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Friends of Sloan Canyon

Nicole Nitschke

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, nitschke@unlv.nevada.edu

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Friends of Sloan Canyon
Nicole Nitschke COE 202-1012

Mission Statement
“Friends of Sloan Canyon provides community support and educational resources that enhance the conservation, protection and public enjoyment of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.”

History and Purpose
Friends of Sloan Canyon is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003. In 2015, Friends of Sloan Canyon gained an official partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, which expanded their efforts to include more activities/initiatives, and the production of an official visitor center. The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is a National Register-listed property in the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark County. The site is located in the northwestern McCullough Range, south of Las Vegas and Henderson. Volunteers ensure our trails and access points are clean, unobstructed and undisturbed by human presence as possible by coordinating a trail monitoring and maintenance program. Friends of Sloan Canyon is working with the Bureau of Land Management on educational programs from in-school interpretive sessions to guided hikes and activities.

Community Service Paradigm
My service site is a Social Change paradigm due to the call to action on environmental change that benefits those working for the change. Keith Morton puts it as, “the social system is the focus of change. Those people affected by the change should be involved in making that change”, which is what my service site is about (Morton, 1995, p. 22). Friends of Sloan Canyon has people come together to make a positive impact on the climate that we all live in.

Social Issue Addressed
Friends of Sloan Canyon is a service learning site focused on the social issue of nature conservation. The conservation of national areas and parks is a hot topic right now due to the pressing matters of global change, unprotected biodiversity, and defunding and overcrowding in national parks. The movement is especially prevalent now in the face of climate change and the lack of support from the Trump Administration. The general social issue mission is to conserve the land and waters on which all life depends. Conservation efforts strive for a world where the diversity thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

Ideal State
The ideal state of the world if nature conservation was solved, would be a healthier planet for future generations to come. If we all stood together to fight against the dangers that climates and ecosystems are facing, then nature conservation and even climate change wouldn’t be such a worrisome issue. However, the amount of damage already done to the planet can not be immediately reversible. We have to make a change now and it starts with the conservation movement.

Expectations
My expectations going in were pretty high due to what I had read on the volunteer flier. I has expected to be doing more manual labor and less educational based activities. We never had to fix any destroyed parts of a trail because Sloan Canyon does not get as much activity or erode harm than more populated National Parks. Nonetheless, my other expectations were met and maybe even expanded. I got to experience and learn so much about Sloan Canyons history and precious gems, like the Petroglyphs. I made some really great connections there.

My Impact
My impact on the community, due to all the collaborative work, was rather small. It was also interesting due to me being one of the youngest people involved. Cleaning up litter and reducing some damage is a small difference in the larger scale of things. My avid participation during Earth Day was greatly appreciated and fill many of the older volunteers with hope. I hopefully inspired many.

Take Away(s)
From my experience with Sloan Canyon, I have learned so much about the positives and negatives of volunteer work. The work can be so fulfilling because you are adding another voice and effort to a cause that you support whole heartedly. It rewards you after working there for just a couple of months and you meet a lot of great people. I’ll most likely continue working with Friends of Sloan and possibly other organizations too.

https://www.friendsofsloan.org/