

Session 1 LOG STEPS



STEWARDSHIP



TEAM BUILDING



SENSE OF PLACE

JUNIOR RANGERS



Session I

The Junior Ranger Program has been engaging Boulder's youth since 1965. That's over 50 years of service! In that time, the program has employed over 4,000 youth, providing opportunities to learn job skills, work as a team, and protect wildland resources for future generations.

What impact will you make this summer?

A JUNIOR RANGER DAY

A day spent working with Junior Rangers is a far cry from a lazy day of summer vacation, but it's much more rewarding. Each crew of ten Junior Rangers works together for four weeks on a variety of trail maintenance projects. Crews remove vegetation from the corridor, repair drainage structures to keep water off trail, and learn to assess maintenance needs of individual trails. Junior Rangers also get to work with adult trail crews in mitigating potential forest fires by clearing combustible materials as well as removing invasive plants to restore ecological balance.

When Junior Rangers aren't cutting new tread or restoring existing trails, they are defining what it means to be a steward of the land. Crews have a chance to familiarize themselves with local ecology by learning from naturalist experts about native flora and fauna. For some hands-on environmental education, the teams explored hiking trails in wheelchairs to understand the importance of creating a universally meaningful trail experience for all users. The Junior Ranger Program not only produces quality trail work, but also ensures that employees gain an understanding of why the work they do is so valuable to the City of Boulder.

Junior Rangers at work!



WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Junior Rangers have been working hard throughout the four weeks of our first session. Pictured to the right, Crew 1 shapes the back slope of the newly cut reroute on Green Mountain West Ridge.



Trail Stats (session 1)

- Total Junior Rangers: 40**
- New trail created: Over 550 feet**
- Total work time: Over 4,250 hours**
- Environmental ed. time: 12 hours**
- Drainage structures maintained: 334**
- Days working with adult trail crews: 11**
- Trail braids closed and restored: 236 feet**



Zach Shepherd

CREW SNAPSHOTS



Crew 1 AKA: Leaf Gang

Favorite trail: Crown Rock, Flagstaff

Crew motto: Work hard play hard

One word to describe your crew: Floral



Crew 2



AKA: Kanga-Two's

Favorite trail: Goshawk

Crew motto: Good scoopin' with ya

Theme song: National anthem



Crew 3



AKA: Slough Gods

Favorite trail: Lion's Liar

Crew motto: Full send or no send

One word to describe your crew: Spicy



Crew 4



AKA: Preston's Peaches

Favorite Trail: Green Mountain West Ridge

Crew motto: Gucci Gang

Crew theme song: Sajdaa



ERGONOMICS TRAINING



Ergonomics training promotes proper lifting technique, functional fitness, and efficient movements. It acts as a preventive safety measure for the physically demanding tasks of the job.

BIKE TO WORK DAY!



Junior Rangers placed 13th out of over 300 companies this year that were participating in Boulder and Denver's Bike to Work Day. We had over 25 bicycle riders, and many other Junior Rangers who bussed or carpoled to work.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY EDUCATION AT OSMP



Topher Downham led an educational program highlighting the value of ensuring that OSMP lands are accessible for everyone. Crew 4 took off around Wonderland Lake to gain insight into a day on the trails for a different user group.

HELLO FROM THE YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR, NATASHA STEINMANN



My favorite part of the Junior Ranger season is that each crew has a definitive turning point when shy strangers become confident, inseparable, passionate teams. The sense of community these crews build is so strong – it’s almost palpable! I grew up in Boulder, and our natural landscape is very near and dear to my heart. But what makes me excited to get up every morning is you – the amazing teams of young people, and all the incredible work and growth you accomplish each season!

I love this program and what it does for our community and our youth because my journey started here too. When I was 15, I landed my first job as a Junior Ranger. What I didn’t realize was that this first job would also give me a stronger sense of self, an incredible team and community, and ultimately, a career. Prior to returning to Boulder this year, I trained over 100 new crew leaders over the three years I worked with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) as a Conservation Program Coordinator. I have also led my own crews of youth and young adults as a Crew Leader for both VYCC and Northwest Youth Corps. I hold a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon, where I focused on environmental education, social science, and sustainable design. I am thrilled and honored to be returning to the Junior Ranger Program, coming full circle back to the program that shaped who I am today!

In addition to my own connection to and experience with this program, I bring five years of experience in youth corps culture, leadership development, environmental education, conservation trail work and carpentry, supervision and mentorship of staff, and cross-organizational collaboration. I look forward to exploring ways to engage more of Boulder’s youth in outdoor service learning, to build opportunities for young people to continue to develop their skills, and to situate the Junior Ranger Program as a necessary and valued work force for Boulder’s public lands.

Yours in service,

Natasha

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the City of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks community for supporting the program and creating a space where Junior Rangers can grow. We are deeply grateful for everyone who shared their time and knowledge with us. Junior Rangers’ ongoing success would not be possible without the continued support of our community.



Session 2 LOG STEPS



STEWARDSHIP



TEAM BUILDING



SENSE OF PLACE

JUNIOR RANGERS



Session 2

The Junior Ranger Program has been engaging Boulder’s youth since 1965. That’s over 50 years of service! In that time, the program has employed over 4,000 youth, providing opportunities to learn job skills, work as a team, and protect wildland resources for future generations.

What impact will you make this summer?

THE JUNIOR RANGER LIFE

The second session of Junior Rangers always gets off to a quick start! With four fresh crews of Junior Rangers, each crew of ten or eleven jumps right into trail work. A variety of maintenance projects are undertaken. Teams maintain drainage structures to keep water off trail, clear vegetation that is creeping into the corridor, and train their eye to assess the maintenance needs of individual trails. Junior Rangers also assist adult trail crews with projects such as clearing combustibile materials to mitigate potential forest fires and installing fencing to allow trampled areas near trails to revegetate .

Junior Rangers also perform a lot of work beyond just trail maintenance including forestry, invasive species removal, and occasional help with agricultural projects. Junior Rangers also have the opportunity to learn from naturalists about Boulder’s natural environment, from the layout of our watersheds to animal adaptations that allow them to survive in our open space. A crew explored around Wonderland Lake in wheelchairs to understand the importance of creating a universally meaningful trail experience for all users. The Junior Ranger Program provides a balanced work experience that not only accomplishes trail work goals but also provides employees with an understanding of why the work they do is so valuable to the City of Boulder.

Junior Rangers at work!



WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Junior Rangers have accomplished a lot in the four weeks of our second session!

Right: Members of Crew 3 proudly display their work repairing a rolling grade dip on the Ranger trail.

Below: Members of Crew 4 move soil from a freshly cut reroute on the Green Mountain West Ridge trail.



Trail Stats (session 2)

- Total Junior Rangers: 43**
- Days working on Green Mountain West Ridge Reroute: 19**
- Total work time: Over 4,250 hours**
- Environmental ed. time: 13 hours**
- Drainage structures maintained: Over 300**
- Days working with adult trail crews: 9**
- Seasonal record for pounds of rock/soil/compost moved: Over 50,000 lbs**



CREW SNAPSHOTS

Crew 1 AKA: The Leftovers



Favorite trail: Skunk Canyon

Greatest accomplishment: Moved 16 tons of rock in two days

Crew fun fact: Counted 63 dogs on trail in a single day



Crew 2

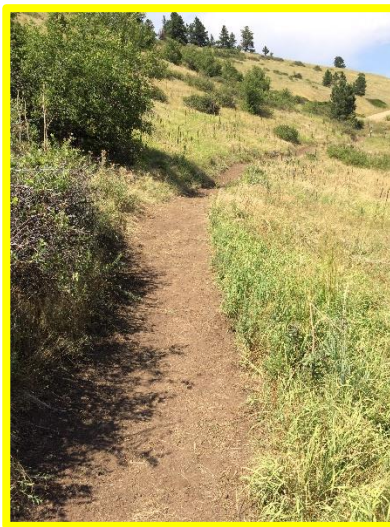


AKA: Crew 5

Favorite trail: Homestead

Favorite team activity: Gratitude circle

Best moments: Legendary mafia games, taco potluck



Before

After

Above: Crew 2 shows off their 'paper poison ivy garden' after learning how to identify the plant.

Left: Crew 2 made tangible progress when sloughing and debraming the skunk canyon trail. Their widening of the path is meant to fix 'trail creep', wherein trails move downslope over time due to hikers stepping off trail to avoid mud, loose rocks, and other inconveniences.

Crew 3



AKA: Mountain Bee Bandits

Favorite trail: Ranger Trail

Favorite team building moment: Numbers game (74!)

Toughest challenge: Bucket train (5 tons)

“Watch the sun rise at least once a day.”
-- Crew 3



Crew 4



AKA: The Functional Dysfunctionals

Favorite trail: Green Mountain West Ridge

Crew theme song: Dancing Queen

Toughest challenge: Poison ivy



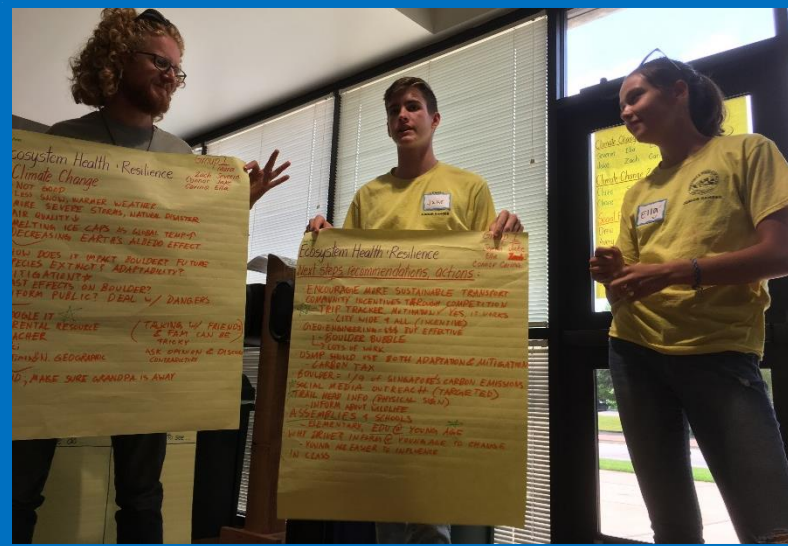
MASTER PLAN COLLABORATION



Community Connection, Education, + Inclusion
 Topic: **Social Equity and Inclusion**
 Key words: **Outreach, Accessibility/Inclusion**
 Top Recommendations:

- Education
- Bi-lingual signage
- Programs w/ BIRD
- Trails for the differently-abled
- Advertising
- safe spaces + accountability
- Latinx community
- programs w/ summer

Share Out Group 2
 Group names:
 Cathy Drew
 Avery Jaella
 John Luc
 Annika



This session, Crew 1 attended the OSMP All Staff Master Plan Summit. This plan's intent is to build on Boulder's long standing public lands legacy through articulating a management plan for the community's open space over the next decade and beyond. Junior Rangers partnered with Growing Up Boulder to elaborate on why they value our public lands and their management hopes for coming years.

FOCUS ON FENCING



Multiple crews had the opportunity to work on a fencing project with a goal of encouraging visitors to stay on the trail tread. To address this, crews carried logs into the site and constructed fencing on high-risk trail segments. Biodegradable coconut fiber was laid down to allow vegetation to regrow on trampled areas of land.

SETTLER'S PARK MULTI-CREW WORK DAY



Crew 4 worked alongside Junior Ranger Naturalists, the FEMP team (*Forest Ecosystem Management Plan*), and Rangers to clear vegetation such as Russian olive from around Settler's Park. The day was spent pulling and fire lining (passing objects down a line of people to expedite the process) branches and vegetation to a chipper to thin out a densely wooded area.

HELLO FROM THE YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR, NATASHA STEINMANN



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