Chris Knowlton

PRT 4828

Bi-Weekly 9&10

7/27/2015

Salt Lake City Watershed

June 29-July 3, 6-10

Internship Hours 9&10: 80

Total Hours: 400

Salt Lake City Watershed has been a great way to spend the summer so far. I have been exposed to many new experiences while working in an environment that allows me to spend time doing what I enjoy, while also receiving my internship credit. As the summer semester is coming to a close, I have been continuing to strive towards my overall internship goals, and measuring whether I have lived up to them or not. Being challenged and learning at work has made me realize how everything I have been doing this summer is contributing to reaching my personal and academic goals for overall degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Some of my most recent experiences have been the best so far, and it has brought me joy that I chose this internship path.

One of our biggest focuses in the departments these past few weeks has been the emphasis on observe and patrol issues during the month of July. This is the busiest time of the year for the watershed, as the Wasatch National Forest sees many people during this time, including both numerous locals and tourists. With the Fourth of July and Pioneer Day both landing on weekends, it important that we maintain and oversee our protected watershed areas. This included many different tasks that took up our work weeks. Our main focuses were searching for illegal campsites and fireworks, dogs in the watershed, and people abusing swimming privileges. We patrolled through City Creek, Parleys, Big, and Little Cottonwood Canyons. It was amazing to see how the holidays brought everyone to the outdoors. We patrolled on foot and by car, and did everything in our power to protect the environmental impact that the crowds may have on the watershed. One of our rangers even put out an illegal campfire near Alta that could have caused a forest fire. All in all everything was under control, but it was definitely necessary to have our presence in the midst of the chaos brought by the holidays.

As I have been continuing to work towards my goals, I have been very pleased with my personal standards and what I have lived up to so far. I have most definitely earned a wealth of information when it came to learning about the watershed and its practices. I have learned through others and my experiences about what it means to work for this department. I have adapted to using certain terminology and techniques when it comes to everyday tasks and situations. I feel very comfortable in my environment and surroundings when at work. I have been working very hard to ensure that I meet my own standards and hopefully be offered a full time position in the future.