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PRM 308- 1241

Week 1 Report

Job Duties: June 5th-11th

Monday 5th (2 hours)- Met with my volunteer supervisor, Jane Fricke to go over what jobs and tasks that I could perform while being at the White Tank Mountain Conservancy. It was like a short orientation that taught me about the history of the organization and how they operate. It was fun to learn things about the park I didn't know and I was excited to get out and explore some of the jobs and new terrain I had learned about what the park has to offer to many bordering cities around the valley. I was shown that I can help with many different areas such as working with Justin the Park Ranger, or the Eldon in park maintenance. I can also work on getting my trail steward job and help assist the hikers, bikers, and horseback riders who may be in need or just be a friendly face that greets everyone on the trail. Journalled about my meeting for about 30 minutes, talking about the future I have with the organization.

Wednesday 7th (4.5 hours)- Today was my first real day getting into things and so with the options of jobs that I can start on for the 10 weeks I decided to start on my trail steward badge so that in the future I can assist all the people using the trails. The list of becoming a steward are long and takes a lot of time and effort to get into but worth it in the end. The tasks that I worked on today for the trail steward were getting familiar with one of the easier trails called the Waterfall trail. There is a short loop called black rock short loop and it has a quest for items full of information on different desert animals and plants in the park. On the waterfall trail, there is also information on different plants, animals, and the native people who lived in the white tank regions. This easy trail is very interesting and fun for people who aren't the avid hiker and need something to make hiking a little more interesting. Along the way I took pictures that I will be loading up on Facebook for all my friends to see as a way to market for the White Tank Mountain Conservancy. Before I left I also checked out the exhibits in the Nature Center which was also on my checklist for getting the trail stewardship. The exhibits were very interesting because they had different species of snakes, scorpions, and spiders from the park, along with a description of what makes the different animals unique. It was a good first day and I look forward to more days working with the actual administration in the future and finishing the trail steward training. I also Journalled for 30 minutes talking about what I experienced in my day for the future newsletters.

Friday 9th (11.5 hours)- On this day I woke up fairly early to learn some of the trails at the Skyline Regional park which is in Buckeye, but still part of the White Tank Mountain Region. There are works for the future of connecting this trail system with the White Tank regional park. I hiked for a total of around 9 miles using a majority of the trails that are available at the park. While I was on my hike which is getting familiar with the trails I also wanted to get familiar with the vegetation and wildlife that is around. I have been learning a lot of the different trees, shrubs, and other plants that make up the desert floor. I learned a lot of the plants and animals

from the quest and I often like to find some of the ones that are harder to find like the strawberry hedgehog cactus. The wildlife is a little harder to spot because during the hotter hours most wildlife is trying to stay out of the sun and heat. I have seen a roadrunner which was exciting for my travels while working as a steward on the trails. I am going to work on more trails to be able to know them better for the future when I need to direct a person down the right trail when I get my steward badge. I took pictures along the way to post to Facebook as a way to market for the conservancy. Then when I got home later in the night I worked on reading my orientation binder which took a good 4 hours. I am not having the traditional orientation and had met with my supervisor but I was given a binder to read when I met with her. I also wrote in my journal again for 30 minutes today going over what I had experienced during the day while volunteering.

Sunday 11th (11 hours)- Today I worked on watching videos that were suggested to help with getting a steward badge. It took me about 4 hours to finish these videos. They were very interesting and gave you a history of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and how they operate because they are a little more established compared to the White Tank Mountain Conservancy who has only been around for 2 years. They showed how stewards operate on the trails and how they have become important to the many people who hike the trails in the Scottsdale area. It also gave a good history of how the desert was formed with the geology. They also had a series of video's going over the plants and wildlife that thrive in this desert climate. They were all interesting and I feel like they will assist me in the future. Then when the weather got a little cooler and it wasn't too hot outside I went out for a hike on the Verrado temporary trail system. This system of trails was created by this community and can be the future of the trails that help connect the skyline and white tank parks. They are mainly used for mountain biking and the trails are narrow and temporarily made with some piled stones for markers. I think out of all the trails it has to be my favorite because you get in the middle of the mountain range surrounded by the large natural structures. It was a fun one and I was able to greet a mountain biker to practice my interactions with guests when I get my steward badge. Journalled for about 30 minutes for the day about what my experiences were like for today for the newsletter that I will form once a month.

Monday 12th - (3 Hours) Today I worked on reading some of the rules and regulations that was sent to me in an email by my supervisor. This was good to read and memorize as much as I can. I will spend more time on memorizing these rules for the future so I am better able to know how to deal with situations in the park in the future. Many of the sections for rules go over public behavior, fires, camping, pets and animals, etc. When I am out on the trails and stewarding it will help be able to spot out different things that keep our guests safe while they are visiting the park. It is good to know these rules for the future and I was happy that they were able to email them to me because now I know what they allow and what they don't allow in their park. After reading these I worked on my weekly report and made sure that I edited it and turned it in and am getting ready to start on the second week.

What I learned:

I learned a lot about a park that I often visit to hike but haven't explored to the surrounding cities and communities that are around the White Tank Mountains.

I learned that there is a lot of hard work and effort if you want to become a trail steward to help people along the trails.

I have learned that people are very friendly when you give them a hello when walking on the trails and often will strike up a conversation or have questions about the park because they know that you are friendly and there to help them.

I learned a new appreciation for the desert climates, and the different wildlife and plants that make up the region after growing up in a forest climate.

Hours Worked this week: 32

Hours Worked Total: 32