

School of Environment and Natural Resources

A Summer at Brightpath Active Learning

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Where it all Started

This summer I worked for Brightpath Active learning here in Westerville, Ohio. Brightpath's mission statement is, "fun and meaningful educational experiences using the environment, nature, art and hands-on activities as a forum for learning." They work hard to ensure children use nature and hands on experience to learn and develop necessary skills. I found this job through the CFAES career fair in February 2022.



Brightpath Active Learning logo.

On the Job

Job duties include...

- Developing nature themed camp activities
- Connecting with campers and families
- Overseeing and planning fieldtrips 3x a week
- Developing classroom rules and systems



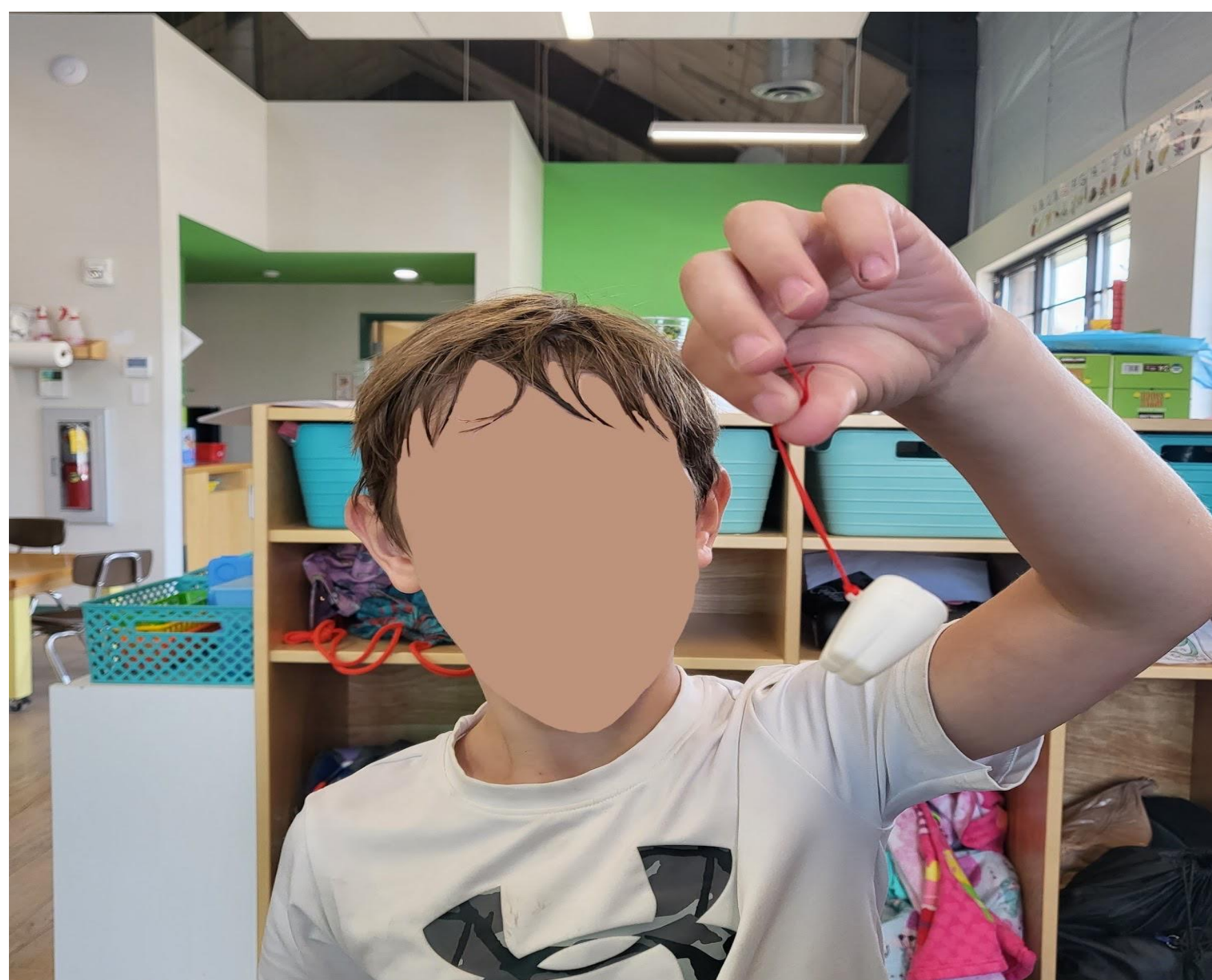
My blue class exploring Sharon Woods Metro Park



And LOTS of coloring! *The identities of the students are hidden in to protect the privacy of the children and out of respect for the parents*

Lasting Impacts

My time at Brightpath helped me for wonderful connections with my campers. I was able to help them experience so many new things. And I was there for many milestones (like losing your first tooth!) I worked hard to create memorable experiences and a comforting, warm environment where they felt welcome.



Camper holding tooth holder after losing his first tooth

One of the highlights this summer was when the firefighters came to Brightpath. They even let the campers hold the firehose and shoot water in the parking lot.

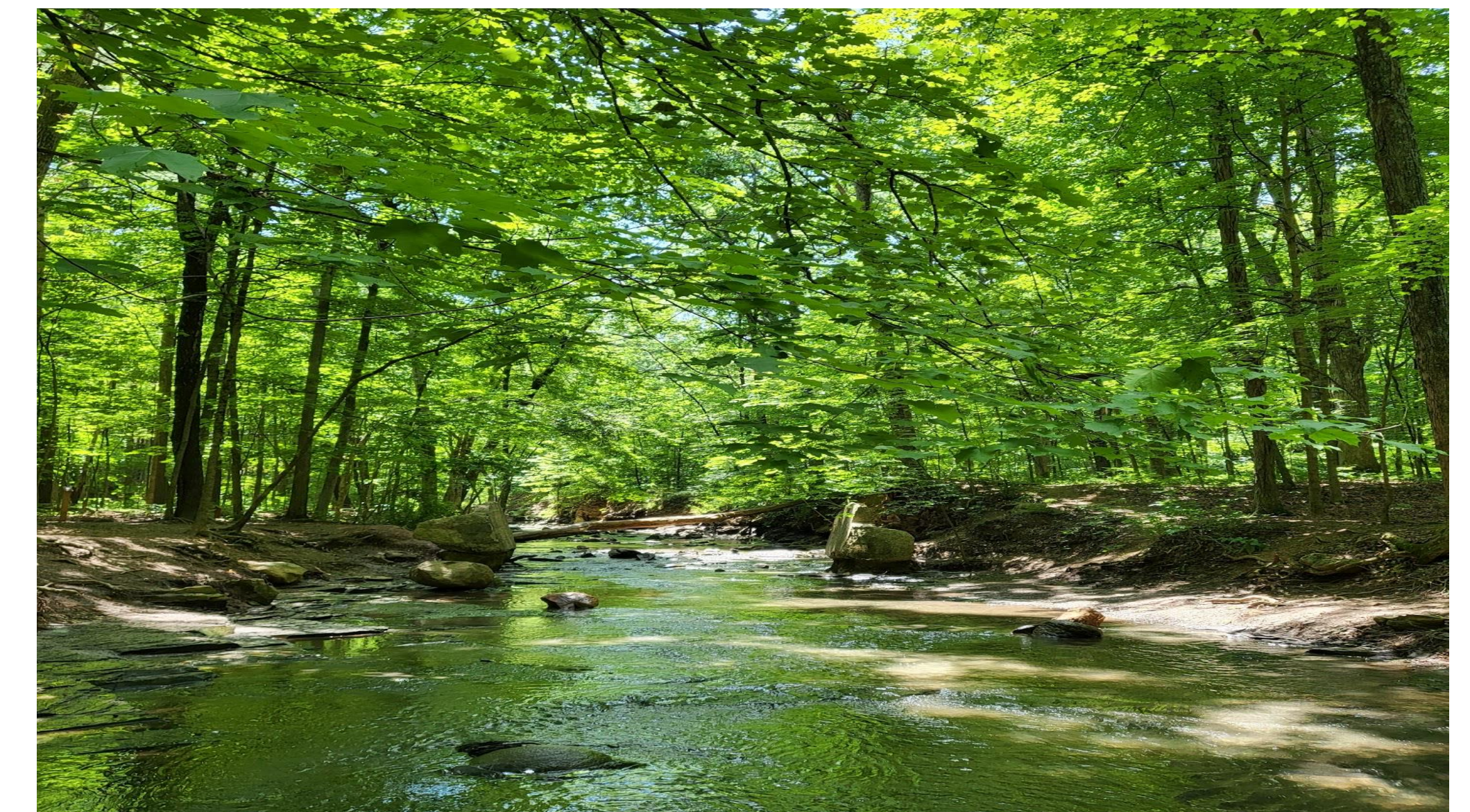


Genoa Township fire department visiting Brightpath

Another activity the kids (and I) loved was making pickles! We used child safe plastic knives and let the kids cut up all the cucumber. We also used dill that was freshly grown at Brightpath.



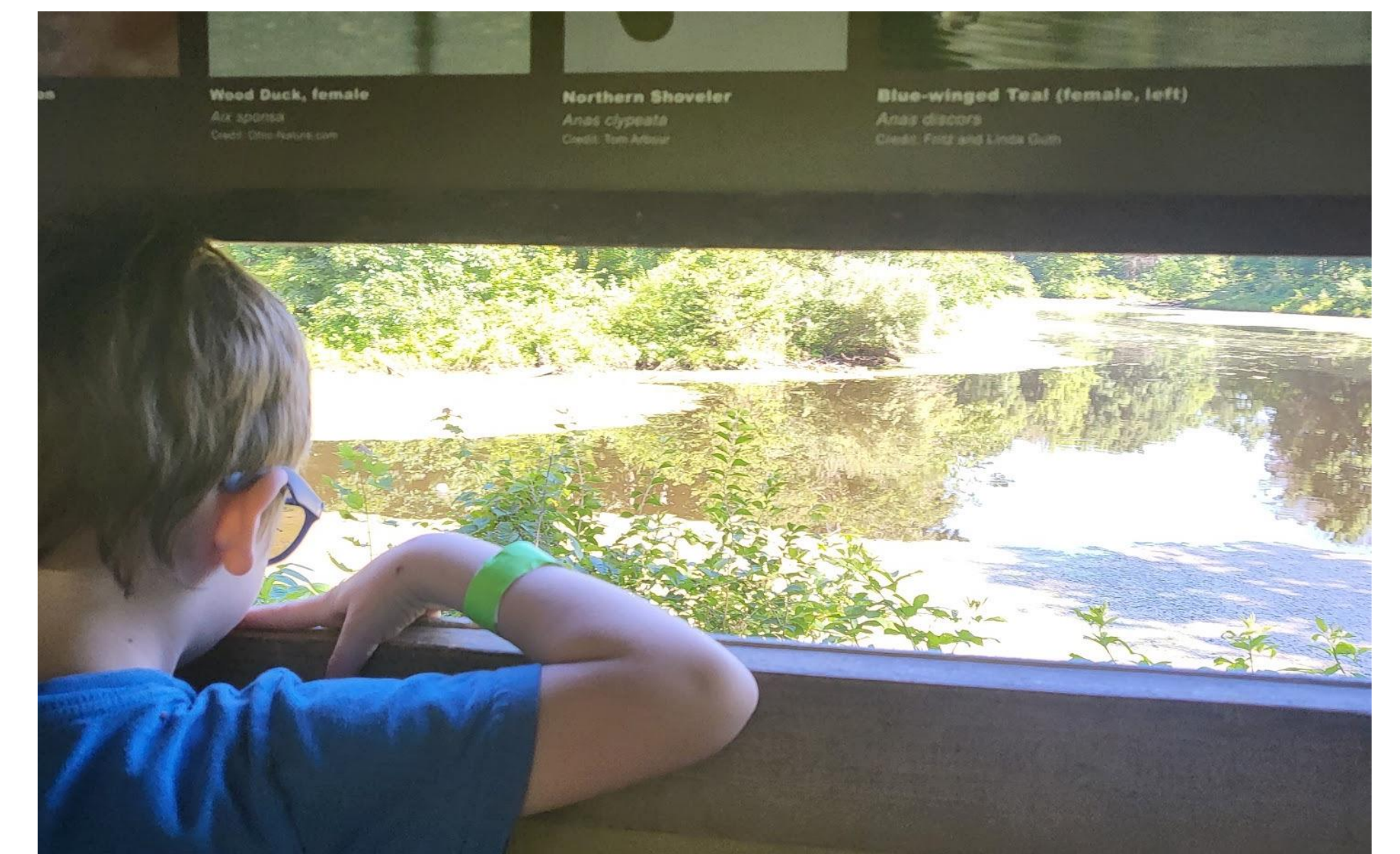
The blue class's homemade pickles.



Creek at Blendon Woods Metro Park

What's Next?

This internship helped me build valuable skills such as classroom management, being able to assess behaviors, and teamwork. I was fortunate enough to obtain a full-time job with Brightpath and I plan to stay in this position for some time. When it is time to transition to another job, I will be carrying over the skills I have acquired at Brightpath. I would recommend this internship to anyone interested in education after graduation.



Camper enjoying wildlife lookout at Char Mar Ridge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to my director Erica Wares for being so encouraging during my internship! Also, a huge thank you to Katie Zimmerman for encouraging me to attend the career fair that connected me to Brightpath



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