

Columbus Metroparks Internship

By: Megan Krisby

Background:

For my internship this past summer, I worked for Columbus Metroparks as a Camp Counselor. I was located at Homestead Metroparks in Hilliard, Ohio. The mission statement of Metro Parks is *“To conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature.”* Metro Parks focusing on emphasizing the importance of the environment through education and experiences. This internship included a wide range of duties and provided me with perspective from other Camp Counselors, Naturalists, and Park Rangers. I found this internship through my friend, who recommended the position to me. Though, Metro Parks posts open job opportunities on their website.



Kayaking with campers during Summer Camp activities.



Homestead Metroparks meadows and flowers



Swamp Cicada

On the Job:

My internship was composed of many duties and daily duties varied, but some of my tasks included:

- Always ensures safety of campers and keeps camp areas clean
- Guides and directs campers in a variety of camp activities including kayaking and fishing
- Increase campers’ understanding of the environment through education and examples
- Directs activities of 8-10 campers, serving as their counselor and leader
- Promotes an accepting, energizing, and comfortable environment with positive experiences for campers
- Assist with daily operations of camp and Homestead Metroparks

Daily duties were based on leading campers through educational activities that had an environmental focus. Some accomplishments I experienced were learning about wildlife within Ohio and facing fears about holding and engaging with specific wildlife, leading kayaking activities, and learning and identifying native Ohio plants.

Reflection:

This internship experience helped me to get my foot in the door with an organization that I am interested in working for in the future. It also allowed me to interact with Park Rangers, Managers, and Naturalists, which gave me ideas into other career positions. Moving forward, I recently accepted a Part-Time Park Ranger position with Columbus Metroparks and will be working at Scioto Audubon Metroparks in Columbus, Ohio. This is a new experience from what my internship was, but my internship helped me get this Part-Time position. I think I will continue to explore careers within Metroparks.

For students who are interested in similar positions, I recommend learning about multiple positions within Metroparks and stepping outside of your comfort zone for the best experience. This is what I pushed myself to do.



Homestead Metroparks Summer Camp Counselors 2020



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