

DOI VISTA: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Quarter 4: July 1-September 30, 2017



JULIA WHITTEN (LEFT) AND HER TEAM WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING FOR KIDS POSE DURING THE COLORADO DAY OUTREACH EVENT

5 DOI VISTAs

36 Individuals Trained In Employment Skills

173 Youth Served In An Education Setting

6,310 Community Residents Attending Events

The United States Department of the Interior Volunteers in Service to America (DOI VISTA) initiative supports underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education.

Julia Whitten - Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge/ELK- Denver, CO

As she begins her second term of service, FWS DOI VISTA Julia Whitten has recently transitioned to a different role. She now works very closely with the National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA). Much of her project work this quarter focused on learning how to re-connect with families in the area and delving into program planning. More specifically, she has been researching how to reach underserved communities in the area and build pathways out of poverty.

Julia assisted with leading various programs like the Back To School Day in the Park and the YMCA Family Camp. These programs have been very successful with satisfied participants and many people attending.



Environmental Learning For Kids Team L-R) Amy, Justin, Julia, and Yesica; posing during a successful day of YMCA Family Camp where families travelled to YMCA Snowmountain Ranch near Winter Park, CO for a weekend of archery, team building, hiking, and sunrise fishing.

Steven “Steve” Brumfield– Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge– Manteo, NC



FWS DOI VISTA Steve Brumfield has made great strides in setting up an educational enrichment program for two 6th grade science classes. The programming includes monthly nature programs and field trips to National Wildlife Refuges throughout the school year. Steve’s supervisor noted that it was difficult to move this project forward while school was not in session, but Steve gained program commitment from teachers, and locate volunteers to science programs in Hyde and Tyrrell County Schools in October. Lori Gibbs, a 6th grade teacher at Muttamuskeet Middle School, shared: “Our school district lost all of its funding to pay for field trips. And, our materials budget was cut to next to nothing. What your project is offering our students is amazing and much appreciated.” Another accomplishment for Steve this quarter was

FWS DOI VISTA Steve Brumfield gets a quick picture with Suzanne Tate, a multi-million seller of children’s nature books and potential project partner

building a relationship with the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society for educational programs.

Angel Padilla & Beatrice Carrero– Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge– Boqueron, PR

FWS DOI VISTAs Angel Padilla and Beatrice Carerro saw a transition in their service this quarter from their planned projects to helping their communities recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma and Maria in the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico. Recovery efforts have been slow, leaving most of the island without basic services such as power and running water. Angel rushed immediately to help check wildfires near his site and then began working with chainsaw clean-up crews to clear roads and repair infrastructure. Beatrice worked with neighbors to clean up her local area and also began a social media drive to gather food stuffs and other essentials for residents. Both members will return to their AmeriCorps VISTA projects as soon as possible.

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