

Shay Hart

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Dear “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society,

As my time in this special place comes to an end, I feel as though a sincere thank you is in store.

While living in Florida has always been something I wanted to experience, I never could have guessed the significance this job would have in determining the trajectory of my future. I thought accepting this environmental education intern position would allow me to get my feet wet in the field and would continue to help nurture my passions for the environment and teaching. However, I had no idea the people I would meet would further define my path and become crucial to my growth and development.

From my always encouraging and inspiring supervisor, Sara Hallas, to the resident volunteers and the wildlife society who made all of this possible—my life has been forever shaped by these people and experiences. I have always struggled with narrowing down one field of interest because of my broad interests, however after working at this Refuge as part of the EE team, I have found what I’ve always wanted in a career. I will continue on to graduate school where I will receive my Masters’ in environmental education and continue on this path in hopes of making the world a better place for future generations.

The “Ding” community have been some of the most wonderful people I have ever met, and I know I wouldn’t be where I am today without this experience. The opportunities, resources and support available here are nothing short of amazing and the work that is being done here is extremely inspiring. Thank you to everyone I’ve met along the way here, I will hold these memories close to my heart always.

With the utmost sincerity and gratitude,

Shay Hart