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English 2020-13

Professor Petersen

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Service Journal

October 25th, 2014 –

Today was my first Saturday at the Bicycle Collective in Provo. There were two volunteers at the shop today, Leo and Rodrigo. Leo is one of the key holders and is in charge of the shop on Saturdays. Rodrigo is his younger brother. They both were very patient while teaching me how to repair bikes. When I arrived they were working on a donated Schwinn bicycle. Leo walked me through replacing the shifting and brake cables on the bike. We then removed the rear tire and replaced the inner tube with a new one. It was rather difficult getting the new tube inside the tire, but after struggling for a while I was able to successfully complete the task. Leo assisted a customer and sold a bicycle while I continued working on the Schwinn bicycle. I was able to get the bicycle nearly ready to be sold. At three o’clock we closed the shop for the day.

November 8th, 2014 –

After skipping last Saturday because of my trip out of town, I returned to volunteer another three hours at the Bicycle Collective today. Both Leo and Rodrigo were there when I arrived. With their help I was able to repair a mountain bike into a sellable condition. I felt proud to have successfully refurbished the bike. The first issue with the bike I addressed was attaching a kickstand to it. I then spent around an hour and a half working on getting the bike to shift properly. This involved replacing the cables that run from each shifter paddle to the front and rear derailleurs. The derailleurs are the mechanisms that shift the chain between gears on the main and secondary gear assemblies. It took a lot of tinkering but I was finally able to get the bike to successfully shift smoothly. It was very rewarding to get the bicycle back into working condition. I took it for a test ride in the parking lot several times to test the shifting and I was satisfied with the results. The director of the Provo Bicycle Collective stopped by to inform us of a training meeting tomorrow afternoon for all volunteers. I will make time to go to it.

November 9th, 2014 –

I arrived at the Bicycle Collective at two o’clock this afternoon. There were about five volunteers in attendance including myself. Spencer first went over the basics of the shop layout. He covered pricing parts and bikes, and how to determine the quality of different bike parts. He then placed a bike up on the repair stand and demonstrated how to service all the main parts of the bike. Spencer let each of the volunteers practice repairing or adjusting all of the main elements of the bicycle. I feel like I have a lot better of an understanding of bicycle parts now. I also feel more comfortable interacting with customers now that I understand the pricing of different items. After the training meeting I was able to ask Spencer some questions about the Bicycle Collective and what it does for the community. This will help me write my service interview paper and come up with a research topic.

November 29th, 2014 –

I arrived at the Bicycle Collective around eleven o’clock in the morning hoping to get four hours of service hours today. Unfortunately, the Collective was closed for business today due to the holiday weekend. However, Spencer was there unloading some donated bicycle parts. I was able to help him put away the new inventory and organize the shop a bit. I didn’t get as many hours as I had hoped today but I was still able to log two hours. Hopefully I can come in for all five hours the shop is open next Saturday.

December 6th, 2014 –

I started my volunteer hours today at ten o’clock in the morning in order to log all five hours that the shop is open today. It was quite chilly today, but we had a propane space heater that helped keep the shop warm. Leo was the only other volunteer there today. We spent the whole day working on a GT brand mountain bike. When we pulled the bike off of the rack it was covered in dirt, would not shift, lacked a seat, and needed air in the tires and new brakes. We got to work; I cleaned the dirt off of the frame while Leo found a seat and seat post that fit the bike. We replaced the brake cables, brake pads, and the shifting cables. We spent the next several hours disassembling the shifter to the main derailleur and trying to put it back together. It was interesting to see how the shifter worked. We both had to try and figure out the shifter because Leo did not have much prior experience working with the shifter itself. After several hours we were able to reassemble the shifter properly, however a spring inside did not provide adequate tension to let the shifter paddle move back into place after being pressed. We were disappointed and frustrated so we elected to use another identical shifter from the parts box. We did not get that shifter assembled in time for the shop closing, so we will return to it next week. We only had one group of customers come in today and they bought a few parts that had been stolen off of one of their bicycles.

December 13, 2014 –

Today was my last day at the Bicycle Collective. I arrived again at ten o’clock in the morning to log all five hours to finish up my community service hour requirement. Leo was the only other volunteer there again. We had a busy day, selling three bicycles. We continued working on the mountain bike from the previous week. We put on the new shifter and got everything working on the bike except the main derailleur. It will have to be replaced with another derailleur, the attached one does not move very well. It has been an enriching experience learning basic bicycle repair and maintenance in my time here. I think I may continue to do community service at the Bicycle Collective every now and then. I have found it relaxing and rewarding to work on bicycles. I thanked Leo for instructing me on the various parts of the bike and how to repair them. It was a fun learning experience.