

Derick Davis

United States of America



Interviewer: Do you mind introducing yourself?

Derick: My name is Derick, I'm from the U.S., and I work here in Regional Development for the County.

Interviewer: What is your country of origin and what does it mean to you?

Derick: Well, my mom's side of the family is from the Netherlands and Germany. My dad's side of the family is from Norway and England. And it's only been recently that I've paid a lot of attention to it. And I've been trying to learn more about those countries because as time has gone on through the generations, a lot of that's been lost. So I'm trying to learn stuff about those countries right now.

Interviewer: How are your parents and you alike and different?

Derick: I think creativity with my dad and also with my mom- they're both very creative people. I think when you're a kid, you kind of want to be your own person. So I think that there's a lot of that, it's kind of hard to explain. Just, you know, when you're growing up, you want to be your own person. So you kind of find your own path to go down. And I think for me, there's a lot of doing things outdoors. And that's a big part for me on the different side.

Interviewer: What is the story behind your name?

Derick: My dad, when he was a kid, he always wanted his name to be Derek, so that's why I was named that.

Interviewer: You are really into the outdoors. Are you originally from Utah? Or did you come here because of the outdoors?

Derick: Nope, I'm from Utah. I've been in Salt Lake County my whole life.

Interviewer: What city do you live in right now?

Derik: West Jordan.

Interviewer: What objects tell the story of your life?

Derick: Right now I think for me, it's my bikes because I'm into cycling and snowboarding. So a lot of that right now.

Interviewer: What possessions does your family treasure?

Derick: There's been a few books written about family history. So we've got that. There's also some old antique furniture or clocks. So things like that.

Interviewer: What does being welcoming mean to you?

Derrick: I think for me, it's acceptance and just being yourself and hopefully people accept you for who you are. And they overlook anything that could be you know, like a disability or where you're from or anything like that.

Interviewer: What are your hopes for your community?

Derick: Working in Regional Development, one of the reasons why I accepted this job was to help out with getting people into affordable housing. And to hopefully try to get people off the street because that's a big problem right now in the County.

Interviewer: What is your American dream?

Derick: My ultimate goal is just happiness and safety for myself.

Interviewer: What is your favorite holiday and why?

Derick: For me, it's the American Thanksgiving. And it's just getting together with family and friends. Just spending the day together.

Interviewer: Do you work with a lot of immigrants and refugees?

Derik: Yes, we do work with immigrants and refugees. And we work with rental assistance, emergency rental assistance, you know, like getting refugees a place to live. There's also the International Rescue Committee, we've worked with them with the Spice Kitchen, which helps immigrants open stores, restaurants, and food trucks.

Interviewer: How do you think the Salt Lake County government is trying to improve people's lives?

Derick: I've only been here a few months. So I haven't really been able to delve into that. I do see a little bit of it. But I really can't go into detail because I haven't been here long enough to see the scope of it.

Interviewer: What traditions have been passed down in your family?

Derick: There hasn't been a lot really, that's one of the reasons why I was you know, trying to look into going into the genealogy and researching the past and ancestors just to see what they did. Just because it seems like over the last few generations a lot of that has been lost.

Interviewer: When in life have you felt most alone and most connected?

Derick: Um, I think for me, that's kind of one and the same. That's one of the reasons why I like to get out in the mountains. Because I can't be by myself but I think it kind of connects me with nature and kind of connects me with my own personal self.

Interviewer: What kind of advice would you give someone who's looking for housing opportunities and a place to live?

Derick: I don't know. That's a hard one. I would probably direct them to regional development, maybe something with AmeriCorps. Those programs help people you know find that stability they're looking for.

Interviewer: Being how old you are right now, what advice would you give your younger self?

Derick: For me, it would be stick with education, because I didn't continue my education like I wanted to. So if I could tell my younger self that would be it- just learn as much as I possibly can

Interviewer: What are you grateful for about America?

Derick: I think the biggest thing is the freedom and opportunities.

Interviewer: What does freedom mean to you?

Derick: Being able to move around freely, like you know traveling to another state and being able to just live my life without you know worrying about consequences or problems like that.

Interviewer: You said that through your job you work with a lot of immigrants to help them find housing. Through your job, do you know any immigrants that you are friends with?

Derick: No because we're dealing with, they refer to them as sub-recipients. So they're different organizations like the International Rescue Committee. So we don't meet people personally. So, unfortunately, we don't see that side. Because we're dealing more with the kind of the bigger picture, we're not dealing with people one-on-one.

Interviewer: What college did you go to?

Derick: I was at the Salt Lake Community College. But at that point, I did not finish or move on at that point. So I want to get back to school. I just haven't gotten to that point yet.

Interviewer: What would you be interested in majoring in?

Derick: After working here at regional development, I think something in some kind of community development, transportation, planning, things like that, just because the county is growing so fast.

Interviewer: Do you want to continue like with similar work to what you're doing right now?

Derick: Yes, I would like to.

Interviewer: What do you like about Salt Lake County?

Derick: I like the diversity. the different everything that's available. Whether you're going outdoors, or you're downtown, you know, theater, arts, culture, things like that.

Interviewer: When you were younger, did you have a different dream from what you are working on now, or was it similar?

Derick: When I was a little kid, I wanted to be a firefighter. So it is different now than it was.

Interviewer: Would you still continue that if you had another chance? Or would you keep going at the pace you are now?

Derick: I might try that again, just because I do like that, you know, helping people and the service.

Interviewer: What do you like about your current job?

Derick: The service and the helping aspect. I like that. Right now, we're working through a lot of different programs to streamline them, and so that's something that we're dealing with, it's kind of a struggle, lots of roadblocks.

Interviewer: You've mentioned that you don't know your own culture and that you want to research more. Once you find out about your ancestors and your culture, what would you do with that information?

Derick: I think just to share it with younger generations, like nieces and nephews.

Interviewer: Okay, I think that's all we have. Thank you so much for coming in.