



2022

Deception Pass State Park Beach Naturalist internship

Devon Bedard
Western Washington University

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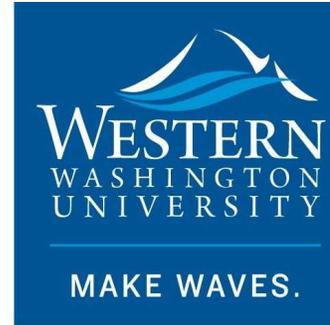
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COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Internship Title: Deception Pass State Park Beach Naturalist

Student Name: Devon Bedard

Internship Dates: June 2022 – Sept 2022

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devon Bedard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a horizontal line.

DATE: 9-28-2022

HUXLEY COLLEGE INTERNSHIP REPORT

I. STUDENT/INTERN INFORMATION

Name: Devon Bedard	W#: W01391383
Major: Environmental Science	Concentration: Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecology
Internship Title: Deception Pass State Park Beach Naturalist.	
Period of Internship: June 2022 – Sept 2022	
Avg. Hours per Week: 10-15 hrs	Total Hours Worked: 150

II. HOST INSTITUTION INFORMATION

Institution Name: Deception Pass State Park
Institution Address: 41020 SR-20 Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Institution Mission: Deception Pass State Park provides a plethora of outdoor recreational activities and quality visitor engagement with a combination of structured educational programs and informal interpretative experiences throughout the park.
Supervisor Name and Title: Joy Kacoroski (she/her, Parks Interpretive Specialist 2)
Supervisor Contact Information: Cell: (360) 228-5758 Email: Joy.Kacoroski@PARKS.WA.GOV

III. DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description of the project or program on which you worked, the objectives of that project or program, and your role as an intern within that project or program:

This internship program is designed to engage visitors of Deception Pass State Park through informal interpretation as well as provide accessible knowledge of the local ecology and natural history. A fundamental goal of the program as well as Marine stewardship and this is accomplished through community engagement, educational opportunities, and active restoration efforts in the Rosario tide pools. Deception Pass State Park utilizes interns as well as volunteers to act as park interpreters and beach naturalists. My role as an intern included work in the Rosario tide pools as a beach naturalist and I helped run the Rosario Discovery Center--a small interpretive center--with the other interns over the summer. In the tide pools, I worked to educate the public on the unique ecology of the intertidal zone and upheld conservation efforts to avoid any further habitat degradation. Likewise, the interpretive center allowed for meaningful engagement but in a unique way. The more organized setup of the interpretive center compared to the tide pools created a unique space to have longer and more detailed interactions with the community. The center also offered unique educational opportunities with its display specimens, microscopes, and marine-themed arts & crafts projects for families.

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide a list of your specific duties and responsibilities as an intern:

- The intern is responsible for operating the Rosario Discovery Center on weekends in the summer. Operational duties include opening, closing and cleaning of the center as well as greeting visitors and providing information about tide pools and the park.
- Intern duties also include providing informal interpretive opportunities for visitors at the Rosario Tide Pools at low tide or with virtual tech at high tide. (Intern is expected to record visitor contacts)
- Demonstrate, model, and encourage appropriate stewardship practices related to tide pool exploration.
- Provide high-quality informal interpretation of park resources.

V. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Describe what you learned from your internship and how this experience contributed to your educational goals:

Working with the state park as a beach naturalist allowed me to get hands-on experience with community outreach and education focused on marine stewardship. Environmental education and public awareness is a key component to counteract many ecological problems resulting from anthropogenic disturbances. One of my goals as an environmental scientist is to learn how to effectively communicate environmental topics and issues with the public in an accessible manner. If the public has a better understanding of local ecosystems and how our actions affect them, they are more likely to get involved in conserving those systems whether it be directly or indirectly.

VI. LITERATURE CITED

Provide reference information for all sources cited in your report:

Deception pass state park. Deception Pass State Park | Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. (n.d.). Retrieved September 24, 2022, from <https://www.parks.wa.gov/497/Deception-Pass>

APPENDIX I. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Attach copies of any reports, presentations or other deliverables that you produced during your internship, if applicable.