

Elizabeth Russell: "The Charm of the Texas Coast"

I found the Rockport-Fulton community to be friendly and beautiful. Everyone that I met was very different from people I grew up around in the Houston area. It was almost like the people were on "island time" living on the coast. It was a great change of scenery being near the water. The restaurants and shops were different that what we have back home also.

The Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce is a hardworking, dedicated organization. I never knew how much influence Chamber's has in the community until I worked with this one. This group welcomed me into their organization, and gave me a taste of what the Chamber of Commerce is like.

My internship included many different tasks involved with the Internet and their websites. I edited and worked on updates to their different websites when I first started at the Chamber. As my time in Rockport-Fulton went on, I worked on the second meeting of the Eagle Ford Shale Task Force and updated the MobiApp.

This experience showed me that there is more than East Texas. I feel like I benefited this community by showing them that someone with no experience can learn about how they do things. I also have shared my experience in the hopes that people will possibly visit Rockport-Fulton.

Most of my agriculture classes had little effect on my readiness for this internship. Some of the best experiences I had were meeting new people, learning about the Chamber, living by the water, and catching awesome fish. I never had a negative experience during my time there.



Rockport-Fulton was not what I would consider a "rural" community. I have driven through a lot of small towns, and many of them were much smaller and more remote than Rockport-Fulton. Other communities like this one can offer a get away from the larger cities, short-term or long-term. I realize it is not like Houston or even Huntsville, but I believe this community has a lot to offer. This is the "Charm of the Texas Coast" and they know it. Not only do they offer a friendly vacation spot with things to see like the Bay Education Center and of course the beach, but they also have great places to stay and eat. It is an easy down to get around in and of course they have great fishing.

After being involved with the Rockport-Fulton community, I was able to see some things that could be problematic for the rural communities. One of the biggest ones that stood out to me was the attraction factor. This community focus so much on drawing visitors into the town. Not only are they trying to draw people in, but they are also competing with other coastal towns like Port Aransas.

Overall, I enjoyed spending a month in Rockport-Fulton. Not just working with the Chamber of Commerce, but enjoying everything the towns had to offer. Even just driving around or trying the different restaurants was fun. I would not mind at all living in a rural community or even Rockport-Fulton. It is a great place to be.



For more information regarding the Texas Rural Internship program, please contact Cheryl L. Hudec at clh003@shsu.edu or by phone at 936-294-4380