

Taylor Aschermann
TDA Texas Rural Internship Program
Center for Rural Studies: SHSU
Smithville Internship Community
Summer 1 2012



Taylor Aschermann

- * Senior at Sam Houston State University
- * Major: Sociology Minor: Human Services
- * Very active student part of 4 organizations
- * Picked Smithville because I was excited to figure out the variety of organizations I would get to work with and having the City Grant Administrator that would teach me about the grant process
- * Loved having my internship in Smithville small town of 3,866 people learning how to live in a rural small town compared to Houston

What would Smithville or they like to know about my internship experience in their community?

- * I worked with Smithville's City Hall and many other organizations.
- * My internship supervisor, Jill Strube, is the City Grant Administrator and works with the mayor.
- * I helped out the Smithville Public Library and Community Gardens/Food Pantry with their grants.
- * Smithville's small downtown business owners are trying to get approved as a Cultural District.
- * Enjoyed working with the nonprofit organizations such as Serenity Star, Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance and the Association of Citizens for Education.

What would the Smithville community members like to know about my internship experience in their community?

- * I worked on the Smithville Business Guidebook, helped organize information collected from Smithville's Veteran Memorial Park Fundraiser, helped the library staff with the Summer Reading Program, helped some with the Green Expo event and attended it.
- * I also helped the head librarian gather statistics for the library's accreditation, helped the Community Gardens with their grant, volunteered at the food pantry, helped out Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance, and Association of Citizens for Education, worked at the Chamber of Commerce on weekends, and volunteered at Serenity Star.

How did you apply your academically obtained knowledge within your discipline to your internship?

- * I applied what I learned academically with my major in Sociology for my internship by studying the population or community of Smithville and also learned how statistics can be applied in a real world situation.

What I did? How I did it? Why was it important to do what I did?

- * I worked at City Hall with Jill Strube, the Library with Judy Bergeron, the Smithville Community Gardens, LPAA, ACE, and Chamber of Commerce. I volunteered at the food pantry and Serenity Star.
- * I did tasks I was assigned for each week and had mentors for each week. I had discipline, determination, and am a hard worker.
- * What I did for the internship was important to me because I wanted to learn a lot which I did, maybe try to figure out from the internship what I want to do with my sociology degree, and most important I wanted to learn from my internship supervisor Jill Strube about the grant process.

What I learned

- * I learned what it meant for Smithville to be a Film Friendly town
- * I learned about the grant writing process
- * I learned that I need to become more skilled with using Excel
- * I learned how to do 4 things at one time, multitask, and what it will be like to have a full time 9-5 job
- * I learned about nonprofit organizations and that they are categorized as 501c3

Internship Overview

- * Personal: helped me realize that where I want to head with Sociology is direct and working for a year after I get my undergraduate degree will benefit me
- * Academic: After I graduate this May 2013 I will look forward after a year of a job to graduate school
- * Career: Have a Masters in Social work in 3 to 4 years
- * I feel that my performance during my internship was excellent and that I took full advantage of the experience









Bernie

Hope Floats

Tree of Life

Thank-you

- * Thanks to:
 - * TDA Texas Rural Internship Program
 - * SHSU Center for Rural Studies
 - * Jill Strube
 - * Judy Bergeron and Library staff
 - * All my other mentors
 - * Smithville Community
 - * All organizations worked with
 - * All Smithville Friends made
 - * Host Families and FUMC Smithville