**PRT 4828 – Reflective Journal #4**

Student Name: Peter Cimmino                                                 Dates: 2/19/18 – 3/4/18

Site Supervisor:  Chad “Mouse” Joice                           Internship Hours:  285 Weekly Total: 85

Agency:  Brighton Resort                                                                        Cumulative Total to Date: 285

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

  A pleasant change of pace, these two weeks has revolved around snow. As I mentioned in the last reflective journal, this season has been lacking in snow to an extreme. It seems as if winter decided to show up three months late. We have been preparing for snow, and dealing with snowfall for the past two weeks.

Week one we had a storm to think about. This one was going to be decent, but never the less important to think about. The small terrain park was just rebuilt, so we did not need to worry about that. The big park was a different story. We “blew out” a lot of the park features, meaning we pre dug a lot of the features out. Over time, snow gets pushed around and rails get buried if not maintained correctly. Features that had been in the park for a while got taken out right before the storm. Like usual, fence lines and bamboo were checked and replaced. During the storm we did usual maintenance and we were looking and feeling good.

The second week started off by replacing features we took out before the last storm. With more snow, we were able to get more creative and put large features in place of small features. This week, we built a bermed turn racecourse in preparation for a contest we do every year. Finally, the week ended with another big storm. This storm ended up being one day instead of three, so normal dig out duties were easier than we planned for.

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

  Planning, and time budgeting is a huge part of college, but more importantly it is a huge part of life. Through many experiences in PRT, we were tested in planning and time management. This is a less formal form of time management and planning, but importantly it is real life planning.

What did you learn from the experience?

  Planning ahead is incredibly useful. One day ahead, a month, a year, it is all beneficial. With foresight, we can work efficiently and effectively. Instead of being hit by surprise, we planned for snowfall and tried to relieve stress. Getting the terrain park ready for snow beforehand is much easier than dealing with snow after the fact.

What worked well?  What would you change next time?

  Preparation for storms worked well. By this point in the season, we have protocol dialed. It is easy to get ready for a storm, and deal with it during the fact. As long as everyone is on their toes and ready to work, the days run smooth. It is possible to run into problems once crewmembers decide to get lazy. Lucky for us, everyone I still working hard.

Snow forecasting in week two was not on point however. A three-day storm turned into only a single day storm. This was not a problem because we were ready for the snow that came, but if forecasting were not accurate often it would turn into a headache. Over preperation for something that doesn’t happen could be a bummer, and de motivate crewmembers in the future.

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 #4:   As you complete the transition from student to professional during this internship, the personal characteristics and skill sets developed as a result of the college experience should prove extremely beneficial.  How has your transition to this internship placement gone so far?  What skills or techniques have you learned in school that made your transition easier?

My transition into this internship has gone incredibly smooth. I think there are two major factors that play into this. First off, I have experience in this field. I have worked three summers at Mount Hood Summer Ski Camp Digging, building, and maintaining parks and that laid a great foundation. Second, I have spent majority of my life snowboarding, and a huge part of that in a terrain park. This is another great foundation, and helps me with having the perspective of a seasoned rider as well as a brunt labor worker.

In school, I think the two most important things I learned so far would be time management, and skills related to planning. Of course professionalism is important as well, but thus far these two skills have benefitted me the most. Planning is important not only for an upcoming storm, but it also is important related to more technical aspects of the job. Our daily procedure is planned, with mountain safety in mind. Opening and closing procedures go the way they do to make sure the terrain park is safe, and that the mountain is not oblivious to obvious risks on hill.

Time management plays a huge role in preparing for contests. We know the date of the contest, and the obstacles we need to set up for that contest. Then, on our own we figure out a timeline of when to build the snow features, and when to install the metal features. Also, we think about how long it will take to rope off the course before and after, and how this will affect the public park as a whole. Often, we take out features from the main park to build these events, and empty space is never good. A park rebuild often comes alongside a contest build, so a lot of things need to happen for one event to run smoothly.

With the skills I learned in school, I don’t just sit bag and observe the process, I get in. I am able to help out with planning, in order to make our timeline run smoothly. I feel as if I am an important part of the crew, and a valuable asset to our department. Without the schooling I received, I don’t know if I would be as helpful as I feel I am right now.