

I've been very fortunate to have many great influential people in my life, so to pick one person is very difficult for me. But if I had to pick one it would be my dad. He's the most patient person I've ever met, and had the patience to share his knowledge with me. He taught me to pursue my passions, many of which we share, and to not be afraid to try new things. I'm very grateful to have such a supportive family.

Part of that support was helping me accomplish my dream of studying abroad, and I would say this is also my greatest accomplishment. I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Denmark for a semester. I learned so much from this experience including pushing myself out of my comfort zone and trying new things alone. I'm very proud of myself for going through with it, and still use those skills I learned in my everyday life now.

Learning to try new things and being less shy led me to speak up for what I'm passionate about as well. I'm very passionate about protecting the environment, and teaching others about what they can do in their everyday lives to minimize their impact. Or how they can help to reverse their impacts. Over the summer of 2022 I had the opportunity to work as an intern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Complex. One of my tasks was talking to visitors, and I loved answering their questions about the refuge, environment, and what they can do to protect it. I'm looking forward to continuing volunteering at these refuges as I found it very fulfilling.

Aside from my supportive family, my education has greatly shaped me as a person as well. I truly believe that teachers are what can make or break how enjoyable a class is, and I've been lucky to have a multitude of teachers and professors that make me enthused to come to

class and learn from what they have to say. This is also what led me to want to be a teacher as well. I want to be able to make a difference in students' lives, just like they did for me!

My short term goals would be to continue trying new careers and internships while I work to earn my bachelors degree, as well as my masters degree in education. Long-term, while I do plan to become a teacher, I would also like to start a family eventually and be able to support them like mine did for me.

Growing up doing many outdoor activities with my family and having a great relationship with the environment makes me very passionate about protecting it, and is the main reason I decided to start a career in the field. Unfortunately for the environment, the amount of careers needed to sustain it will only continue to increase, but I'm excited to be able to be a part of that!