**PRT 4828 – Reflective Journal #1**

Student Name: Peter Cimmino                                                      Dates: 1/7/18- 1/21/18

Site Supervisor: Chad “Mouse” Joice                Internship Hours: 75 hours Weekly Total: 75 hours

Agency: Brighton Ski Resort                                              Cumulative Total to Date: 75 hours

Brief description of the past two week’s duties:

The Past two weeks have been incredibly busy. First, it was winter break. The resort was experiencing one of its busiest times of year. Holiday crowds mean riders who are only at the resort a couple days a year. These customers cause problems, because they don’t know resort function as well as others.

These customers pose a bigger risk to our liability, so we spent this time mitigating risk. We put up more rope lines than usual, making it harder to enter or exit the terrain park. This minimized risks of collisions. Next, we put up new signs, with clear warnings about what would be encountered on our terrain park trails. This kept out users who didn’t want to utilize the terrain park.

As you may know, this year has been very low snow. Right as this semester started, we got snow. Quickly, we turned this snow into new obstacles and features for the public to enjoy in our terrain park. Thinking about the demographic of people we served, we now made sure we had park features for all. We built our children’s terrain park with features to learn in. we dug features into our medium terrain park for a next step. And finally, we dug in large features for advanced riders.

Other than that, we did normal terrain park maintenance, and safety protocol.

How are you experiencing a relevant and challenging use of your skills?

A terrain park is a vital part of a modern mountain. It helps attract young and older individuals, and introduces people to experiences they couldn’t have anywhere else. This experience is not only making me think about the recreation experience we offer, but the demographic of people who we are providing that experience to.

Building of the terrain parks made me think about the individuals who come to the mountain. All ages and ability levels. It was very important for us to serve beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders. And it is important to serve all ages, young, medium, and older.

What did you learn from the experience?

  I learned that at a resort like this it is important to be all-inclusive. You want to include everyone, rather then focus on one group. In the terrain park, and on the mountain as a whole.

There are bunny slopes, green circles, blue squares, and black diamonds aimed for different ability riders. The same idea goes for the terrain park. Something for beginners, intermediate riders, and advanced rider.

Not only does this include everyone, but also it mitigates risk. If there were only advanced features, the beginner that wants to learn might go to extreme to quickly and get injured. If the advanced rider didn’t have something to utilize, they might end up in the beginner park and get involved in a collision.

What worked well?  What would you change next time?

A free flow of ideas worked well. Between new guys on the crew, and veterans, all our ideas were equal. This made me feel welcome, rather than an outsider. Some crews in the industry really emphasize earning your place, or not having responsibility as a new guy. This can create division, and make you feel unwelcome. My manager, Mouse, Doesn’t like that. He will only hire you on the crew if he knows you have good experience, and knows you will function well with the crew. He doesn’t believe there should be division among experience levels. In turn, I as a new guy respect those with more experience, and try to stay in my place. I suggest ideas, but listen to reason when more experienced worked say if that idea is viable.

In all honesty, I would not change a thing about how we worked together. The crew has respect for each other, and we work well together.

However, public persona of us can be difficult. Often mountain users get frustrated with us at the slow build of the terrain park. They don’t understand how things work. We are building what we can when we can. Low snowpack this year is making it very difficult.

If I could change one thing, it would be snowpack, and the amount of terrain park features we were able to offer at the moment.

Please describe the supervision you are receiving:

Every day I work, I am either working closely with my manager Mouse, or a supervisor, Treyson or Stefan. We do every task as a crew; there is not much division we experience. I really enjoy the management Mouse offers because he does not think of himself as higher than the crew. He works side by side with us, rather than being a boss and sitting back and watch the work get done. If I have questions, mouse is either a shout away, or a radio call away. I am never left on my own, to figure out things by myself.

I also am not afraid to ask questions. I am hungry to learn, and I am taking this as an opportunity to help me reach my goals in the future.

Reflective Journal #1:  Write about the history of the agency, types of job positions in the agency, types of degrees or certifications required to work there, salary range, and job satisfaction.  Is this a place you would like to work in the future?  Why or why not?  Discuss why you decided to intern at this particular organization.  What is it about the organization or agency that interests you?  Does it relate to a career in which you would like to continue?

Brighton ski resort is located at the top of big cottonwood canyon, right outside of Salt Lake City. It is only about a 45-minute drive from the campus at the university of Utah. This resort first began operations in 1936, and is one of the very first ski resorts in North America. Unlike many resorts around Salt Lake City, it is still family owned. Going to this resort, you are not overwhelmed by cooperate policy, ski patrol, slow signs, or fancy lodges and expensive chicken fingers. In recent years however, crazy drivers in a parking lot that gets full much to soon on weekends and holidays might overwhelm you. You go to this resort to ride amazing terrain, no frills, and no unnecessary perks.

This resort appeals to me specifically because of its strong ties to the snowboarding industry, and the history of freestyle snowboarding. If you watch old Mack Dawg snowboard video, or any famous snowboard movie from the 90s, there is a huge likelihood that there will be clips from Brighton resort in it. The terrain here has helped numerous professional snowboarders film incredible video parts, and has helped the snowboarding industry grow into what it is today. Before terrain parks became a staple at resorts across the country, riders looked for natural terrain and areas to build jumps. Brighton offered the best in America. As freestyle snowboarding became more popular, this resort started created terrain parks. Now, our terrain parks are widely regarded as some of the best in North America.

At Brighton, there are all ranges of jobs, salaries, and qualification levels. You can start working here when you are 16. You do not need a degree for many of the jobs here, but as you move up to supervisors, or managers a degree in a related field is preferred. Jobs range from parking lot, to building maintenance, to mountain ambassador, ski patrol, and kitchen staff. Then, there is a marketing department, sales department, and upper management. In order to get into the marketing office you need a degree in a related field. Same goes for upper management. However, for building ops and Terrain Park it is not required that you have a degree. These divisions allow exceptions for especially hard workers who are dedicated to the mountain, and the experience we aim to provide. This is a seasonal job; so most employees only get paid for the winter season. Salaries range from position to position, but most people start off at around $8 an hour. My pay rate is $10.50 an hour. As you move up, your hourly rate goes up as well. Overall, most people at this resort are extremely happy. As an employee you get a season pass, and benefits at other ski resorts. Also, you get a discount on food, discounts at the ski shop, and a free bus pass for all UTA busses. Majority of people who work at the resort love winter recreation, and feel lucky to have the opportunity to work in it in whatever form they can.

This is a place I would really love to work at in the future. Not only does it have a long history in snowboarding, but they treat there employees right. They are respected, and thought of as valuable rather than disposable. In the current state of the winter recreation industry, family owned and operated ski resorts are really dwindling. It seems as if Vail is buying up as many mountains as they can, and pricing people out of a fun day at the mountain. Park city costs upwards of $140 a day, where Brighton is just over $80 a day.

I chose Brighton resort to work at because of the unique and amazing experience they offer. In my time enjoying winter recreation there have only ever been three resorts that have blown me away. Seymour Mountain in Vancouver British Colombia, Powder Mountain in Eden Utah, and Brighton ski resort. These are all small family run resorts that offer unmatched terrain, and an amazingly relaxed and laid back riding experience. I have always preferred small business to huge corporations, and that is what Brighton has made me think of.

The biggest deciding factor for me was the terrain parks. Brighton has some of the best terrain parks in the country, and I wanted to learn from the man who has helped create them for the past 13 years. I believe this will be an amazing resume builder, and it will groom me to work at any ski resort, or any terrain park in the country. A potential employee will see Brighton on my resume, and instantly know I have a good background, and incredibly valuable experience. And on top of that, I will have a well-respected terrain park manager as a reference.

I would like to continue to work in the snowboard industry. I love building terrain parks, and I love creating an experience that people will remember forever. I could easily see myself moving to be a terrain park manager sometime in my future, whether it is in Utah or somewhere else in the country.

However, I could also see myself moving to an actual snowboard company. Either way, this internship will help me in my future, and give me incredibly valuable experience.