Rowan Gang fiona



Learning about forest ecology tools and tree health from the Forest Ecology Management Program



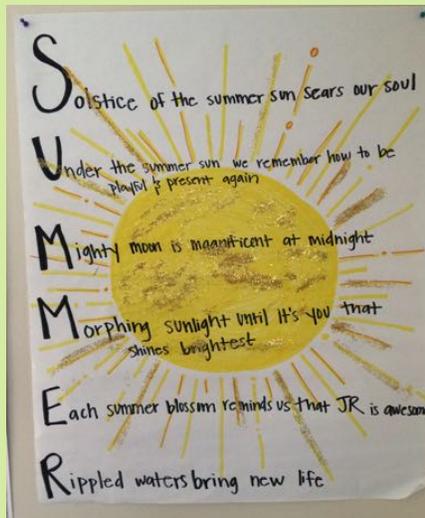
Working on the Dry Creek Trail



Cooling off during a break



Setting rocks is hard work!



JR's speak at OSMP staff meeting

## A Day in the Life of A Junior Ranger: A Poem and an Ode

By the Chi Warriors (Crew 4)

The sun is shining down on OSMP trails  
Although the air quality is poor  
We still show up without fail

Each morning we go over our work for the day  
We apply sunscreen and get tools  
Then we hop in the cars and get on our way

At the trailhead, we stretch and ask a question  
We gift each other spirit animals  
Our work and friendships we invest in

We then review safety and some possible concerns  
There are dangers on those trails  
But the Chi Warriors are never deterred

Us Junior Rangers on the trails  
Working off our tired tails  
Sunny day at Marshall Mesa  
No trees for shade brings sweat to our faces  
We're working hard to help out Boulder  
So the trails are good for when it's colder



## Can We Dig It?

By: A Tribe Called Tres (Crew Three)  
(Original song by: A Tribe Called Quest)

Can we dig it? (Yes, we can!)  
Well I'm gonna! (Go on then!)

Can I dig it? To all the rangers who can  
Work like Crew Three does,  
Before this, did you really know what a McLeod was?  
Hiking on the trail for it's too wide,  
Getting psyched in the 'burb 'cause we're JR lifers!  
Set a rock in the heat of the sun's love,  
Wipe your feet really good on the nature rug.  
If you feel the urge to drink, take a big glug,  
Come and spread your arms if you really need a hug.  
Trailcentric living is sweet job,  
A life filled with all it is that I love.  
We attack the trails like a boxing glove,  
The rhythm really fits us, it's so snug.  
A shady trail is such a plus, love,  
As the tribe flies high like an osprey.

CAN WE DIG IT?



The legacy of the Junior Ranger Program is supported by the contributions of its many project sponsors, collaborative partnerships, crew leaders, and the City of Boulder's commitment to its youth.

# THANK YOU!



Session I [June 6 – July 1]

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## OSMP Junior Rangers

A program of the Community  
Connections & Partnerships  
Division of Boulder OSMP

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/junior-rangers>



## Thank you, Junior Rangers!