

Free

Every August for the past couple of decades volunteers at First Baptist Church in Golden, Colorado, with help from other volunteers, conduct a give-away of furniture and household items for new international students arriving at Colorado School of Mines, also in

Golden. Donated things are collected all year and fill a large room at the church for this Friday afternoon event. The photos show what was offered this year. Everything is offered free to the students.



free furniture

free furniture



free dishes



free bedding and towels



bed mattresses and other items

New students usually arrive early before the 1:30 PM official opening and form a long line. The first students get the best choices while the last students select from what has not already been claimed.



Many boxes are available for students to take small items. They also get a small bag of free gift items. My role has been to provide transportation for the students and their boxes of small things, taking them to their apartments. The large items are loaded onto trucks for delivery by a different set of volunteers.



empty boxes



gift bags



loading the trucks

These new international students arrive in our country with only what they can carry in their luggage. They need to equip their apartments, and this event helps with their needs. It is greatly appreciated. There are also stores in the area that sell used clothing for very cheap prices. Many students from warm countries need adequate clothing for the cold winter season in Colorado. We volunteers also get to make new friends with the students.



food tables

nearby tables

far tables



soccer/football

dancing

volleyball

my fruit cobbler dessert

The following weekend, Saturday, the Colorado School of Mines officially organized a picnic for international students. Some food is provided by the Office for international students. Other food is donated by American families living nearby. It is all free for the students. Each year I bake a fruit cobbler. I forgot to take a photo of it this year, so last year's photo is used here. I cut up fruit (this year it was apples and peaches) and cover it with a layer of bread ingredients. All three trays were consumed because it is so delicious. In addition to the illustrated games, another group was throwing frisbees.

During the morning of that same Saturday I attended a volunteer appreciation event at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/). Some of us worked at Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge (http://www.fws.gov/refuge/two_ponds/) mentioned in a previous report. The guest speaker was from the Butterfly Pavilion (<https://www.butterflies.org/>). The Arsenal Refuge covers about 70 square kilometers (27 square miles). Several years ago I helped erect a fence there for an incoming herd of bison. When leaving the event I drove through an open field area and photographed animals, with no fences between them and my van.



Prairie Dog



Western Kingbird



Yellow-headed Blackbird



bison

Dr. Ed Holroyd
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