

Kimi Birrer

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To “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society,

I would like to thank the Society for the opportunities allotted to me in my time with the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge as one of the Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) interns.

Every connection I made with the children I worked with gave me a reason to keep trying. Their love and passion for our native wildlife and science encouraged and inspired me to continue in this field of conservation. Despite not having much experience teaching on environmental topics before beginning the internship, I gained a lot of positive experience and I feel that being an environmental educator is something I will return to in the future.

Additionally, I relished being able to communicate with children and members of the public in both English and Spanish. I feel that the WoW is an incredible support for these kids, especially those who are still learning English. Inclusion and extra support absolutely matter, and they do make a remarkable difference for those kids in need.

I am eternally grateful to have had this great start in the field of environmental education. And I am still “WoW’ed” that I had an opportunity like this to combine my passions of communicating in Spanish and my life mission to advance conservation efforts and education. So, thank you for everything, and I hope to stay updated on how the WoW continues to touch the lives of people in the SWFL community.

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