
LIVE NFK: THE INTERN'S NOT THE INTERN

The End/ Beginning

My internship started June 4, 2018 and ended August 10, 2018. Lucky for me, my time at Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) has not ended. The first few weeks were a whirlwind



of meetings, meeting people, learning about my projects, and the processes that keep KNB going. Communication, asking questions, and organization became important elements in everything I did. As slow as some might say government moves, it doesn't feel that way from the inside. Granted, KNB is a small, four-person organization. In a small setting, with a certain degree of autonomy, KNB can be flexible and adaptable. At the start of my internship I was excited, optimistic, and felt I was contributing to something important. Well, I am happy to report that absolutely none of that has changed!

Lessons Learned

Where do I even begin? I have, and have had, the privilege of working with remarkable people. The time, energy, and dedication of KNB employees may have no equal. For a small operation, the events, programs, and impact are far reaching. Choose whatever image of environmental stewardship suits you, because when you throw back the curtain, it's quite different. There is a lot of time spent tracking, recording, and organizing the numerous activities and programs. It is certainly not, at least for now, constantly being outside, playing with kids in a garden, or hugging trees. Why we do what we do is to inspire environmental stewardship. How we do what we do, much of the time, takes place in the office.

So, What Now?

Well, glad you asked. I do have to return to school next week. Lucky for me school is Old Dominion University and all my classes are online, except one. I am leading the International Coastal Cleanup, Adopt-A-Spot, and Community Cleanup programs. Let me tell you, it is a lot of (paper) work. However, it is a lot of work that I am excited to do. What could be better than supporting people in their efforts to keep our environment clean. I am also looking forward to more education and outreach projects. Inspiring others and making a meaningful impact is what it's all about and I get to help!

