

Taylor Donahue
PRM 308- 1241

Week 4 Report

Job Duties: June 27th - July 3rd

Tuesday 27th (8 Hours): Today I was going to hike the Ford Canyon trail but ran into a volunteer of the Maricopa County named Joe and he warned me that Ford Canyon is a trail that is traveled the least because of the intensity and length. I took his advice and went to a shorter trail that people travel more since I was on my own hiking for the day. He told me that I should do the Mesquite Canyon trail because I haven't tried that one yet because I would love it. He was right and I found an area of the mountain that had a great view throughout the hike in the mountain range. I was also able to run into many different animals like the Chuckwalla and deer. I had a great time on this trail and I was happy he recommended it and saved me from making a mistake of taking a trail that if anything happened I could be stuck with no one to help. I was also able to talk to him for at least an hour before my hike about different hikes I have had in Flagstaff growing up North. He told me that I should be fine out here as long as I was prepared for the worst and I made him feel better when I showed him all that I was prepared for and that I was an experienced hiker. It was nice to be able to see how he cares for other people and to hear from his experiences of helping other hikers to make sure people are safe. He was an inspiring person because he likes to volunteer his time for free to be able to drive around the park and make sure people are safe. I was happy to be able to run into him and he taught me a lot in the short hour of talking to better my volunteering for the future weeks. I finished the day journaling and social media marketing the pictures I took from the day.

Saturday 1st (2 Hours): I had a short meeting today with Alice who is the head of marketing for the Conservancy. She wanted to finally meet with me and go over some stuff. It took her a couple weeks to be able to meet up because she was on vacation. It was a nice meeting talking about the major and seeing how she can get more people from NAU to sign up for volunteering in the future. We also talked about what I would like to get out of the experience of volunteering for them as well. They like that I am marketing on social media and they wish that they could find someone to be able to do that as a volunteer and I said I could post on Facebook to try and get people my age to volunteer more. I know many people who would love to go out and hike and take pictures and posting them for the Conservancy. She wants me to go to a marketing meeting where her and other people in charge of marketing for the conservancy will brainstorm for the future and they want me to be able to be a part of this meeting. She also filled me in on many other meetings that will be in the future that I can attend that will be beneficial for me. It was a great meeting and I am excited for the meetings I can participate in the future.

Sunday 2nd (9 Hours): Today I was able to get a friend to come hike the Ford Canyon Trail with me. It was an amazing hike but was very long and treacherous. I was happy that I had someone

with me and took Joe's advice earlier in the week. I ended up doing 10 miles with my friend and it was worth every mile because the scenery and hike was amazing. You end up going through a wash most of the way and you have to pay attention to the signs because some people miss them and go the wrong way or get lost. There were areas where there were boulders that you had to climb over or rock walls you had to climb up because the trail is the wash. It was a great experience and fun to see how an area can change and look a lot different the rest of the park. It almost felt like hiking in Sedona but where there should be water in the wash there wasn't. There was also a point where we were about 5 miles into the hike far away from any sort of mechanical noises and something sounded like an engine. We were startled by it and looked around and saw nothing. The only thing that would make sense to make a noise like that would be a mountain lion. I decided we should have a loud conversation and just talk or sing so that if it was a mountain lion we would let it know we were coming and don't spook it. Most attacks happen when you sneak up on the animal and they feel threatened. Luckily, we didn't see or hear anything again and we didn't have to deal with a mountain lion. This was the last trail that I had to do and now I have a knowledge of all the trails that are possible for the parks. I will continue to steward trails I have already done but know I can say that I know them and have hiked them to help hikers in the future. I now know to make sure to give advice to people who want to try Ford Canyon because it isn't the best for someone to go along or isn't that avid of a hiker. As I was hiking I was realizing more and more that Joe was right and I was happy I took his advice and I could have been sorry if I tried it on my own. I finished the day journaling and social media marketing the pictures I took from the day.

Monday 3rd (11 Hours): Today I was able to hike the Skyline Regional Park Trails again because I needed a shorter and easier hike where I would see more people to interact with. My legs are tired from the long day yesterday but I was still able to get some hours in hiking and stewarding in the morning while it was cooler. It was a nice easy day hiking and I was able to see some people today. This is because it is a holiday weekend still for a lot of people and it is a perfect time to get a hike in before the BBQ's tomorrow for the 4th. I did the mountain wash trail that goes up one of the peaks and then comes back down on the turnbuckle back into the parking lot. It is an easier trail but still has its difficulties because you are climbing to the top of one of the mountain peaks. After my hiking, I had to answer some emails and start scheduling what meetings I am available and plan it. I also worked on my report getting it ready to turn in and I also had to finish the news piece for the newsletter. I was also informed that they skipped the process with me on the trail stewardship badge and I already had it. It was still fun to get the experience learning the trails and being able to say that I still worked for it even though I already had it. It is nice to be halfway done already but I have a lot planned for the remainder of volunteering and I am excited for the end.

What I learned:

I learned that there is lot more for me to do while volunteering and there is more to being a part of this organization than just volunteering to be a trail steward. It is exciting to be able to be a part of something that is growing even though I will be there for a short time for now.

I learned that a trail steward is out there not to use their power to tell people what to do but they are out there to suggest and help people in the right direction if they know that things could be dangerous for someone.

I have learned that a lot of the people out here are doing this on their own time with their passion of being a part of something like a conservancy. They don't get paid to do this and they love what they are doing for free and it teaches me that you don't need to make money to do the things you love.

I am learning more and more that I feel I have made the right choices in my major because when I am volunteering and getting the opportunity to be a part of this conservancy. It makes me happy and content that I can be working for this young conservancy.

Hours Worked This Week: 30

Hours Worked Total: 120