

Salt Lake City vs. Green River

by Macy Frye

There are vast differences between Salt Lake City and my hometown Green River, the people, the city, everything. Moving here I had a major case of culture shock, I settled here nicely at first and didn't have any problems. That was until my second quarter when my apartment got broke into. I was so use to the friend people in my home town where you never had to even lock your doors because there was no crime, but here even though I had my doors locked they still broke in. I was devastated. I have no relatives here and only a few new friends that I had met at school. Since then I have had many more problems and because of this I still feel I am suffering from culture shock.

One of the biggest differences in Salt Lake I feel is the size. It huge here unlike back home I could never drive though the whole city in a day like I could at home. There are so many places to see here but just never enough time to do them all. There are so many choices you can make, like where to shop where to eat, you would never have to eat the same thing all the time if you went out every day. A lot of my memories or of coming here with my Mom and sister and having a "Girls Time Out", and just going out to try new places and experience new things. In Green River there are 3 fast food places (I refuse to call them restaurants), 1 grocery store, and a few family owned stores, if you want anything substantial you have to go the next town that was slightly larger.

Another major thing is the people. The people here are so different from back home. Some are nice but really other then in school I haven't met too many of them. Back home everyone knew everyone, even if you didn't know someone it was almost sure that he/she was a friend of your friend. There were so few people there that there is no such thing as a rush hour and construction barley ever did anything to stop people from trying to get where they want to go. Car accidents never just stopped traffic if anything I would see people stopping to help rather than stare until the scene passed. Here everyone feels so rushed in life that they never just seem to stop and see what's happening around them. In Green River it wasn't uncommon to just see a family sitting outside on the porch and just talking. From the research that I found the amount of people in my small town of Green River is just under 12,000 people where as in Salt Lake it's

The Art Institute of Salt Lake City. Anthropology. Instructor: Lolita Nikolova, PhD. September 28, 2009.

estimated around 182,000 people. The jobs as well are very different where most of the people in Salt Lake are desk workers; most of the people that are in green river are oil workers or miners. My hometown is where they mine for the Trona (70% sodium carbonate) for baking soda (Arm & Hammer). Everyone that I ever talked to was somewhere in that profession.

Religion is very different as well, it doesn't play such a big role in my small town, where a lot of people here follow the LDS church, there it is a wide variety of religions throughout the whole town, though most are Christian based.

The differences are huge. I know that I really miss my hometown, I feel a lot safer there, but that could just be because that's where my family is. I can say that because of the differences that is making me a stronger person. Culture shock is a very hard thing to get over and I believe that it will take me some time to get use to a major city such as Salt Lake, I lived in nothing but small towns my entire life and this is a very new experience for me and I can't wait to find out what else will happen to me on the way.