

Blog Post
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As an educator and an environmentalist I strive to make nature accessible to others and integrate nature into daily experiences. Through my summer internship with Amigos de Bolsa Chica I had the opportunity to produce educational materials focused on the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach, CA and create plans to increase the reach of this organization to the greater community. Amigos de Bolsa Chica is a non-profit nature education and conservation center that provides tours and educational activities for the community and visiting school groups as well plans wetland maintenance events for the community. Their mission is to "advocate the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the Bolsa Chica Wetland, to encourage the public acquisition of all the wetlands and sufficient surrounding open space to create a viable ecosystem, and to provide education about the importance of wetlands."

Throughout the summer my main project was improving and adding to the existing "Educators Guide" that Amigos de Bolsa Chica sends to school teachers who plan to attend their wetland tours. I researched and integrated the California Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into this guide and the curriculum for the school tours. The goal of this work is to increase the desirability of the Amigos tours for educators to ensure the longevity of the organization. Another project I worked on was creating a plan to market the volunteer opportunities that the Amigos provide, including reaching out to young adults and students to go through the process of becoming tour guides. This also contributes to the longevity of the organization as the need for more tour guides increases with more tours being scheduled.

As an International Environmental Policy student this internship provided me with practical working experience related to my field of study. As I head into my next semester of classes I will be able to apply my experience to the content of my classes. In addition I will be able to integrate what I gained from interning with this organization into my class projects. This internship also solidified my plan to work in the environmental education field as a nonprofit education director after MIIS.

