Service Learning/ Senior Project

For my senior project and service hours I did ride alongs with the Rifle Police Department and Silt Police Department. I decided to do ride alongs because I want to eventually become a U.S. Marshall. When I was planning to do my ride alongs I had to call a lot of places to get someone to allow me to do more than one ride along. The Police Departments usually only do one ride along every three months, per person. After talking to 6 different Departments Rifle and Silt Department called me and let me know that they could give me two rides 5 hours each. I traveled a lot to Rifle PD to fill out paper work and answer questions before being able to set up a time and date to do ride a longs. When I went to Silt PD they weren’t as stricter as Rifle PD, I only had to fill out a waver and set a time and date. I took ten hours planning out the ride alongs and getting them set up, plus the driving time from and to the Department.

My first ride along was with the RDP from 8:00am to 1:00pm since it was on a Wednesday during the day it was not very busy. I rode with the parking lady who does all of the vehicle tickets and deals with all of the calls about animals. We marked all of the tires that were in the two hour parking limit spots. When we were done with that we drove around looking for any illegally parked vehicles and came across two labs with no collars. We took them to the Rifle Animal Shelter where their owner could pick them up. After I was done with that officer I went with officer Vantalighen, he asked me questions and I asked him questions. While we were checking out the rest stop in Rifle we had a speeder going 43 in a 25. We pulled him over and I learned that two minutes of fun is two hours of paper work later. The next time I did another ride along I did the night shift from 8:00pm to 1:00am. It was still on a Wednesday but it was busier since it was at night and more people were out. I rode with officer Priff and did patrol runs, he taught me a lot about the law and some rules. We pulled over a lady who ran a stop sign, a lady who was speeding, and did a couple other calls I cannot talk about. After that I got on highway patrol with officer Dunkin. Dunkin has a K-9 named Tulo who is a yellow lab. Highway patrol is much more dangerous than just in town. When I did my rides with SDP I rode with Karla, I did 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Silt is not as busy as Rifle, and is more patrol that responding to dispatch. We just drove around and looked for people to pull over which never happened it was a very slow night. The second ride along I did was a bit more fun, I got to meet some of the other officers. We had a little bit more action and I was more comfortable to carry a conversation with Karla. Riding with a woman officer really opened my eyes to see that woman can do anything they want. Doing ride alongs also got me more excited to start my future. I want nothing more than to live my dream and make something out of myself. I will stop at nothing to make it possible. While getting to do what my dreams are I also get to help the community around me.