

## **Trees, Trees Everywhere**

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, on Sustainability Day, several UVU students gathered to map trees on campus. The purpose was to gain national recognition as a Tree Campus. The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) is a club at UVU and its members assisted in this service project because it falls in line with one of their core values, sustainability. The mapping of the trees will be reviewed by geographic information system (GIS) specialists who are the leaders of this project.

But its not just the GIS specialists who are mapping campus. Several students showed up to help map trees on October 25<sup>th</sup>, many of whom were actively engaged members of the UIMF. The reason the UIMF chose this as one their service projects is because planting, growing, and tending trees is apart of the UN's sustainability goals – goal 15, Plant a Tree and Help Protect the Environment. This goal is also a common goal of Tree Campuses throughout the nation.

But to be recognized as a Tree Campus, the trees that were mapped must first be reviewed by students who know how to use GIS and their professor, who will help in reviewing the results. It was the GIS specialists who led this project; they taught everyone who showed up how to use GPS devices needed for mapping, and it is with their guidance that this project was possible. Everyone who supports UVU in becoming a Tree Campus should give thanks to this team.

Hagen Isaacson also deserves recognition. Isaacson is the Director of Service for the UIMF. He put a lot of time and effort into making sure that the UIMF was actively engaged in this service project, and without him this project may not had the help it relied on. It is because of students like Isaacson, the UIMF club president Sam Elzinga, and all the hard-working

leadership members of the UIMF that UVU has the support it needs to accomplish these kinds of service projects.

That is why we should thank all of you for the continued effort! Service projects, like mapping trees for UVU, are important. Getting UVU recognized as a Tree Campus helps the college grow with the local community and bond it to a larger community. Sustainability creates a bond between our campus, other campuses across the country, and the UN.

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 was sustainability day, UVU students worked together to map trees on campus to validate UVU as a Tree Campus. The UIMF supplied many of its members to help accomplish this goal. Promoting UVU as a Tree Campus falls in line with the UIMF's goals of sustainability and the UIMF is proud to participate in this service project. The GIS specialists will be reviewing the data collected from the GPS devices used to map campus.

*William Gum, UIMF member*