

## What does an intern with the Military Extension Internship Program do?

Joanna describes her internship with the Navy in Naples, Italy.



Joanna D. interned with the Navy in Naples, Italy during the Summer of 2014. She is studying Elementary Education at California State University Stanislaus.

For my internship, I primarily worked with the Training and Curriculum (T&C) Specialist for the Child Development Center, School-Age Care, and Teen Center. I initially assisted the T&C Specialist in training fellow employees and teen hires in various trainings that they needed. After learning all about what a T&C's job encompasses, I was given the opportunity to create PowerPoint presentations for new trainings that had not yet been taught! I was also given opportunities to observe the teachers in various classrooms, ensuring that they were in compliance with the Navy Child and Youth Programs regulations. I learned how to create and enhance curriculum for specific age groups throughout all of the centers, and was then given opportunities to assist in various classrooms.

In addition to the trainings and observations, I created an informational brochure for the teen center about the importance of voting, assisted the children's theatre for one week in preparation for the community play of "Hansel and Gretel", and assisted the Child and Youth Programs Director (my mentor) in the sporting event of the Naples basketball team playing the University of San Diego's basketball team.

My favorite memory of my internship was watching the performances of the School-Age children with their Camp Adventure Staff member. It was incredible to see what those kids could do in the little time they were given. They worked so hard all summer long, and their performances definitely reflected this. It was amusingly ironic that their theme was "Frozen", yet we were all sweating while watching their performances outside. One performance in particular that impacted me was watching the kids perform sign language to the song "My Wish", by Rascal Flatts. Even in the scorching hot sun, that performance gave me chills. It was the perfect way to bring such an incredible summer to an end.

This internship has greatly impacted my career and future plans. My initial goal was to become an elementary school teacher. However, this internship has opened my mind to the many outlets of working with military branches and aiding the military community. I am hoping to teach for the Department of Defense, teaching children in military families.

During my time as an intern, I learned the importance of professionalism, flexibility, taking risks, and most importantly, that your internship is what you make of it. I highly recommend this internship to anyone seeking a life-changing experience!

A partnership between the Cooperative Extension System and the Department of Defense has provided the funding for a national, military childcare/youth development internship program.

Through this initiative, students and recent graduates have the opportunity to develop professional skills in childcare and youth development through practical work experience with military children, youth, and families. Internships are on active military installations across the U.S. and around the world with child and youth programs. Interns will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in military child and youth programs.

Please visit [www.ydae.purdue.edu/military](http://www.ydae.purdue.edu/military) for more information about the internships, including job descriptions; instructions on how to apply; intern profiles; and FAQs. Specific questions regarding the internships may be referred to: Jessica Wandless, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Internship Coordinator, at [jwandless@purdue.edu](mailto:jwandless@purdue.edu).