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Honors Enrichment Award Follow-Up Report
Alternative Spring Break
Kanab, Utah

I applied to for an Honors Enrichment Award last November in order to receive some aid for the Alternative Spring Break Program at CSU. I had heard by word of mouth that this program was an extremely fun and also very satisfying way to spend spring break, so I wanted to give it a try. I was able to travel to Kanab, Utah for spring break with help of the Honors Enrichment Award. In Utah, fourteen people including myself volunteered at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. This shelter is the largest no-kill shelter in the United States, and sits on 30,000 acres in scenic Angel Canyon.

Our volunteer work consisted mostly of cleaning: we scooped poop from horses and rabbits, we cleaned cat communities, and removed "dead toys" from the three-acre dog park. We also walked dogs, pigs, and cats; honestly, walking a pig was the funniest thing ever. It basically consisted of throwing popcorn, their favorite treat, on the ground out in front as bait and then watching the pig trundle after it. However, in addition to the manual work, we also attended seminars and workshops. Best Friends representatives lectured about dog fighting, feral cats, rabbit care, and puppy mills. We were able to watch a hydrotherapy session, where a dog is put into a water tank treadmill in order to get exercise without aggravating conditions such as hip dysplasia. Best Friends is a truly remarkable place. I was most impressed with their recent incoming residents: twenty of the pit bulls used by Michael Vick in his dog fighting operation. My favorite part about these animals was that they were nicknamed the "Vick"tory Dogs. Best Friends even has a cemetery for those animals that have passed on. When touring this cemetery, which is open to anyone who wants their animal to be buried there, there was not one dry eye.

The city of Kanab, a city of one stoplight and two grocery stores, deserves a round of applause for accepting our group so readily. As some preparation work before we went on the trip, we called ahead to all the restaurants to see if they would be willing to work in a discount. Not only were they happy to serve us, they also gave discounts. When we arrived in Kanab, a restaurant normally closed on Sundays opened just for us. The owner of the grocery store Honey's Jubilee gave us discounted groceries, free donuts for the whole week, and one evening took us to Native American landmarks around the area followed up by a bonfire complete with s'mores. We also met several CSU alumni who lived in the area, which was a kick because of all the differences between the campus now and how it was when they were going to school.

This trip was important to me. First, it provided work with animals that I am so interested in as I am a pre-vet major. This was my first motive for applying. But then I made thirteen new friends, and I recently was chosen to lead this trip next spring break. I have received from this program much more than I put in, and so I am grateful to be involved with the Alternative Spring Break Program. I am also grateful for the Honors Enrichment Award I received, because it helped me make this trip possible in the first place.



Walking Sprocket the pot-bellied pig



A dog receiving hydrotherapy treatment



All fourteen of us smashed into one van to go see Native American landmarks



All of us at breakfast on our day off
(I'm fifth from the front on the left)