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Brooke Woodfield

SUMMER INTERN - CONSERVATION SCIENCE

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Brooke is an independent, 20 year old university student from The Netherlands who is completing her degree in Biology with an internship with A Rocha at Brooksdale. Growing up in her family farm, Brooke enjoys the outdoors and has a passion for conservation of nature. After living in the modern city in university residence, A Rocha is a drastic but exciting change for Brooke. Her internship involves, training classes and weekly monitoring and resoration projects alongside other interns within the tight knit, immersive environment of Brooksdale. Brooke was looking for a way to pursue spiritual growth and career experience, and found that A Rocha was an appropriate context. She benefits from educational and theological mentorship while spending time with the Brooksdale staff.

Day in the Life

With the Brooksdale internship being a highly immersive program, Brooke spends most of her time working on conservation related tasks. On a typical day living in the residential buildings, Brooke attends Brooksdale's daily communal prayer session. She helps prepare, cook, and serve the staff lunches and eats with her fellow interns. Brooke would also join her partner in the same internship concentration (conservation science) and assist a coordinator in monitoring the state of the nearby Little Campbell River. She also spends time observing and recording data on the local amphibians, as she will have a presentation near the end of her internship to express her findings. Moreover, she assists a children's on-site program in setting up the facilities for the event activities. Needless to say, Brooke's day is packed with numerous learning experiences. Her schedule is filled for maximum productivity. She works to improve her conservation practices while growing spiritually with her Christian peers. Brooke generally enjoys being busy and is always surprised by the ample selection of opportunities to gain conservation experience at Brooksdale Environmental Centre.

Aspirations

Brooke is looking to focus her time and energy on her key passion of conservation. She left The Netherlands hoping to find a fresh experience from the mundane student life. Brooke is also contemplating the relationship between her faith and career. Her pursuit of purpose drives her toward Christian affiliated opportunities in her field. Though highly independent, Brooke struggles with making her efforts fruitful for her future. However, the interconnected nature of the Brooksdale intership allows her to concentrate on each day as it comes. Ultimately, Brooke hopes to solidify her dedication of nature conservation in a secure profession and career.



Technology + Communcation

Throughout university, Brooke has been familiar with using her laptop to complete her assignments and projects. She's technologically adept enough to navigate within social mediums outlets, but would not be able to solve difficult hardware problems and software errors. She prefers using Apple products over Windows based tools. Brooke was previously involved in a highly technologically heavy communication system in unversity with various apps and tools. She has put many of those on hold during her internship, partly because of the lack of wifi in at Brooksdale. Her workload also prevents her from being overly connected online.

QUOTE

By day, I am a Conservation Science intern, but every minute I am a student of hospitality and an ambassador of reconciliation in training.



Luke Foster

A ROCHA CONSERVATION SCIENCE DIRECTOR



Luke is the conservation science director at A Rocha. He and his team aim to preserve the local environment of Surrey by conducting various research projects and collecting data. Despite having a great passion in his work, Luke loves his family and wants to have a balance between his job and his personal life, especially when his children are still quite young. He's got his entire family resided in one of the A Rocha's property: Brooksdale, which enables him to keep close contact with them at all time. Moreover, Luke possesses a strong belief in Christianity and is what motivates him to continue his work in environmental conservation. He also tries to expand this idea among the others attempting to persuade them through the result of his work.

Day in the Life

While enjoying breakfast with family every morning, Luke reviews his daily schedule and ensures all important tasks are highlighted. He then heads out to the conservation office to meet and distribute tasks among his team. Luke is the one of the essential member of A Rocha who takes initiatives in all the conservation projects. Depending on different seasons and projects, Luke leads the team to several location for research and experiment seeking for solution to maintain or improve the quality of the natural surrounding. During his lunch break, Luke's family joins in with the rest of A Rocha. Afterward, he invites biologists, landowners, and other environmental conservation organizations to have his interns showcasing their result of their researches. When no interns are available, Luke hosts meeting with the team in order to form plans for A Rocha's fund raising. When being off duty, Luke does not go to other places but spending time with his family at A Rocha. He sometimes brings kid to help out with the gardening work of A Rocha, or he may assists his wife on some household work.

Aspirations

Attributed to a strong belief in Christianity, Luke regards the act of environmental conservation as part of his personal mission. He believes that by practicing the preservation of his natural surroundings, it allows him to transformation his heart and mind into greater well-being. He understands conservation cannot be done alone, but as a community. Luke joined A Rocha hoping to connect with more people through his work and eventually persuade them into living harmoniously with the environment. It really bothers him when certain people keeps on refusing to cooperate with the organization. Luke does not simply compromise, and continues to converse with these individuals.



Technology + Communcation

Due to the nature of his work, Luke is required to use computers for data tracking. This leads to his familiarity with the advanced technology. Despite owning the knowledge however, Luke generally lacks experience in using social media. He prefers to have face-to-face interactions with the people or at the very least delivering messages through mobile contact. From Luke's perspective, he simply treats technology as one of the tools to complete his tasks. While doing so, he tries to stay as independent as possible from these devices. Overall, Lukes understanding of technology is limited to what is necessary for his work,

QUOTE

Conservation is about people; they get into it because they like nature. In order to save nature, you need to connect with people.



Iris is 38 year old administrator at A Rocha’s Brooksdale location in Surrey. She is passionate about outreaching and communicating with people interested in environmental care and conservation. Before working at A Rocha, Iris worked in the IT industry for over 10 years with her background and education in computer science. Having only worked at A Rocha for 2 years, she is still learning to adapt and appreciate the slow pace environment of A Rocha. Iris is also a dedicated Christian who attends church every Sunday and is thankful to be able to incorporate her spiritual values at work. She lives happily with her husband and pet cat in a small home located in White Rock.

Day in the Life

On a typical day, Iris would wake up early and devote 10 minutes of her day to read the Bible and understand God’s words. She would follow up with a short morning prayer, eat a healthy breakfast with organic vegetables, and head to work by car. At work, Iris normally intakes general inquiries and helps coordinate short term volunteers interested in A Rocha; getting the volunteers through legal paperwork and placing them in opportunities based on their interests, skills, and aspirations. Iris has a background in computer science, so she occasionally works on side projects involving digital solutions that can help A Rocha as an organization. Her role is crucial in the company because she is the main point of contact and relays all information to the appropriate channels. Before ending work, she would grab some fresh ingredients in the local garden to prepare dinner with her husband. After dinner, she spends some time listening to calming music, taking care of her small garden at her home, and listen to some Christian podcasts to help refresh her mind. She would end the day with a thanksgiving prayer to God.

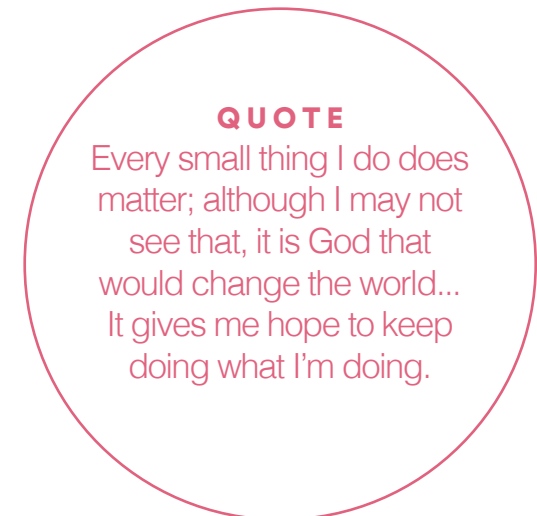
Aspirations

Working in administration, Iris has concerns about the current work practices and methods in communication and archiving across various channels. Since A Rocha is remote location, there is no WiFi and only one channel of digital communication managed by herself. She often has a hard time getting a hold of people within A Rocha, and would often have to find and meet people in person when they are available at the moment. She appreciates the slower pace and culture of A Rocha, but finds that there could still be some improvements in communication and archiving methods to improve work efficiency.



Technology + Communcation

Iris is pro-technology and worked in the IT consulting industry for many years before coming to A Rocha 2 years ago. She hopes to incorporate some new digital solutions within the organization without replacing the invaluable face-to-face conversations integrated in the work culture. Currently, Iris keeps in touch with people by meeting them in person, through phone calls, SMS messaging, and email. She prefers in person contact the most as she deeply values the relationships she builds with people. She uses phone calls as her second choice of contacting others, understanding that it can be difficult to always meet in person.



QUOTE

Every small thing I do does matter; although I may not see that, it is God that would change the world... It gives me hope to keep doing what I’m doing.