

Log Steps

*The Official Newsletter of
the Junior Ranger Program*



Session II

July 11 – August 12, 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**.



By Crew 1





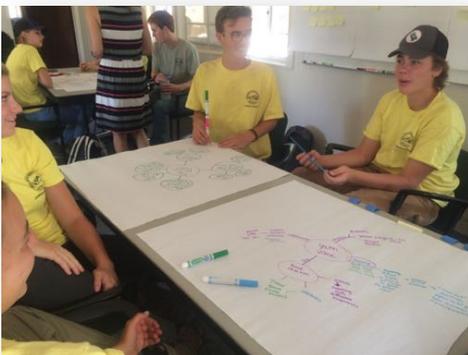
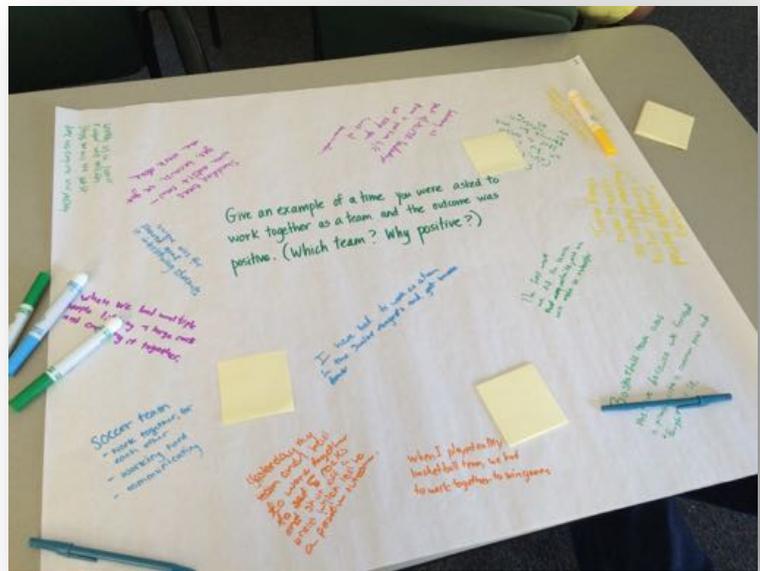
Growing Up Boulder – A Reflection

- Crew 2 -

In our third week with Junior Rangers, Crew 2 was given the opportunity to work with Growing Up Boulder (GUB). GUB is a program within the environmental design group at CU-Boulder. This program helps facilitate youth input and decision-making processes for creating change within our community.

Our crew met with GUB to brainstorm ways to encourage youth to become more involved in their communities and Open Space & Mountain Parks. We enjoyed coming up with contributions to the community by voicing our ideas and suggestions throughout the activities.

For example, we were able to express the importance of the way Junior Rangers allows us to interact with the Boulder public. GUB offers a great way to be heard and feel valued as a young adult in Boulder.



We really appreciated our time with GUB. Most of us didn't know this program existed before the workshop, but now know how we can get more involved in our community. We are this world's future, so it is important that our voices help shape the place we are growing up in.

Crew 4 Work Log: *South Boulder Creek Restoration Project*



We took a break from Green Mountain to work

with ecologist Adam Gaylord. We removed willows to discourage the endangered Preble's meadow jumping mouse from moving in for the winter. The flood restoration project needed an access area for their machinery and we wanted to prevent the mice from getting hurt. Two OSMP staff members joined us: Ericka Pilcher and Katy Waechter. Our guests taught us a lot about resource management and the historical ecology of the area, which was an eye-opening experience for all.



Week 4: *Long Canyon (Flagstaff)*

During the fourth week of our session, we worked on the Long Canyon Trail near the top of Flagstaff. We met up with two members of the adult trail crew, Kelly and Tim, who explained our goal for the week. We were to close down/restore the old section of trail, and put finishing touches on the new stretch



of tread they had been working on since last fall. Some of the work included ripping up the old trail with picks and distributing rocks across the old trail. The first day on this trail was tiring and reminded us of hauling rocks at Lion's Lair Trail. We worked together as a team to move a large pile of dirt down the old trail, and a game of telephone ensued. This game is one of the ways we've learned to keep our spirits and energy high while completing what might otherwise be a monotonous task on a hot day.



Osprey observation at Sawhill Ponds



Picnic table repairs at Wonderland Lake



Helping the Forest Ecology Management Program



Connecting with OSMP staff at South Boulder Creek



Learning about agriculture on OSMP at Cure Farm



JR's arrive for a busy day at work



On Communities and Individuals: Some Lessons from Junior Rangers

It seems that many political issues are ultimately about space: who is allowed to inhabit which spaces, and in what ways may they inhabit those spaces to which they have access? How should a society or community apportion its space, and who should make that decision? These questions manifest themselves in our architecture (compare the Boulder Courthouse on Pearl Street to the Flatirons Mall in Broomfield), in our sense of safety, in the racial compositions of cities and neighborhoods, and, of course, in our open spaces.

The city of Boulder, in valuing both environmental preservation and access to the spaces where ecosystems are preserved, has a fairly unique relationship with physical space; it is our job as Junior Rangers to realise that relationship. Thus, the work we do serves not just to protect ecosystems, but also to maintain the identity and health of the Boulder community: easy access to open space is perhaps bedrock of the city-wide love of the outdoors, which is central to the cultural identity of the region.

But that which makes open space a truly *public* space, existing for and created by the entire community, is the fact that those who maintain it—including the Junior Rangers, adult crews, administrators, and voters—are those who benefit from it. The Junior Rangers, by and large, have grown up within this public space, and thus from childhood have benefitted from this community endeavor. Working as a Junior Ranger thus acknowledges the work already undertaken by the community to create and maintain a public space that protects the environment and increases public health, and then seeks to maintain that space and for the present and future generations.

The successful maintenance of open space demonstrates that—at least within certain cultural contexts—personal actions have immense potential to become political realities. Open space continues to exist and flourish largely because individuals, motivated by a love of the natural world and their community, can come together to maintain the communal vision of beautiful, accessible, sustainable open space.

Thus, the success of the Junior Ranger program demonstrates that it is at once the strength of communities and the strength of individuals that build the kinds of spaces that enhance the lives of individuals and health and happiness of communities. It shows that individuals do have the power to effect concrete change, and also that communities are essential in making that change sustainable and possible. In short, it demonstrates that a harmonious, symbiotic relationship between individuals and communities is both possible and desirable. The living proof, in the form of the Open Space & Mountain Parks system, is before our very eyes.

- Joseph Stein, 1st Year, Crew 3

NOTES FROM THE FIELD:

Excerpts from a Weekly Nature Journal

By Kyra Pease
- Crew 1

I learned the most from doing risers this year and what goes into a more intense project. I also got to use more tools than ever before. Also cool to learn a bit about leadership and what it takes to lead by example and also by experience. Also I

was very persistent and determined to get out the silt bank of reparation. I realized the importance of sticking to the job & getting the work done.

I have always felt very connected with the Earth. There is nothing quite like being outside. It clears the head, cleans the body, and feeds the soul. In my personal opinion, the natural world is crucial for human happiness. It is really where we are meant to be.

Prover Poem 

- down the river
- the bubbles go
- chasing after each other
- so they won't be alone
- down the creek river
- a spider goes
- hungry on for dear life
- to find a new home
- down the river
- little pebbles flow
- # tumbling & churning
- along w/ the undertoe



Hiking the Long Canyon trail with special guests Tracy Winfree and Chris Wanner.



Collaboration & Respect – two key city values that contribute to Junior Ranger success.



Junior Rangers excited for a new day on OSMP



Cleaning ditches brings smiles



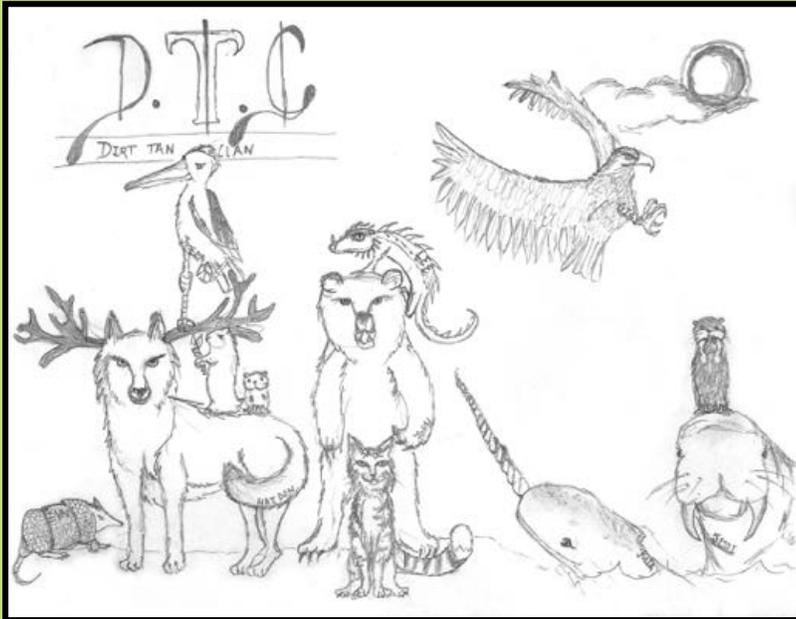
Improving steps, setting rocks



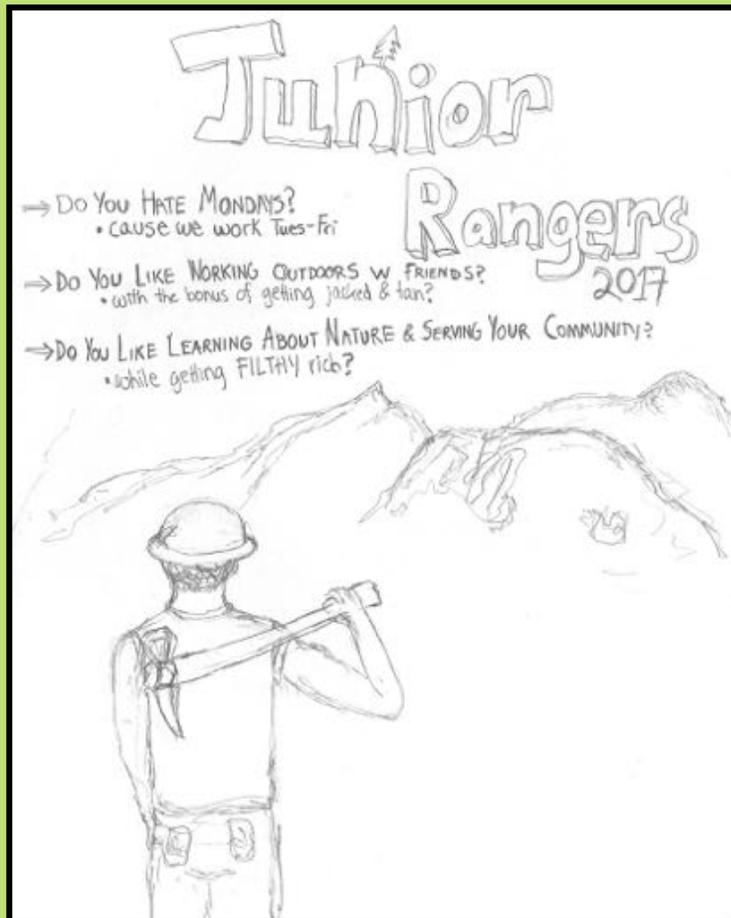
Enjoying a well-deserved Sweet Cow ice cream reward



Learning about stream ecology



The Spirit Animals of the 'Dirt Tan Clan' aka Crew 1



Join Junior Rangers – By Crew 1

Crew 2 First Years: Our First Year Experience with Junior Rangers



Junior Rangers is one of the best opportunities for young adults in Boulder. It not only mixes hard work and fun while being outside (the best), but gives young men and women tools to unlock success in other areas of their lives and future. The program offers a one of a kind opportunity to learn about and experience the outdoors - right in Boulder's backyard - and to grow as individuals within our community. We follow five core city values each day when we are in the field: respect, innovation, collaboration, integrity, and customer service. Each one of these values teaches us lessons we can take with us that help us to be respectful world citizens.

One of the biggest lessons we learn at Junior Rangers is about responsibility. This trait, and its continual development, comes into play on the job in several ways: having to be on time, an expectation of quality work, a standard of doing your fair share, and an underlying integrity in everything we do. These simple lessons and standards that the program teaches and lays out for us help us to grow into responsible young adults.

Some of the most important things we learn at Junior Rangers relate to work ethic and ownership. We learn about doing what needs to be done while holding our work to a high standard. The expectation that we come prepared to work with an attitude of efficiency, build a community of helping and support while on the job, and that we give 100% to the job at hand to build ownership. We work hard for common goals, push ourselves, and use our resources along the way to finish the job right every time.

Beyond work, the Junior Ranger experience is about community. We create a wonderful, engaged community in the workspace, and gain tools to form future meaningful connections. We build these social skills through experiences that encourage us to adapt to, and make the most of, each situation. We build community by learning to work efficiently with new friends, applying teamwork to get jobs done, and using our voices to find shared solutions. We also build community in our commitment to customer service by understanding public needs and how to cater our work towards customers. We collaborate not only with each other but also with the wilderness. We respect all resources in our group and environment when completing a task.

From responsibility to work ethic and even community building, the skills we learn come from lessons big and small. In the end we all benefit immensely and walk away with a new sense of being and who we are. There is nothing else like it.



High (Rebar) Stakes: A Trail Journal by Crew 5

Day 1:

Mesa Trail. Rocks everywhere, dirt under our feet, in our ears and noses. Preparation day was in full swing. Our task seemed simple: remove and replace three log steps. Little did we know, there was a surprise in store for our team. We broke off into teams and began to power the efficiency train. Some people moved logs from the trucks, some gathered dirt (and maintained water bars), and others were “crushing it.” Four people collected and crushed rocks with sledge-hammers, protecting their eyes from the dust and rocks with safety glasses. The rest of the crew prepared the logs by hand-drilling holes for the rebar. Everyone was participating as one unit, and knew how their piece would contribute to the rest of the project. It was clear that the team was all in it together and we had just begun. The logs were our biggest project of the year and while our socks were high, our spirits were higher.



Day 2:



We started our day with the wind at our back, fog obscuring our vision, and dodging poison ivy with rock bars in hand. (Alright, it wasn't that epic of a scene but it sure felt like it!) A feeling of camaraderie swept over the crew as we united hands (kinda) and walked the trail. With the old rotten logs pulled from the earth, our site was prepared for the new logs. The trail was our canvas and the logs our paint. We worked towards achieving a balance between intense work and graceful servitude to the wonderful patrons of the trails. (Shout out to all our new hiker friends!) We set the logs with gumption and a perfectionist eye. The hole was a perfect fit, after 642 rocks were painstakingly placed. We cached our tools, 2 of 3 logs down, and only the rebar left to go.

Day 3:

The day started as any other. Unbeknownst to us, we would soon face our most taxing obstacle. As Emma and Carter breezed through the first two rebar stakes, trouble was-a-brewin' down trail. The first few strikes of the sledgehammer slid the rebar in like butter. Then progress stalled. Our motivation dwindled but the rebar held firm. Others moved on to new projects as the original three stuck with trying to pound the rebar. With every swing socks dropped lower but the rebar did not. As a crew we debated other strategies to insert the rebar; working as a team, switching hitters, short quick hits, long powerful hits... We tried EVERYTHING but it wasn't enough. Max's muscles never gave in... but suddenly the whole crew saw a glistening hacksaw. Putting down the sledgehammer we sawed away. Meanwhile, down trail our third and final step went in with ease. Along the way we learned that a strong team trumps individual pride. Our flexibility led us to some of the most rewarding and sustainable work of the summer.





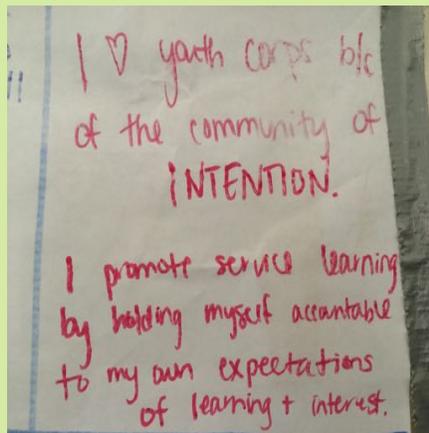
Building steps on the Mesa Trail



Painting tables at Wonderland Lake's nature center



Checking outslope so water flows off trail



Three thumbs up for Junior Rangers



Taking the Suburban out on the day's assignment



Learning about Boulder's watershed

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 II [July 11 – Aug. 12]

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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!