

## **Plum Picking Partnership**

*By Ava Kadence Jennings*

The class of 2023 went on a field trip downtown Durango to work with The Good Food Collective this past Wednesday. They learned about our regional food system and contributed to it by picking fruit. This was the first field trip for the freshmen class of their high school career.

The Good Food Collective is a non-profit organization that is committed to reducing food waste in the Southwest. Thirty percent of food goes to waste, and food waste is the 8th leading cause of global warming. With twenty-five percent of kids in Durango not having food security, food waste is something we want to prevent.

The organizers of The Good Food Collective spoke about food systems and all the nuisances in the process of feeding people such as transportation, the cost of goods, and customers.

As a group, freshmen were led to different houses to “Guerilla Glean” which is when you go around in a popup style to different houses, parks, and abandoned orchards to pick fruit.

The freshmen attained lots of knowledge that day about fruit and our community, and it was an incredible bonding experience for the class of 2023. They can look forward to more experiences, like tossing plums into each others’ collection buckets, as teacher Stephen Sellers has created the opportunity for this to be a yearlong partnership.

“We learned that the apricots at the bottom of the tree were rotten and had worms in them, and the ones at the top were better because they had more sunlight. It was really fun, we got to drink out of a broken fire hydrant”, reflected freshman Harper Jones.

“Fire hydrants should be the new water fountains”, said freshman Sage Robbins.

If you want more information about The Good Food Collective or want to post your tree on their website to contribute to the rid of food waste in Durango, visit them at [goodfoodcollective.org](https://goodfoodcollective.org).