

ZION NATION PARK

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EDGE PROJECT

Project Summary

My project started out by painstakingly planning. Planning is, of course, very important to any project. We had to plan ahead to make reservations to stay at the campground of Zion National Park. Deposits needed to be made and a schedule set. For the fact that I didn't need to coordinate too much with the park it made the experience much easier. On August 2nd (Thursday) we arrived at the park and set up camp and enjoy a wonderful breakfast. My wife's family met us there where we had planned a full day of hiking and experiencing the park. After returning from hiking I was able to practice my outdoor cooking skills while I prepared a meal using dutch ovens all the while enjoying the scenery and the company of family. We camped in our tent that night and prepared for another great day at the park. We went around visiting the many highlights the park has to offer. The Temple of Sinawava, the Weeping Rock, and visiting some of the other great sites such as the History Museum and the Visitor Center. With so much to see we couldn't see it all. Another night of camping then packing up and heading for home. I was able to use some of the outdoor skills and learn many new things on this adventure.

Project Highlights

The project was truly a great and exciting time in my life to go and explore Zion National Park. Its beauty knows no bounds and the history and wildlife are something unique and awe inspiring that only Southern Utah could offer.

- While hiking Angel's Landing, which is a very difficult and steep hike, my wife's little sister began to get very sick, pale and her body began to tremble. We all worried about her and forced her to stop and take a rest. The hot day along with the difficult hike caused her to dehydrate and she nearly passed out and she wanted to throw-up. We found as best a shady spot we could find and forced her to drink some PowerAde. After a while her face began to regain color and her body stopped shaking. It was a longer rest than we wanted to have taken but safety first. It was a good experience to learn what dehydration can do to someone. She was able to recover and make it to the top of the mountain.
- I learned that when things are hard or tough to not give up. While on one of the hikes we went on I was exhausted, a little dehydrated and it was extremely hot. I was near the top of the mountain and wanted to give up. I even told my group members that I was done and didn't want to go any further. They went on without me but after a rest I regained my determination and was able to press forward and make it to the top. I was knocked down but I managed to pull myself up again and complete what I set out to do.

It's times like these when I want to give up hope or just want to quit I know that I have it in me to keep going and persist through hard times. That is something I will carry with me throughout my life and know that if I want to give up even when times are hard that if I just keep pushing through it that I can make it.

From My Journal

August 3, 2012

Yesterday was great. We had a lot of fun. I'm pretty out of shape and hiking Angel's Landing proved to be more difficult than I would have wished it to be. Today will be a more leisurely day, because I am so sore from the previous days hiking. We will be visiting the other aspects of the park that do not require much vertical climbing or hiking and I will be trying my hand at some outdoor cooking later. It's going to be great so far and I hope we don't have any problems and our stay can continue a wonderful learning experience.



My wife and family upon arrive to the park. The day filled with hiking and exploration. Very hot but we are ready for adventure.



Can you see me? The natural surroundings and beauty of the park can be seen everywhere. From beautiful flowers to sheer rock faces. Too much to take in all in one journey.