



April Arthur

June 24, 2020

To the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society:

Words cannot begin to summarize what my experience as a Development and Communications intern at “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society has meant to me. Thanks to both generous donors and the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, I was able to gain nine months of design experience amongst newly formed friendships in such a beautiful place.

During my time at “Ding,” I was able to expand my knowledge of design programs such as Adobe and Canva while aiding the Refuge’s mission of environmental education. Helping design projects for such an important cause has helped me realize what I want to pursue professionally; I can’t imagine working with any organization that doesn’t involve environmental education and stewardship. Whether it be Project Refuge, teaching about the harms of trash in a fun “fashion,” or educating scouts about wildlife photography for a merit badge, the work I have helped produce to educate others has managed to educate me as well in the process.

I know that anyone who has gone to “Ding” has been touched as I have by the many people who continually prove pure intentions for the natural world around us. Seeing so many volunteers, board members, visitors, and Society staff step up to assist the Refuge’s mission of conservation and restoration within the United States to benefit future generations has truly blown me away; if even half of the support received here was shown at other areas in the U.S., who knows what progress could be made?

Not only has my time with the Society helped aid my professional goals, but my personal ones as well. Being surrounded by those who act as stewards for the environment has taught me what it means to really care about this planet. Though I leave “Ding” behind, I will continue to teach others what it means to be an environmental steward, as I was taught each and every day in my time there.

As I leave Sanibel to begin the next chapter in my life, I hold onto all of the experiences and knowledge I have gained. The J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge has helped shape me into the person I am today, and I will forever be grateful for experiencing life as part of the “Ding” family.

Sincerely,

April Arthur