

June 10, 2019

Dear Supporters of the Ding Darling Wildlife Society,

I would like to take this time to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to work at the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Being a part of the "Ding" as a Visitor Service Intern has allowed me to gain real world experience in natural resource conservation and wildlife management.

Moving from the state of California to Florida has greatly helped to expand my horizons by gaining a new perspective about the agency. The internship position has also helped me gain exposure to the United States Fish and Wildlife System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society by learning valuable skills for future careers in conservation. Other strengths that I have developed, was inspiration and motivation to put my creative ability to work when designing new projects. I have also developed skills with communication with staff, volunteers, and visitors. I have had many opportunities to communicate through written work with interpretive panels, signs, and with my final internship project. Lastly, by maintaining a professional and positive attitude benefitted me in the internship to be a team player.

As a recent graduate from California State University of Sacramento where I earned my B.S. in Recreational Parks Management under the Department of Recreational Parks, Tourism, and Administration with certification in Natural Resources and Outdoor Experience, I plan on working in the field of either National or State Parks by incorporating concepts of conservation into programs to the public, giving educational talks to visitors in the parks, and hopefully becoming a park ranger. Over time working as a Park Ranger, I intend to eventually become a Park Supervisor. This internship opportunity was the first step towards entering the field and for that I am truly grateful for all of your help and support. I look forward to visiting the refuge again in the near future. Thank you!

Best Regards,

*Elizabeth Preciado*

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