

My contribution to the service project at Timpanogos Park



Rotarians and Rotaractors are ready for service at Mt. Timpanogos park

As part of a service project, the Rotary International “Rotaract” club at Utah Valley University met at Timpanogos Park on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM. We were ready to help to plant shrubs at park and to remove trash from the surrounding mountain area. I arrived at place in time and there were many familiar faces and personalities from UVU Rotaract, like Dylan Tweed, Yana Andersen and Dallas Karren. When I first arrived, Rotarians directed us to the area where we would receive instruction on our project. There were various planting projects and litter clean-up projects. After signing in with the sign-up sheet our crew was assigned vests and litter pick-up tools. There were also doughnuts provided by the head Rotarians. After talking to Laura Bascom, who represented Orem City, I went to the East near the parking lot, and then

South down to a bicycle track that runs around the park. Ms. Bascom said that there is a lot of trash that blows into the park from U.S. Highway 189. I strolled on down to this bicycle track and sure enough, she was correct. I found the whole embankment between the park and the highway littered with trash, debris, and shrapnel from the highway. There was also trash in the park that appears like the park-goers brought in as well, such as beach towels, water bottles, and various other items. I quickly proceeded to clean up these items into the trash bag that Rotary so generously provided and moved on to the embankment. On the embankment there were things such as hub caps and parts of blown out tires. There also was a lot of cardboard boxes and Styrofoam. There were many beer cans and beer bottles on the embankment as well.



Andrew Caldwell with collected trash

I cleaned up as much as I could as I walked along the area. I picked up so much trash that I decided to go back to our group's initial meeting place to find a dumpster to throw away the garbage I had collected. On my way back I met other members of the Orem Rotary club that asked me where I got so much trash from. I told them to head west down the path and then turn South at a bridge that they would come upon.



Abdulahman Alghanmi, Andrew Caldwell and Codi Conklin, UVU Rotaractors at Mt. Timpanogas park

On my way back I was met by Cody Conklin and Abdul Alghanmi and we took some club pictures of our efforts in cleaning the park. We went back to the meeting place and I asked Ms. Bascom , where a dumpster was so that I could discard all the litter that I had collected. She said that it would be alright if I just set the trash down near a utility trailer and that they would handle

it. I then proceed to get another trash bag and go back out but was intercepted by our mentor, Dr. Abdrisaev who told me that what the Rotary club has thus far cleaned up was good enough, and that I was free to go. I thanked him for helping me get the service hours I needed and then departed. I believe that the event was a positive experience of our entire team and myself contributing practically to the sustainable mountain development and United Nations goal #11.

Andrew Caldwell, Vice President, UVU Rotaract