

Dakotah Tilton

Eng115

Volunteer Work

On Sunday, September 17, 2016, I volunteered with the Zero Waste Foundation at the North County Fair. During the event I worked with and learned from Nancy Steven. When I first arrived I was given a mini lesson on composting: how it works, what to compost and why it's better than recycling. Then, I was assigned to a station where I politely assisted the public with the knowledge of where to throw away their waste. There were three bins at my station, a compost bin, a recycling bin, and a trash can. I worked for three hours, 9am to 12pm. As the day progressed I learned about the different levels of recycling; on every recyclable bottle there is a number inside of the three arrows in the shape of a triangle to indicate the item is recyclable. The numbers range from one to seven. Numbers one, two, and sometimes three are promised to be recycled; however, numbers 4 through 7 are often not recycled at all. Another aspect of my volunteer experience were meeting some of the wonderful people of Arcata. It was interesting to see the different levels of composting knowledge of the general public. One little girl, about seven years old, who walked straight up to the bins threw her cup in the recycling and her wrapper went in the compost and a guy, about fifty years old, who didn't ask any questions and just put everything in the garbage. Of course, I went in the trash and dug everything out but it astonished me how rude and ignorant some people can be. When my shift was over, I got to walk around the fair a little bit. I met an elder man who converted his 1964 Volkswagen Bug into an all-electric vehicle. This not only fascinated me but inspired me to think outside of the box, which as an engineer I know I will need to do. I also got to see some art and jewelry that were completely made out of recyclable materials. The experience as a whole was very fascinating to me. I would definitely work with the Zero Waste Foundation again.