

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



L-Lydia at the Grand Canyon on a family vacation, R-Lydia as an assistant coordinator on the Austin 9

COLLEGE INTERN SPOTLIGHT: LYDIA HAMILTON

This summer, GeoFORCE introduced two full-time internships for current or recently graduated college students. These interns provide support to full-time coordinators, serving as assistant coordinators on GeoFORCE academies. The team was lucky to hire two phenomenal interns: Lydia Hamilton and Stephanie Inclan.

Lydia Hamilton, a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, grew up in Bethesda, Maryland. She had never heard of GeoFORCE until searching for opportunities in geoscience employment this spring. Lydia commends the program, wishing she had access to it as a high schooler. GeoFORCE is an opportunity that could have shaped her college career, as it does for many. However, she didn't find her way to a geoscience minor until late sophomore year of college.

Lydia graduated in May 2024 with a BSA in Astronomy, a minor in Geoscience and a certificate in Evidence and Inquiry. She claims she earned a degree in Astronomy based on a long-standing desire to "find aliens."

"Since 6th grade I knew I wanted to study space, once I shed my delusions of grandeur to be the first female president (the eldest daughter urge in me) and left behind the desire to be a neurosurgeon, I decided I wanted to find aliens (so much more reasonable, obviously!)"

She is passionate about the future of exoplanet research and hopes to attend graduate school in the next few years for Planetary Science. Her love of science fiction and fantasy in her free time come at no surprise. On the weekends, Lydia cajoles her best friend into going to conventions and attending renaissance festivals together in handmade costumes. During the week, she is enjoying spending her days as a GeoFORCE intern.

"GeoFORCE has already been an incredible experience. Working in the office with engaging and interesting colleagues and guiding the learning of students in the field."

Growing up Lydia would go on yearly family vacations to National Parks and cites these experiences as the inception for her love of geoscience. (Her favorite National Park is Yellowstone!)

"The parks are special to me because of how much I learned and how much time I got to spend with my family"

Lydia already has one academy under her belt. She served as assistant coordinator on the Austin 9th grade academy which went out the first week of June. She is currently serving as the assistant coordinator on the Austin 10th grade academy. While on the 10th grade academy, she is eager to talk about canyons on our planet, and other planets in our Solar System.



L-Stephanie as a GeoFORCE student, R-Stephanie serving as a counselor in 2023

COLLEGE INTERN SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE INCLAN

Our second intern is GeoFORCE alumna Stephanie Inclan.

Stephanie's journey with GeoFORCE began in 2016 when she joined as a rising high school student. Her enthusiasm for learning and exploration quickly set her apart. Beyond participating in GeoFORCE, she was also involved in the Math & Science Institute, demonstrating her deep commitment to STEM education. Over the years, Stephanie transitioned from a participant to a leader, working as a counselor and a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) for GeoFORCE, guiding and inspiring new cohorts of students. She is currently pursuing a major in Communication & Leadership with a minor in Secondary Education in Mathematics, embodying her diverse interests and dedication to both leadership and education.

Reflecting on her time as a GeoFORCE student, Stephanie fondly recalls the unique opportunities the program offered.

"I love that GeoFORCE gives the biggest opportunities to its students. Being able to experience the field academies and be out there learning about geology is something I would have never seen myself doing if it wasn't for this program. Aside from the geology aspect, it teaches you much more. You are away from your parents, out of state, and you learn how to take care of yourself and be responsible. You also get to meet so many people from different backgrounds."

These experiences not only broadened her academic horizons but also fostered a sense of independence and responsibility. As Stephanie transitioned into her staff roles within GeoFORCE, her appreciation for the program deepened.

"Although I may have not gone into geology, my love for this program has only continued to grow. This internship is perfect for me because I am such a geek for all things planning and organizing. I am also so excited to be able to step into the role of an assistant coordinator and be able to give to the students what the program gave to me: inspiration."

Stephanie's experiences with GeoFORCE were pivotal in shaping her academic aspirations.

"Fun fact, GeoFORCE is the reason UT became my dream school. It made me fall in love with the idea of becoming a Longhorn, and so I did."

Currently, in her role as a GeoFORCE intern, Stephanie finds the perfect blend of her passions for leadership and organization.

"I'm about a month into my internship, and I have got snippets of what it takes to get these academies up and running, and let me tell you, it is a lot, and there is definitely much more that happens throughout the year."

As Stephanie continues her journey with GeoFORCE, we are excited to see the positive impact she will undoubtedly have on the students and the program. Her story is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of educational programs and the lifelong connections they foster. We look forward to more of Stephanie's inspiring contributions and celebrate her journey with GeoFORCE.

She will be serving as the assistant coordinator on Houston 10, which leaves this weekend. Stephanie is excited to have a new role on academy after her years as a student, counselor and PLA.

We are so thankful to have two exceptional interns working with the GeoFORCE Program. We have no doubt that they will continue to provide remarkable support for the remainder of the summer.

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are a list of dates to keep in mind for **June** and **July**:

JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

12th Grade

M&SI

Virtual

June 2nd-8th Austin 9th Grade Academy
June 2nd-8th Southwest 10th Grade Academy
June 9th-15th Southwest 9th Grade Academy
June 16th-22nd Austin 10th Grade Academy
June 23rd-29th Houston 10th Grade Academy
June 23rd-29th Austin/Houston 11th Grade Academy

July 7th-13th Houston 9th Grade Academy
July 7th-13th Southwest 11th Grade Academy
July 20th-28th 12th Grade Research Academy
July 28th GeoFORCE Symposium @ 10 AM
July 28th-Aug 3rd Math & Science Institute
July 29th - Aug 3rd Virtual Academy

STAY CONNECTED WITH GEOFORCE THIS SUMMER!

Make sure you don't miss out on any of the events going on this summer, internship opportunities, or school year events!

 @geoforcetexas

 @GeoFORCE Texas

 @GeoFORCE Texas Group

 geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu

GEOFORCE
TEXAS
JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES