

Las Vegas Holy Community Shine City Project processes dates at Ahern Orchard

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On September 16, 2023, Shine City Project helped to process dates at Ahern Orchard! Upon arrival at Ahern Orchard, our volunteers are greeted by a large quantity of date palm trees that grow near the parking lot area. As the fruit is being grown, bags are placed around clusters of dates in order to prevent birds and other insects from eating them, as well as to catch any fruit that drops from the tree.



Before starting the service project, workers at Ahern Orchard had already cut away clusters of dates from the date palms trees for our volunteers. Each cluster of dates can weigh up to 45 pounds.

Our first task for the morning was to help pick out and remove the dates from their stems and to sort the good dates from the bad ones. Generally, most of the dates were good except for the ones that have hardened and dried out.

Afterwards, the dates are thoroughly washed off of bird poop and dirt, and then they are placed outside to continue ripening. From the abundant supply of dates, our volunteers looked out for and collected dates that were fully golden brown around and ready to be eaten!

The dates aren't dried out completely, but they should still be soft and squishy. When eaten, the dates taste sweet and delicious like honey!

To help with the service project, we had fourteen Shine City Project volunteers. Overall, it was a great opportunity for our volunteers to see and be a part of the ripening process for dates!