

UIMF Participates in Tree Mapping at Utah Valley University



Hagen Isaacson helps map trees during the Be the Change Tour Project

On October 25th, 2018 the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) participated in the Be the Change Tour Service Project. This program is put on in coordination with Utah Valley University's (UVU) Center for Social Impact, who is celebrating their 25th anniversary. The Tour participates in a service project every month on or around the 25th. This month's project involved tree logging on the campus of UVU. The purpose of this project was to use GPS technology to map points of all of the trees on campus. This was done by splitting students into groups of two that were then assigned to specific areas on a map of campus.

As the Director of Service for UIMF, it was my responsibility to share the details of this project with the members of the club and help them with signing up for a time slot. I worked closely with Andrew Jensen, a member of UIMF and one of the organizers of the event, to spread the project around campus and to get updates on the project to pass along to club

members. I spoke about this service project during club meetings and also sent many emails reminding people to sign up. This was a good opportunity for me to experience my first taste of being involved in club leadership and for helping organize an event for the club.

On the day of the project there were two time slots to participate in, both of which were about two hours long. I participated in the first session with four other members of UIMF. We also had club members involved in the second session as well. All of the participants in the project were broken into groups of two. Each group had a navigator with a map and someone to actually map the trees with the GPS. Usually, the students involved in a specific class related to the project used the GPS's, as they knew how to properly work them. After all the groups were set with a map and GPS, we set off to an assigned area of campus. Specifically, the group I was part of covered a strip of campus that paralleled the Student Life and Wellness Center. It was sometimes difficult to stay in our assigned area but we were able to get all of the trees mapped.

Overall, this project on Sustainability Day was a successful first project for UIMF and related back to the sustainable development that UIMF advocates for. This was a sustainable development project that allowed UIMF to get involved in actual projects relating back to sustainability. This project allowed UVU to become a Tree Campus and also provided UIMF members to get involved in a service project that relates back to sustainability.

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