



Protect. Educate. Inspire. 

Alison Reece

**Harkey "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Communications & Development Intern
(August 1, 2022 - June 1, 2023)**

Dear "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society,

I have been visiting Sanibel Island since I was young, and in a way, it has always felt like home. However, it wasn't until I met the amazing staff, volunteers, and interns that Sanibel truly felt like home. My time with DDWS has been an unconventional internship with Hurricane Ian affecting most of my time here. Even with the devastating effects of the hurricane on "Ding" and Sanibel I was able to gain important skills and experience that I will always carry with me.

During my time with DDWS I gained experience in social media management, graphic design, event coordination, and non-profit management. After graduating last May, I was nervous about entering the "real world" and my internship was the perfect introduction into the workplace in an area that I am passionate about. I was able to use my degree in marketing in social media coordination and graphic design while also promoting areas that I am passionate about, such as, environmental and wildlife education.

My time here at "Ding" has been so special. I have loved getting to know Everyone involved in the "Ding" family. From staff and volunteers to other interns, I am truly blown away at how amazing and welcoming everyone has been to me. Even though I have always loved Sanibel, these amazing people made this place my home by allowing me to join their community. I have made lifelong connections through "Ding".

I want to thank all the staff at DDWS for impacting me in such a positive way. I also can't thank Bill and Laurie Harkey enough for funding and supporting my internship with DDWS. Interning with DDWS gave me the experience and skills to accept my new job at CROW as their PR/Marketing Director!

I am so excited to always carry the lessons and experience that DDWS has given me!

Ali Reece

