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PRM 308- 1241

Week 9 Report

Job Duties: August 1st-7th

Friday August 4th (5 Hours): Today I worked on my student evaluation form and worked on the rest of my newsletter/power point. Everything is starting to come together and it is crazy that it is coming to the end. I also have received an email from my supervisor Jane of her evaluation and she wanted me to look at it and read it before I turned it in for her since she will be on vacation. It was nice to see her evaluation and what she observed while I was there. I am putting the finishing touches on everything. Filling out the evaluation is nice to be able to review and reflect on everything I have been through in the volunteering. I have realized what this Volunteering has brought for me and I am confident for the future. Today was an easier day because I wasn't hiking but mainly a lot of working on the computer to be prepared.

Saturday August 5th (7 Hours): Today I did the Verrado Trails on my mountain bike. It was fun to do some stewarding on the bike rather than hiking. I was able to explore the trails more though and take different routes because the bike helps me travel faster. Sometimes when I hike you have to make a decision if you want to go a certain way because you have to commit. Most of the time there is no turning back if you choose a longer trail. It made it easier to travel further distances but still gave me a good workout. These trails were built for mountain bikers and so I felt it was a good idea to get out there on a bike before the volunteering was over. I felt a little better because I feel like when you hike these trails the mountain bikers get a little annoyed. The trails aren't meant for just mountain bikers but it is hard for them to yield to hikers or get by. It is harder to pay attention to different wildlife when you are biking and they stay away because the bikes are a little louder than hiking. You are focusing on gear shifting and aren't looking straight up all the time. I do like mountain biking but stewarding while hiking is a little easier to do than on a bike. You can get to places faster on a bike though if there was an emergency. I know many people will volunteer with their bikes but mainly stewards are hikers. After I was done I came home, journaled and reported on my day.

Sunday August 6th (7 Hours): I hiked the Mesquite trail to Willow Canyon and back onto the Mesquite trail. I was excited because this is the end of my volunteering but I was able to see some more Chuckwallas. They are hard to capture with a camera and I am bummed I never got the physical proof to show people. Someday I will capture one with my camera even after volunteering is over. I was also able to see some cactus wrens which I have grown to love now that I have seen many of them. I know they are the state bird and I can see why. They are a pretty bird and the fact they love to live in cactuses for protection is awesome. I was able to say hello to people and I talked about my volunteering and that I was sad to be leaving soon. It's fun to meet people and be able to talk about hiking and different things that you share in common with them because they are more outdoorsy people. Often times when you go out not stewarding people often say hello or they just pass by without saying anything. With the name tag and steward shirt people approach you more or feel safe because they know you are not a

crazy stranger. It's nice to have people not be afraid and feel welcome because you are on the trails to help serve and protect. After my travels, I returned home and was able to report and journal about my day.

Monday August 7th (6 Hours): Today I was able to meet with Adam with the city of Buckeye to help him with a guided hike. It was nice to meet him after being recommended by Bob to shadow him for a bit. He was hosting it and had a lot of people sign up, but had no volunteers available to help him. I followed behind while he led the full moon hike. He taught the visitors about the nocturnal animals and we tried our best to see if we could find any. We used moonlight to guide us but also had flashlights and black light flashlights to find scorpions as well. It was a lot of fun and it was good to meet someone outside of the conservancy who works for the city of Buckeye to have some contacts for the future. It was also nice to see the different styles on how he guides hikes and compare it to my time with Justin the park ranger as well. It was fun to be a part of another guided hike for my last hours of volunteering. After I was done with the hike I was able to get all of my paper work together and I turned it in on time.

What I learned:

I learned that even though in the beginning I was just trying to get the volunteering done and completed and would probably never want to volunteer again but I have found a love for the Conservancy and will continue to volunteer when I can.

Still learning that I like working with people and teaching them more and more as I go. I like teaching but have always been timid about it because you don't want to bore the people you are teaching.

I have learned that in this field it is hard to bore anyone because they are coming to you to learn about things that they are passionate about. You aren't forcing things they don't want to learn to them and I like that better.

I have learned that over this volunteering I have grown as a person in the past 10 weeks. I have grown personally and professionally. I am ready for the future.

Hours Worked This Week: 25

Hours Worked Total: 240