



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS:

My Summer as a Watershed Outreach Assistant with NSWA



This summer I joined the NSWA team as a Watershed Outreach Assistant.

Join me as I reflect on my incredible experience and how it surpassed all my expectations, leaving me with newfound knowledge, lasting memories, and a passion for watershed conservation!

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**EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS:
A SUMMER OF GROWTH**

When I first stumbled upon the opportunity to be a Watershed Outreach Assistant with NSWA on LinkedIn, the organization's mission and innovative projects instantly captured my attention. As an Agricultural and Resource Economics major at the University of Alberta, I recognized that the management of watersheds transcends various disciplines. It was a chance to explore a field that perfectly aligned with my academic pursuits and future career aspirations.

Stepping into NSWA's world, I was met with warm smiles and genuine enthusiasm from my colleagues. The organization exuded a vibrant and nurturing workplace culture. I felt valued from the outset, my supervisors taking the time to understand my goals for the summer and ensuring that my experience would be both rewarding and fulfilling.





MEMORABLE PROJECTS & MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

From the very start, I was encouraged to dive into projects that fascinated me. I began by designing eye-catching social media posts and engaging the public at outreach events. It was during these moments that I discovered my passion for educating the public about watershed issues and simplifying complex scientific concepts. I particularly enjoyed the chance to run educational programming for children, as it gave me the chance to really connect and educate them on this topic. This experience helped me develop strong public speaking skills and the ability to communicate complex topics in a relatable manner. I gained confidence in my knowledge, bridging the gap between technical expertise and public understanding.

Throughout the summer, I worked on an enormous variety of exciting projects. From attending outreach and education events, to participating in the State of the Watershed Workshop and the Riparian Health Action Plan Workshop on Riparian Policy, to building temperature monitoring stations with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, each endeavor left a lasting impact on me. One of the highlights was getting out in the field once a week and lake sampling with the Alberta Lake Management Society, sparking a keen interest in water quality and lake health.

My time at NSWA was complemented by exceptional support and guidance from my colleagues and supervisors. Weekly check-ins, staff meetings, and watershed coordinator meetings allowed me to stay on track, while the team's willingness to assist with any questions or challenges was invaluable.



LOOKING FORWARD...

This summer has been a turning point in my academic and career journey. NSWA has introduced me to a world of possibilities beyond conventional job roles. It has opened my eyes to the possibility of a career path in watershed conservation, an area I'm now deeply passionate about, and where my education and background may fit into that. As the summer winds down, I am filled with gratitude for the unforgettable experience I've had at NSWA. This journey has provided me with the tools to pursue my academic and professional goals with newfound vigor and purpose.

