

Where Do You Read the Voice?



Pete Weisel, guidance counselor at the Vernonia Schools, read the Voice at the Arctic Circle during his summer vacation with his wife Sandra and chocolate Lab Emma.

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the yellow, green and blue crews to camp and take recreational trips to nearby points of interest like Crater Lake.

We started our first week on an island close to Eugene brushing out an old dirt trail. It felt slow because of all the new experiences I was having (like getting up every day at 4:30 am), and it was also our most difficult week overall, with nine wasp nests and 104 degree temperatures. The second week, we pulled a ton of knapweed and sweet clover on logging roads. We also had an incident where our cooler was briefly stolen, prompting us to change campsites. The third and fourth week we built a trail to Opal Lake, a nice little lake a few hours away from Eugene. We also found a throwing axe in the woods, which was really cool. The fifth and final week was spent pulling English ivy off of a hillside.

At the end of my trip, I realized that I had connected to all of these people on a very

personal level. We worked, laughed, and lived together, and it drew us very close together. I may have liked some more than others, but I will miss them and the experiences that we shared. I learned valuable life skills and that I can push through difficult situations while working to keep a positive mental attitude. I really benefited from the structure of the program emphasizing personal responsibility and individual growth. I definitely learned to appreciate many of the things that I take for granted at home, like time to relax and a hot shower each day. I also learned that mayonnaise does not actually NEED refrigeration.

I would recommend NYC to anyone who is willing to put in the physical labor and long days in exchange for a unique experience where you can find new friends, see new places, and discover parts of yourself.

~Brad Ely

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