



Nonprofit Studies Minor

Spring 2022 Internship

Rebecca Shannon is a junior Psychology major who interned for the Explore More Discovery Museum in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Explore More Discovery Museum's focus is allowing children to learn through play and interactive experiences. "I gained tremendous experience through a variety of jobs I was able to take on at Explore More," exclaimed Rebecca. Most of her internship was spent planning and leading different programs for children. She also gained experience in guest services and working with partners such as the James Madison University College for Kids program. Rebecca was given responsibilities such as helping to plan Play Without Boundaries, an event for children with autism or other intellectual disabilities and their families. That and helping with the Friday morning preschool programming were her favorite responsibilities during the internship.

Programming was her primary responsibility, although she also was able to observe fundraising activities and gained experience with customer relations. Rebecca learned about different children's museums during the internship, especially their inclusion and accessibility practices for individuals with disabilities.

She used this information to provide takeaways that Explore More could use. Rebecca also created a Social Story for the Museum's website, to help families prepare children for their visit to the museum.

"I never felt isolated or like I was 'just' an intern. I was always included as a part of the team, which kept me involved in various parts of the museum," said Rebecca. The Executive Director took the time to get to know Rebecca and her special interests, then utilize her interests to create an enjoyable internship experience and many opportunities to work directly with the children. "This was an amazing opportunity to expand my learning, and I highly recommend working at the Explore More Discovery Museum," said Rebecca.