

Taylor Donahue
PRM 308- 1241

Week 7 Report

Job Duties: July 18th-24th

Wednesday 19th (6 hours): Today I was able to sit in another meeting but this time it was with people from different areas of the conservancy, county, clubs, and the city of Buckeye. Jane my supervisor was there as well and a lady Carol from the conservancy who creates schedules and different ideas for the conservancy moving forward. They were talking about the orientation they will be having in October and how they will change it up a little from the year before to make it better. There was a man from a mountain biking club who has been a part of setting up many different organizations in the north, and they like his input because he has helped with young conservancies. There was also Steve who I have met and works with the Conservancy but also volunteers and does a lot of the working with the cities and legal areas to help the conservancy grow and be sustained with the people growing around the mountain parks. Bob Wisener was also there who works with the city of buckeye and is in charge with a lot of what goes on. They told me that he was the main reason why skyline regional park was built and he humbly added that there were many other people who helped get the park in existence. While in the meeting they went over the schedule of the orientation and how they wanted it to go. It was fun to see the orientation in its building process and made me want to go even though I won't be able to volunteer as much in the future as I am now. I was also able to help them with a problem they were having with people wanting to group together and not being able to contact each other. For example, if someone wanted to do a hike or get to know the park a little better they would like to have a message board where everyone can contact each other and say, "hello everyone, looking to go to ford canyon who would like to join me on Saturday..." I gave them the idea of the crew app which is free for anyone to use and people can add themselves to the app to be a part of the message boards. This keeps people's numbers and contact info a little more confidential if they don't want to be giving their numbers out. It was a fun meeting and I was able to talk to Bob after and he would like me to meet up with one of his park rangers named Adam in Buckeye and shadow him for some experience. I went home after this, journaling and reporting on my day.

Saturday 22nd (9 Hours): I had a good long day today because I was able to go in around 2 pm and sat behind the desk and watched them work the register and help customers. While I was sitting there I was able to read a binder full of information on the park and the conservancy. They also had books and flora/fauna and I had fun learning about some of the different plants and animals in the area that I have seen but couldn't identify. I also was excited because when I first got there a lady from the library came and got Marie because there was a scorpion on one of the shelves. It was a fun experience to be able to catch it and bring it back to the room where they keep all their critters. They have a bunch of tanks with different snakes and rattle snakes. They also have a spider and scorpion tank. When Justin the park ranger came in he put the scorpion in the scorpion tank. After they closed at 4pm I joined Justin in getting a truck and

shadowed him in his rounds checking for cars and people. He was making sure that everyone was okay and nothing was out of the ordinary. We got back and helped people find where the memorial service was and Aaron another volunteer for the county was working the desk after hours for the Service and I was able to chat to him about different classes we have taken because he was working on homework while it was slow at the desk. Around 7:30 pm I joined Justin, Joe, and some other volunteers for the Scorpion hike. We helped families hunt for the scorpions at night. We advised them to stay on the trails and to not touch the scorpions with any parts of their bodies but many people didn't listen. I was in charge of counting everyone and then caught up and stayed in the middle of the group to make sure that we were herding the group down the path and no one was lost. There were some people going rogue with cages to catch the scorpions and people going off trail but we worked hard to keep them on the trail and not touching the wildlife. There was also a bug expert and a petroglyph expert that gave us some information on the two subjects. The bug expert also set up a net with a led light so that he could capture bugs and study them later. It was a fun time and after I journaled and reported about it. I also took pictures today while I was a part of the festivities.

Sunday: (8 Hours): Today I took a hike around the skyline regional park, and I feel like I did many hikes in the beginning but now I hike less and less because I am seeing how the organization runs now. It is nice to get back to my stewarding roots and see all the people come out because the weather has been a little cooler lately because of the rain. When it doesn't rain it gets really humid though. This can be a little harder sometimes because you can be just standing there and be sweating just as much as you would be hiking 3 miles on a treacherous path. I was able to do the Verrado Lost Creek Trail to the Skyline park. I went a little deeper into the Skyline park going down the mountain wash and around quarts mine and back down the lost creek trail. I saw some wildlife like rabbits and other small mammals on the way. It seems there was more wildlife out because the weather has been nicer and there has been more moisture. After I was done I posted on social media, journaled and reported on my day.

Monday: (3 Hours): Today I worked on finishing my reports and going over what I did this week. I also have been in contact with Adam to see what dates he would like me to come shadow him in skyline. I also have been emailing to get join the front desk again to help them out and watch the dealings of business there. I also worked on the newsletter some more because I want it to be perfect for the end of my volunteering when it gets posted to the website. I am excited because even though I have 2 weeks left, I still have some fun events planned and am looking to fill other days with more events to fill the empty spots of my week. I am working on the schedule for my last two weeks as well because I want to make sure that I get over the 240 hours and don't have to scramble last minute.

What I learned:

I learned that everyday people can put in a lot of work to build a park and make it work to have people be able to hike and ride the trails while still preserving the wildlife in the park. I was really excited to meet Bob who works for the Buckeye parks and recreation department and he was the main person who put in Skyline regional park.

I also learned that when working with people in the park or at the nature center that you can find yourself doing things that don't happen often because you are dealing a lot with mother nature. I was excited that the one time I was helping in the nature center we had to catch a scorpion because working with wildlife is a passion of mine and I hope to be able to work with it in the future.

I learned the ins and outs of the Park Ranger and what Justin has to deal with in a day. He does a lot for the park and it is fun to witness how he does it and how he handles it. I can see why he is loved by everyone who works there and even all the people who visit the park.

I love learning how to help people more and more and witnessing how Justin works with the people and it inspires me for the future because I feel like I have similar passions to be able to teach the public like he does. It excites me and I would love to pass on to future generations to come about the parks that I work in, in the future.

Hours Worked This Week: 26

Hours Worked Total: 195