

Peter Ostroskie: Gooood Afternoon from Prairie City. My name is Peter and welcome back to the Prairie City Podcast. I am joined here by our Intern Addison, how are you doing?

Addison: I'm doing well, how are you Peter?

P: I'm doing well and we have another good podcast for you today. We're going to be talking to Addison about his Internship. Because we at California State Parks have Internships and it's something that not a lot of people know about so...

A: And this is my last Podcast!

P: Woo Hoo you're done! You're free. What's your plans for after this?

A: Well, I am hopefully going to get on with State Park Rangers and go through their academy, and then I'll be working for State Parks.

P: Cool! Of course we do follow the same thing, and I do have some question for you Addison, So why did you want to have an Internship with California State Parks?

A: Well, I was looking for an internship and I figured if I am going to get on with State Park Rangers and get in with State Parks. I might as well have an internship that will help make that transition. So, I can have the inner workings of State Parks and figure out what to do and what not to do. SO, I might as well find an internship with State Parks and I knew someone who works here and they said there might be a possibility of an internship opening up so I came and applied and 3 weeks later I had an internship here!

P: That's cool! So, with your internship here with our park what were some of your responsibilities?

A: Some of my responsibilities were one helping you. The Interpreter at Prairie City and on top of that it included of taking care of some of the ATV's and dirt bikes with in what we call the barn. There are approximately 10 ATV's and 10 dirt bikes. I would make sure that they were ridden, cleaned and put away properly. Another part of my duties was taking care of our R/c fleet. Which admittedly I didn't do the greatest of jobs I tore one apart and been working for the last summer on putting it back together. Been a little stuck on that. Other than that, I created a tech binder so, the park has bought a couple of cameras and other pieces of technology to help with Interpretation. So, I put together a tech binder detailing all the different pieces of equipment and how to use them and proper care stuff like that.

P: Which was super helpful by the way we appreciate it, so what did you learn from your Internship?

A: How to ride a motorcycle! Yea, that was pretty cool. So, other things was what it really takes to plan large events. So, watching you go through what is now called Visitor Appreciation Weekend watching you go through it and getting all the vendors together so I'm really learning what it takes to plan an event like that.

P: So, of course there are always things with the job that you like and dislike. So, let's start off with an easy one, what did you like most about your internship with state parks?

A: The thing I enjoyed most was being able to ride the different OHV vehicles. It's always fun to just get out there and ride. Another thing I liked was interacting with the people the different events we went to and staffed meeting people from various cultures and talking to them about our fur's and our skulls. I really enjoyed that.

P: Do you think in OHV we have a lot of passionate visitors?

A: I would say so. I'd say they are very, very passionate about their riding land and if they mess with them they will come after you.

P: Hahah yea, so what was your least favorite part about the internship?

A: I'd say I came in the wrong season. So, if you don't know summers at Prairie City are very slow and I did not know that coming in. So, I was very surprised at the lack of people riding around on a day to day basis. Which made it hard to find a lot of projects to do and sitting there like well what am I going to do today?

P: Yea, you know it's weird for parks like Prairie City and desert parks or parks that have high temperatures that everyone thinks our low season is parks high season. When it's a hundred ten its not really that high.

A: Nobody wants to put on all the gear and go riding in one hundred and ten degree heat. Unless they are really dedicated.

P: What was something that surprised you about your time here at Prairie City?

A: The amount of turkeys. There are like 12 harem of turkeys in the park and they are all separate from each other. Crazy amount of turkeys! Another thing that surprised me was with in the first weeks I saw about four snakes haven't seen a snake since.

P: Yea, it was kind of a crazy time when you first came on. That was a lot of snakes we saw. During your time with us did you get a taste of the different career fields with state parks? What type of career fields are you thinking about going into?

A: Yes, I did get a lot of insights. I did a small project with the Environmental Scientist which was building a fence. I got to talk to the maintenance people, they are a good group of guys who keep the park running. I talked with entrance gate and hung out with them a lot and the Rangers are up there I talked to them. Talked to the supervisor, the people at district hung out with them a bit. So, I got what I would call it a well-rounded internship talking to everybody about what their job duties entail.

P: The career part?

A: The career part! So, I was mainly looking to go into State Park Rangers, but being an intern for the Interpreter has really opened my eyes and what that can be about. I could see myself doing that it would be second to the Ranger position but it is something that has peaked my interest.

P: Cool, would you tell other students to Intern with California State Parks or would you steer them away?

A: No, I defiantly tell them to intern! There is a lot of different opportunities in State Parks. I specifically choose Prairie City because it is an easy in for an internship. It was close to where I lived and because I didn't want to travel and I'm married so I couldn't travel really. Especially for three months! But, if you are willing to travel and see some of the sights there are cool state parks everywhere.

P: What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about doing an Internship with State parks?

A: Be proactive! Go in to the park talk to the Supervising Ranger to see if they have anyone willing to take on an Intern or if they have an Internship program. Turn in your internship application and just keep talking to them see if anything is coming up or if anything has changed.

P: Yea, and so there are always something we use in parks it's a quote about leave only footprints take only memories, so what is one thing you're are going to walk away with your time here at Prairie City ?

A: I'm going to walk away with things just don't always happen. You have to work hard at them and keep plugging along to make things happen. One small step at a time to make the great event happen.

P: Anything else you want us to know about being an Intern at Prairie City?

A: I enjoyed it, it was a lot of fun I enjoyed my time here and I'd just say if you have any interest in State Parks at all and you need an Internship or you want to Intern without pay go visit your favorite park and intern for them I highly, highly suggest it. There are a ton of different positions you can shadow and you gain a wide variety of knowledge.

P: Of course, I have to end this podcast with a question you created and its, what does Prairie City mean to you?

A: Prairie City means to me a place where family and friends can get together and enjoy their favorite past time of OHV and just go out and have fun! Ride in the dirt, ride in the mud and just experience life.

P: That's honestly true everything you said about that one thing is as this is your final podcast but as part of Prairie City Interpretation Program we're going to keep these podcasts going. We are looking for folks who are interested in talking about There California Off-Highway Vehicle Parks, Prairie City specific. But hopefully, state parks can join on to this and expand it a bit more. So, with that being said like us on Facebook check out our website and as always this park belongs to you, and I look forward to seeing you around the park soon.