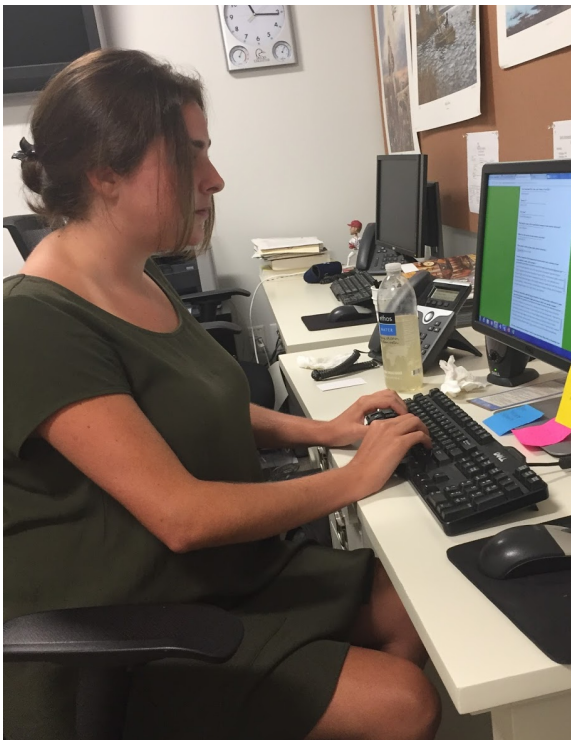


Summer Internship Report 2017

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Hometown: Washington, D.C.



**Ducks Unlimited
Washington, D.C.**

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

Ducks Unlimited is a Wetland Conservation NGO, and I worked in the Washington, D.C. government affairs office. I worked on several fact sheets that explained programs that Ducks Unlimited supported such as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). I also attended several Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget meetings on Capitol Hill in both the House and Senate buildings. I worked with the communications manager to design several invitations and plan several events for our staff, donors, and sponsors.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

In this internship I not only learned about wetlands conservation (which is extremely relevant to my major as I am focusing on Sustainability), but I learned about the politics side of environmental regulation through the tedious and drawn out process bills take to be passed. As Ducks Unlimited is a bi-partisan firm, I became more open-minded about all political views and how all parties have to work together to successfully get bills and ideas passed. I improved my note-taking as well as I had to sit in on several budget meetings that could last up to four hours. I had to stay attentive and take notes on the things most relevant to Ducks Unlimited, reporting to my boss with a concise outline. In terms of technical skills I worked on a graphic design program called Canva as well as on Excel formulating a spreadsheet.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

One task I had to complete was helping formulate a video for Ducks Unlimited. We gathered old letters our members had written to Congress to show the importance of writing and that members voices are heard. We had to go through several binders that each contained hundreds of letters and we only had a couple of hours to complete the task. Sewanee has taught me how to focus and get things done in a timely fashion.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

The Ducks Unlimited office in Washington DC is quite small, consisting of five directors and three interns. Most projects were worked on together as a group and we learned to distribute tasks evenly and respect each other. An example would be the environmental report which had to be done every morning before 10a.m. The three interns would equally work to create this report every morning and everyone was treated fairly.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

I learned more than I could have imagined at this internship. I have always known that I have been interested in the environment, but this internship taught me the vast fields that my major has to offer. This summer I worked on the politics side of the environment, but I was able to dabble with communications and fundraising as well, which has given me confidence that there is a lot of job opportunity in the environmental field.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

Ducks Unlimited is a bi-partisan firm, so working with others that have different backgrounds and political views from your own is inevitable. Most environmental organizations are extremely liberal, but at Ducks Unlimited there is a 50/50 split. This experience, especially working with politics, forced me to listen to all sides of an argument and understand others' views because in politics, issues will stay at gridlock if parties do not communicate and respect each other.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

Get a bike! DC transit is quite expensive so look for housing close to your work and see if it is possible to walk or bike!

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work at Ducks Unlimited! I really appreciate the experience I was able to have working next to the Capitol in Washington, D.C. It was a riveting and exciting experience with constant action and chaos with the change of administration. I learned so much and feel much more confident about applying for a job after I graduate next year.