



Levi Harrel's Internship

As an intern for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma, I have gained a great deal of understanding of the non-profit sector. Prior to my internship, I was unfamiliar with non-profit culture and day-to-day operations of such an organization. The MAW staff was very helpful in educating me on the mindset of a non-profit, and even more so, on the corporate image and mindset of the Make-A-Wish Foundation itself. I became very familiar and comfortable seeking out private donations for the organization. This was done primarily through personal interactions with individuals and/or business, and following-up with them through personal contact, phone calls, and emails. I became very poised in my donation-seeking and skilled in my networking abilities. Through these interactions, I was able to help develop a standing business contact and event guest list, which did not exist prior to my internship.

As the intern for the Special Events Manager I gained a great deal of insight on how to plan and enact large and successful events. I was educated on the difference of internal and external events, and the roles that each type plays in the organization. The Special Events Manager, Whitney Moss, allowed me the opportunity to provide my input and feedback on every event that was conducted during my time at MAW. Whitney encouraged me to attend every committee meeting and every event that we held. In those meetings I became more aware of the complexities of planning events of MAW caliber, and my opinions were sought out on how to develop strategies to overcome obstacles and challenges in such an environment. I developed a very close relationship with Whitney and know that I was a valued intern.

My time at the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma was wonderful! I have gained a better understanding of both the non-profit world and my abilities. I would highly suggest this internship to anyone seeking a position either in the non-profit world or in the event planning arena. My experience was truly educational, eye-opening, and enlightening.