**PRT 4828 – Reflective Journal #3**

Student Name: Peter Cimmino                                                                        Dates: 2/5/18 2/18/18

Site Supervisor: Chad “Mouse” Joice                            Internship Hours:  200 Weekly Total: 92

Agency:   Brighton ski resort                                                                  Cumulative Total to Date: 200

Brief description of the past two-week’s duties:

Duties the past two weeks have not changed much. This season has been extremely low snow, one of the lowest in many years. Currently, we are less than half of our snow levels as last year, with not too much hope to hang onto. Up until this point, our main focus has been work as hard as we can with the little snow we have, and continually change and update the terrain park.

I began the two weeks by preparing a section of Terrain Park for a rebuild. Getting rails and boxes ready to move, and preparing a section of hill for jumps to be pushed and created. This was done by digging rails out, and leaving them on a section of hill where the park cat could pick and move them. Then, rope lines and bamboo were moved and wrapped up so the cat would have room to freely push snow. This was done at closing time one evening, then all put back in place the next morning so terrain park trails remained safe for the customer to use.

The two weeks ended with something we have been lacking, snow. We prepared the parks for a storm that is supposed to be quite large. We secured rope lines and fences so they would not blow out of place, and pre dug out rails so they will be easier to manage during a heavy snowfall. Also, we took out the small terrain park because the features are too small to withstand snow. They are easily buried, and that would have resulted in a cat running over a feature and destroying it.

Preparation is key, before and after major snowfall. As well as before and after a big build.

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

This previous week, we engaged in a presentation put on for us by the head of terrain parks for Boyne resorts. This presentation was meant to shed light on why certain procedures are necessary, and to make us understand why it is important to do many tasks, which may feel unnecessary. This presentation related to PRT classes I have taken in my commercial recreation specialty, giving me nostalgia for simpler times where I was only learning and not applying.

Basically, we open and close a terrain park daily. We rake and maintain features so the jumps remain smooth, and feet don’t become exposed and dangerous. Without this simple maintenance, an obstacle can become dangerous to the average user. After we create something new, we always test it to confirm it worse as it should. When we open jump or a park, we must also make sure everything is marked. Clear signage must display the universal terrain park symbol, a liability warning, and a size of features to come. Jumps must also have flags or whiskers on the corners to mark the takeoff. All of this is done to minimize risk, and mitigate any instance of injury if possible.

The sad truth is that a ski resort is dangerous, and a terrain park is much more dangerous than any other trail. Mountains get sued often, but if this mountain is adequately prepared it shouldn’t be anything to worry about.

On a daily basis, we open and close features, open and close trails, mark obstacles, maintain signage and rope lines, and keep a log of what gets done, what features are operational and maintained, and who is on duty.

What did you learn from the experience?

I found this presentation to be interesting and engaging. First off, it was relevant information that will help my day-to-day motivation, and reassurance that what we are doing has purpose. Second, it was cool to see direct relations between the PRT major and classes I took, and procedures we need to do every day.

From this I learned that is important to take every day seriously. Just because you are tired, or its bad weather can never be an excuse for taking short cuts. We are seasoned riders, I have been boarding for more than 20 years but everyone isn’t as experienced as that. We aim to keep everyone safe, and to provide a quality product. One shortcut or mistake can mean a huge lawsuit and can ruin a terrain park for good.

What worked well?  What would you change next time?

 I think the whole presentation went well. Brian the terrain park supervisor for all of Boyne resorts moved up the ranks, and was able to relate to us. He began as a lifty, then moved to terrain parks as a guy on his crew. Through hard work he moved up into the position he now holds. He was just like we are, talks like us, and has the same knowledge that we do. Rather than being a higher up and out of touch, he knew what being on a hand crew was like.

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 #3:  Ethics are the standards of conduct of a particular profession or group.  A dilemma is defined as a situation in which one must choose between difficult and conflicting alternatives.  Ethical dilemmas often require one to choose between options that are not 100% “right” or 100% “wrong”.  Identify and write about the ethical standards in your field or planned career.  Some professional associations have written codes of ethics on their web sites.  Consult your agency supervisor to learn what ethical standards exist and what standards you are expected to follow.  Discuss a real ethical dilemma that actually has arisen at your internship site…or …discuss a potential ethical dilemma that could arise at your internship site.

In a terrain park, it is very difficult to decide what is right or wrong. For many years people have been debating this. The conclusion generally met is that there is no definite correct way to build a jump, or an indefinitely incorrect way to build a jump. There is more of a better way to build a jump, or a worse way to build a jump. In the terrain park, ethics would most closely link to the quality product we are delivering, and the safety precautions that we provide.

When we build a terrain park feature, we strive to do it correctly. We always want to deliver a quality product. We do this by building it the way that we see as correct. We burry the rail in the ground so you cant get caught under it, we make sure it is straight up and down, and we make sure the lip is an adequate size to assist you in jumping onto it. We put our full effort into this, and if we didn’t provide quality some could say that was unethical of us.

 Since there isn’t a clear correct answer and wrong answer, it is acceptable to go off of industry standards. For example, if there is bamboo in front of an object, it is considered closed. If there is a rope line in the way that generally means something is closed. Green circle means easy, Blue Square means medium, black diamond means difficult, and a orange oval means terrain park. These are all industry standards that all resorts share in common.

There is a council in our field referred to as the United States Terrain Park Council, or the USTPC. They have taken it upon themselves to standardize terrain park operations, and help create industry standards. They consult members of the industry to create these standards, and always have the customers best interest in mind.

As the winter progresses, and snow is not delivered in quantities that we would like it could be easy to loose motivation. As members of the crew loose motivation, it will be harder to get them to work to there full potential. An ethical dilemma could be cutting corners with members of the crew who are feeling lazy and unmotivated, or striving for excellence and a perfect product like is expected of us.