



# Christina Hester

**DEVELOPMENT AND  
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN  
(SEPT. 2021- JUNE 2022)**



**Dear "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society,**

Thank you doesn't even begin to describe my gratitude towards DDWS, DDNWR, the supporters, and everyone who I've had the pleasure of working with in these last 9 months. It has been such an amazing experience to be a part of this team where everyone is so welcoming, kind, and supportive. Throughout my time here, I've been able to gain a deeper understanding and insight into all the different facets that make up conservation. As well as witness firsthand the impact of environmental advocacy and education in creating future stewards.

During my time here, I've been able to use my Journalism degree to manage social media pages for the society, create promotional graphic and video content, and assist with all fundraising and outreach events throughout the year. Also, I've had the opportunity to assist with both the WoW (Wildlife on Wheels) and with field surveys conducted by the Refuge Biologist. These experiences not only helped me gain the skills I need to excel in my own career, but it allowed me to appreciate different aspects of conservation that I don't normally get to see in my day to day work.

"Ding" Darling has become a really special place to me and I will always hold these memories close to my heart. I've been insanely fortunate enough to see alligators, otters, and the most beautiful birds every day when I come into work. The only things I'll miss more than the wildlife are the friends that I've made here. The people at "Ding" are some of the most incredible bunch of folks I've met and although I'm leaving now, I know that I'll always have family to visit at the Refuge.

Thanks to all for the invaluable experience I was able to gain here, I was offered my first full-time position as the Multimedia Communications Associate for Casey Trees, a Washington D.C. based non-profit working to restore and enhance the urban tree canopy of the city. Another huge thank you to everyone here at "Ding" for all the support and encouragement they gave me throughout my entire time here.

**Thank you for everything,**

**Christina Hester**

