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PRM 308- 1241

Week 6 Report

Job Duties: July 11th-17th

Wednesday 12th (6 Hours): Today I had the honor of being able to meet at with the Marketing team that works to keep the dream going for the Conservancy. I learned that they want to have a full-time person on social media posting on Facebook and other social medias to be able to get the message out there. One of their main goals is to get as many people to volunteer to get government grants to help fund the conservancy. They also just want the help and you can never have too many volunteers. I also learned that they want to be able to keep migratory paths for different animals and are trying to work with housing and road developers to be able to keep the paths the animals migrate on while still being able to let the developers build and make their money. Their goal is to work in harmony with the builders rather than trying to stop them completely. The White Tank Mountains are a rare mountain range in the valley that still are thriving with live and aren't "dead" as they say. They want to be able to keep it this way so that more people will want to visit the park because you have more of a chance to see the desert and the organisms it has to offer. I tried my best to give some input in the meeting and didn't sit back and just listen. I gave examples of how when you go to many national parks like Walnut Canyon that they offer a video screening for guests who paid to hike the island trail. I told them that they could have a video similar that tells the history of the mountains and the people who inhabited it. Many people get inspired by these videos and it makes them more excited when they get on the trails because they know a little more about the park. I also offered to post on my Facebook before I was done with the volunteering and see if I can get my friends to want to go in and volunteer. It was a good meeting and I had a lot of fun being a part of it. I then returned home and journaled and reported on it.

Saturday 15th (6 Hours): I was able to make the Pond Ecosystem meeting which Park Ranger Justin gave. I was finally able to meet him and talk to him a little bit about trying to get together so that I can shadow him out in the park for a day or two before the summer semester is over. He went to school for marine biology and so this is something that he is passionate about and happy to be able to contribute his knowledge to the volunteers and visitors. He is working on re doing the pond because it wasn't properly being filtered when installed. The company that made the pond was a professional pond company and did a good job but some of the plants they planted were invasive and were grounding into the soil and making the water dirty. The water wasn't able to be cleaned naturally and properly so he wants to bring in some plants that will help keep the water clean in a natural way. He also was finding invasive animals such as frogs and turtles that aren't in the area. Justin found two species of leopard frogs and said that one was from the northern areas of Arizona and the other from more Southern parts of Arizona. He said that they could have been dropped off by different birds in their migratory flights while stopping for a drink of water. They also found a turtle that is only found in Georgia which means that someone was trying to drop a pet off that they couldn't take care of

anymore. It was interesting to learn about the different species of aquatic organisms that this pond has brought in its 6-year existence. After the presentation, I was able to meet with Jane because she wanted to go over the evaluation for me that I emailed her at the start of the class. She wanted to know how my stewarding was going and if I had anything that the Conservancy could improve on. I also told her that I would send her my weekly reports by email so that she could go over what I have been doing more in depth. It was nice to be able to be a part of this meeting and see more of how the conservancy operates.

Sunday 16th (7 Hours): Today I stewarded on the Mesquite Canyon trail to the Willow Canyon Trail and back to the mesquite canyon in a loop. This is a fun hike because you get to go through both canyons in a good number of miles. Willow Canyon is a sight to see and now I know why they named a high school in Surprise after it. Willow canyon is less traveled because you have to jump on it from the Mesquite Canyon trail but you can enter on it from areas. You will see more people on the Mesquite trail because it is more traveled because it is a fun hike to do and you get some good views once you make it to the top and look into the canyon. I saw people in passing and said hello as I passed but everyone seemed to be on their missions of completing their hikes before it got too hot. I also tried to get more wildlife on the inaturalist app but some of the animals I want to learn and identify like small lizards, mammals, and birds are hard to capture without them scurrying away. I still have yet to see any snakes which I am thankful and disappointed in. After I was done with the hike I headed home and worked on my report and posted to social media.

Monday 17th (4 Hours): Today I worked on sending emails to Justin the park ranger and Jane my supervisor. I am working on scheduling times to go in and see what the administration does and Jane let me know that there is a lady named Kitty who works on Saturdays all day and this works with my work schedule. I am also contacting Justin to see when he would be available for me to work with him. I would love to shadow the park ranger once or twice to see his job and daily routines. I also worked on the newsletter that will be summing up my full time at the park. I will be turning this in to Alice the head of marketing so that she can put it in their September newsletter. I am working on this piece the best I can and it is hard to take so much I have experienced and putting it into a newspaper length summary. I will be editing it through out to make it as perfect as I can. I have also been working on the power point for my experience to have a visual presentation showing my experience that I can give to them with all my pictures and stories. I also took this time to reviewed and finished my weekly report so that it was ready to be turned in.

What I learned:

I learned how the Marketing team functions with their team of volunteers who work hard to try and make this organization survive, even though most of these people are doing it for free and a hobby.

I learned that the park ranger not only goes out in the field but also can have some meetings open to people to be able to teach the visitors and volunteers more about the park.

I learned that I can make a contribution in my short time here and didn't hold back on giving ideas to the marketing team rather than just sitting back and watching.

I learned that hard work from a team can go far and it's good to learn from the knowledge of everyone when coming up with ideas to better the conservancy.

Hours Worked This Week: 23

Hours Worked Total: 169