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"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society - Friends of the Refuge

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Skyler Brennan will spend the summer helping the refuge develop curriculum.

Refuge welcomes summer education intern

On June 13, education intern Skyler Brennan joined the team at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island to help with staffing shortages this summer, thanks to funding from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). She will be working with the visitor services team to create STEM lesson plans to use with The Sanibel School in the coming school year.

Brennan, a native of Waxhaw, North Carolina, enters her senior year at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, this fall. Majoring in environmental science with a minor in biology, she is working towards her environmental educator certification for the state of North Carolina, has experience teaching at Cherokee Elementary in Cherokee, North Carolina, and has studied environmental education.

"The thing I like most about the refuge is the education about conservation that also comes with visiting the refuge itself," said Brennan. "I am excited to help the younger generation learn about the importance of conservation for both wildlife and the ecosystems they inhabit."

“We are excited for Skyler to join the team and look forward to seeing all the creative and fun plans she develops this summer,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, who heads visitors services at the refuge. “Our interns bring youthful energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the refuge team. At the same time, the program gives students and recent graduates an opportunity to learn hands-on about the environment and refuge operations.”

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

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 Sierra Hoisington, DDWS associate director, at 239-472-1100 ext. 233.

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 profits.

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

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