Goal 3.4

Morgan Karnes

Demonstrate effective oral and written communication to scientists in other disciplines and audiences outside the sciences

Throughout college, I have been learning and building upon skills that can be useful in future careers. Before my internship I had never had a real-life situation in which I could use my valuable skills, but at my internship at Bear Creek Lake State Park, I have found use for these skills every single day. At my internship I work a park guide alongside the chief ranger to make sure the visitors have the best experience at the park, while also learning new and exciting information.

The park offers a wide variety of programs from beginner archery to moonlight canoe tours, all of which I have had the honor of being able to participate in. One of the popular programs at the park is an event called the touch table. For this program, we set up a table in which we can choose plants, animals, and various other Knick knacks to show the visitors. This program helps to give visitors some great facts about the chosen items, while also letting them interact and ask questions of their own. This program is great for all ages and I have had the privilege to present several of these programs on my own.

With the knowledge and skills, I have gained through my readings and presentations at my internship, I have been able to have the opportunity to design and create my own program. I am unsure of what my future career path is, but the chief ranger at BCLSP wants to give me experience in all forms of wildlife careers. One of the assignments I have been tasked with is managing a section of trail and creating an interpretive program from the section. With my section of trail, I noticed there was a large variety of plants and I have had many of the other employees know I have taken plant biology and have asked me to help them with plant identification. With this, I decide to design a program that would help an everyday person identify plants. For my assignment I wrote an outline of the materials I will be using and the information I will include in my talk. For my program I have created booklets with the chosen plants I want to identify in the talk and I also created a brochure highlighting the little details that help in identifying plants. The booklets and brochures will be given out to the visitors and will be utilized in the talk.

In my time at my internship, I have presented material to a multitude of visitors; some being young children others being grown adults, some being well educated others not so much. With this experience I have been able to learn to adapt to presenting to a variety of people and have learned how to properly and professional convey information to them. I have also learned the different ways in which you can go about conveying information to people whether it be through the use of booklets, brochures, talks, or miscellaneous educational items.