

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
Contact: Chelle Koster Walton
239-699-4754
ChelleTrav@aol.com

Caption: Olivia Rose

Refuge welcomes new education intern

[w/OLIVIA: Olivia Rose]

Education intern Olivia Rose recently arrived to help the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island with staffing shortages this season, thanks to funding from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society.

Rose graduated from Michigan State University in December 2016 with a bachelor's degree in social relations and policy and a minor in science, technology, the environment, and public policy. The Hastings, Mich., native wrapped up a 10-month service term with Huron Pines AmeriCorps in Michigan before arriving to Sanibel Island. She served with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative as education coordinator, focused on protecting the Great Lakes watershed through hands-on, place-based stewardship education efforts.

“I was told that we just had snow in Michigan,” said Rose. “I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to live in such a warm and beautiful place and share my love for the outdoors with youth and others.”

At “Ding” Darling, she will be helping Sara Hallas, the refuge's environmental educator, with program development and delivery to local students and visitors through May 2018.

DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for about a dozen interns each year. The refuge supports interns and resident volunteers with free housing.

“Our interns bring youthful energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the refuge team,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “At the same time, the program gives students and recent graduates an opportunity to learn hands-on about the environment and refuge operations.”

For more information about the refuge's internship programs, contact Westland at 239-472-1100 ext. 237. To learn about supporting the refuge intern program, contact Sarah Lathrop, DDWS associate director, at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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