

2007 SCA Canada-US Program North Cascades National Park and Skagit Valley Provincial Park

With the continued support of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, eight high school students and two Crew Leaders joined together the United States of America and Canada to embark on a 35 day Conservation Crew adventure with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) this summer.



The Crew

The eight Canada-US Crew members for the 2007 summer were chosen from both the United States and Canada. The students learned a great deal about the Skagit Watershed and conservation through the hands-on projects they completed in both the North Cascades National Park and the Skagit Valley Provincial Park from July 9 to August 12.

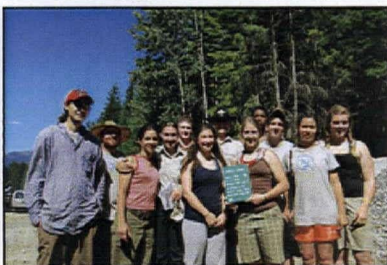
The 2007 Canada-US crew members included:

1. Sarah Rosenthal – SCA Alumni from Chatham, NY
2. Megan Thomas – SCA Alumni from Kitchener, ON
3. Isabella Welch – SCA Alumni from Oak Park, IL
4. Cameron Faccenda – Federal Way, WA (left early)
5. David Brown – Kennebunk, ME
6. Todd Bertwell – Los Angeles, CA
7. Olivia Jaffe – Sands Point, NY
8. William Lomax – Camp Springs, ME



These students were led and supervised by SCA Crew Leaders Kory Hottel of Denver, Colorado and Caroline Correia of Kitchener, Ontario. Five time returning Crew Leader, Kory Hottel came to this crew with a diverse background in trail, rock and lumber construction projects ranging from Alaska to Antarctica as well as medical certification as a Emergency Medical Technician. Caroline Correia returned to this crew as a two time returning Crew Leader with dynamic energy, flexibility and teaching experience. She also brought with her a Wilderness First Responder medical certification.

Project Accomplishments



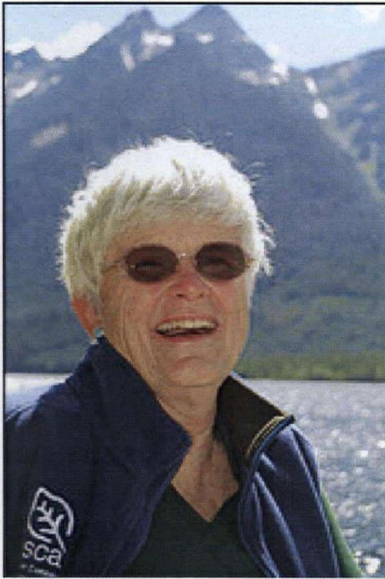
The SCA Canada-US crew's summer project was divided between the two countries, starting in the Skagit Valley Provincial Park and finishing in the North Cascades National Park. The crew was presented this year with a plaque to be posted in their honor for finishing the reopening of the Galeene Lakes Trail in Canada (see picture at left). This year's SCA Canada-US crew also built three new trail construction projects totaling 320 feet, built and maintained three rock walls totaling 40 feet and built two rock staircases 20 feet in length. The crew also cleared trail by brushing 10 miles of

trails and cutting out 60 trees. Lastly, they worked hard to construct two tent pads and one timber structured gazebo which will last a long time.



Educational Development and Service Learning

The students were introduced and exposed to a wide variety of trail maintenance and construction skills as they completed their work projects. But for the last 50 years, SCA has worked to provide crews more than just trail skills and to use the crew setting to introduce students to amazing natural surroundings and extraordinary experts in the field. Here is a sampling of other opportunities open to the crew because of this experience.



1. This was SCA's 50th Anniversary year and to help celebrate, this crew met the founder of SCA – Liz Titus Putnam. Meeting Liz brought the past and future of SCA together and inspired students to see how just one person can make such an impact.
2. The crew also was able to attend a fantastic event, brought together by all of you. The SEEC day on the water was a great experience for the students to see so many individuals committed to the watershed and to meet commissioners, staff, superintendents and ministers.
3. After completing their work projects, the crew was able to enjoy another part of the greater Skagit Watershed for their recreation trip. They hiked 33 miles from Little Beaver to Hannegan camp by Shuksan Road, it took them through three separate drainages (Skagit, Chilliwack and

Nooksack) and over two passes (Whatcom and Hannegan). They also day hiked up Copper Ridge adding an additional 6 miles and new territory to their trip.

4. Throughout the program the crew carried interpretation guides and learned about the native plants in the Skagit watershed. The crew also focused on watersheds and the importance of clean, fresh water and how this affects the communities around the world.
5. The students also researched and taught each other different topics such as knot tying, weather patterns, orienteering, stargazing and many others.
6. Prior to heading into the field they toured the North Cascades Visitor Center and Wilderness Center pouring through the maps of where their adventures would take them and asked questions of the rangers.
7. Many rangers visited the crew and taught them all facets of the area. For a few examples:
 - a. Gerry – Shared his knowledge, history and love of the area,
 - b. AJ – Pointed out stars and constellations and taught them about American bats,
 - c. Matt – Taught about black and grizzly bears and safety,



Many, many others interacted with the crew too ...

Personal Growth

So many elements of living and working together for 35 days helped shape our students and their development. A large part of their transformation is in the group dynamics of these ten individuals themselves. It is also here that many students grew personally with long lasting impacts.

- 1. Bringing together two countries in such a close interaction creates a bond stemming from what student know and what they discover about each other. It provides a natural arena for the students to learn.**
- 2. This experience provided a clear opportunity to develop leadership and life skills while the crew explored their professional and personal aspirations.**
- 3. Students walk away inspired by what the have been able to accomplish and by what they can now create and achieve in the future. They understand the power of an individual to make change in the environment and world.**
- 4. This crew and leaders created an experience that will shape the future of these students.**

Recognition Ceremony and Picnic

SCA, North Cascades National Park and Skagit Valley Provincial Park joined together for the recognition ceremony, boat tour and picnic again this year on July 28, 2007. While visiting the crew, SCA staff also evaluated all aspects of the program (project, crew leaders, agency, vehicles and housing). This yearly event celebrates the opportunity created, the work of the crew, the successful partnership of all parties involved and the generosity and commitment of SEEC.

Looking ahead to 2008

Due to the nature of the project, the beauty of the area, and the tremendous support provided by SEEC and both agencies, this year's crew was again a great success and continues to unite two countries. Both agencies have already clearly expressed a deep commitment to hosting the SCA Canada-US program next summer were this again a possibility. From SCA's perspective, we would be honored to partner with SEEC again in 2008.

Thank you again for a summer of success!

Sarah Zablocki

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