

Collegiate Conservation Program

Key Findings – Summer 2019

INTERNS PERCEPTIONS OF THE ROLE OF ZOOS SHIFTED

“Before this summer, I still had the thought that zoos are more about entertainment than they are about saving animals. However, I quickly learned about all the amazing partnerships the Houston Zoo has with people on grounds, as well as people across the world, in order to protect animals in the wild.”

INTERNS RECOGNIZE ZOOS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE AT SAVING WILDLIFE WHEN COLLABORATING WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

“I now understand that to be successful in conservation you must be adept at engaging local communities and understanding what your stakeholders require of you. Basically, being competent at social engagement. Before CCP, I thought conservation was mainly raising money and hard physical labor.”

100% of interns shared specifics of what the Zoo is doing to save wildlife locally and around the world.

HOW INTERNS REDUCED THREATS TO TEXAS WILDLIFE



Plastic Reduction

4,200 single-use bottles, bags and straws kept out of landfills



Texas Wildlife Habitat Clean-up

43 pounds of plastic and glass removed and recycled

118 pounds of trash removed

4 pounds of monofilament recycled



Texas Wildlife Habitat Restoration

40 hours spent removing invasive plant species, planting native plants and building oyster reefs

INTERNS INCREASED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW PERSONAL ACTIONS CAN AFFECT WILDLIFE

80% of interns shared threat reducing actions with friends and family based on their awareness that this was a way to save animals in the wild

QUOTES FROM INTERNS

“This experience was amazing. I’ve learned more here than my entire year of college and I now have a greater understanding of the field of conservation. **I was changed by finally understanding what role I can play in conservation and how I can take steps to achieve my goals.**”

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