Camp Kern—Senior Camp Counselor
Mimi Williams: Environment, Economics, Development, and Sustainability

BACKGROUND
Camp Kern is located on over 480 acres in Oregonia, Ohio. During the summer session multiple teen and child programs, run for 9 weeks. The mission of Camp Kern revolves around 4 core values:
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Caring
- Respect
I was once a camper myself and was excited to join the staff for my internship.

DURING THE WEEK
As a counselor, I worked with kids of different age ranges throughout the summer. The kids would arrive on Sunday evening, and we have them until Friday afternoon. The week was comprised of:
- Themed games
- Outdoor and indoor activities
- Campfires and camp outs

I worked with a lot of the nature hikes and helped work in the camp’s nature center with all the unique animals that had made their way to camp. The nature center had snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles, geckos, and other unique animals for the children to interact with. I helped to handle and feed a number of these animals.

Throughout the week I often needed to plan activities and quickly problem solve for when things went wrong, test my leadership abilities and engage with my peers, campers, and leadership, and work on my communication skills.

Some activities I planned included:
- Leaf etchings
- Fossil Hunts
- Creature Crawls
- Flora and Fauna Safaris

This internship gave me the opportunity to build upon my existing skill sets and strengthen my leadership skills. I was able to learn so much about the outdoors and my own relationship with nature. I had originally chosen this internship because I was interested in teaching or working with children in some way, and this was the perfect chance to try just that. Being able to help kids experience nature through activities and experiences I planned was extremely rewarding. Moving forward I will keep this experience in mind, but I would also like to look into other career paths, especially on the more corporate side of the environmental industry. My advice to any future students would be to be prepared. This experience came with a lot of stress and pressure as you are in charge of the health and safety of these kids. It can be a lot of fun, but you will be required to do things outside your comfort zone, and you must be resilient.

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