School of Environment and Natural Resources

Sciocto Audubon Seasonal Park Ranger Internship

Jamie Reed – Environmental Policy & Decision Making

The Role of Park Ranger

- I was responsible for patrolling the park to ensure safety of guests, adherence of park policies, and maintenance of park property. This includes:
  - Vehicle patrol
  - Foot patrol
  - Bike patrol
  - Clean-up of trash
  - Verbally reminding guests of rules if they are being broken
  - Weeding gardens

- Scioto Audubon is the “dispatch” park, so I was occasionally responsible for communicating via radio with other parks/rangers for reasons such as:
  - Needing a license plate looked up (abandoned vehicle)
  - Needing EMS/Fire/Police assistance in park
  - Hourly time-check to hear from on-duty rangers in all parks

Reflections of the Experience

- Modern-day park ranging is far closer to being a police officer than it is working with the environment and educating park guests.
- I learned to communicate with the public in a more professional manner through enforcing park rules.
- I found that I was more productive on the job when working with other rangers in a vehicle (rather than independently) and collaborating to make decisions was very beneficial in my professional discussion skills.

Background

- I worked as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Scioto Audubon Metro Park in Columbus, Ohio from May – August 2022
- Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks is the company that I worked under at this park
- I found this job by asking a friend what they did when she posted a video online of a possum at work one day and she referred me for the job!
- Being a park ranger was a childhood dream job of mine; I was very excited to start at a job that I had been dreaming of doing for so long

- Despite the praise of my coworker rangers, the park managers rated my performance on the job poorly, citing things they understood when hiring me (summer classes, late start, moving, etc.), and I overall felt as though I was treated unfairly compared to the other seasonal rangers.
- All in all, the interview process for this position led me to believe that this job focused on customer service but was quickly shown to be incorrect. I wish that I was given more insight into the reality of the position before I accepted it, I will ask more questions during future interview processes.

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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Thank you to my coworker rangers for teaching and encouraging me all summer. I would not have made it the whole summer at the park without your support.