As I’m finishing up this co-op, I will start my fourth out of five years at Drexel. With my program of study, I am able to have three job experiences during my career at this university. Being with WINS and working with Ms. Betty and Ms. Kim has been a wonderful second job experience (hopefully my third too, hint hint)! I began in May with last year’s WINS I trip to Delaware. Straight off the bat I was diving into the deep end of WINS. The girls and I were all knee-deep in the marshes and melting in the heat during our “hike” to the beach. Not exactly how I planned on beginning my co-op, but exciting nonetheless and I wouldn’t have it any other way! After getting back, I helped interview candidates for the new WINS I batch. Many of these girls showed potential and we were eager to see how they would do in the program.

As soon as we had finalized the list of girls, I was pumped for the start of the summer, but especially for PEEC (Pocono Environmental Education Center), the big end-of-summer overnight! I had almost forgotten what it was like to be a shy, quiet 13 year old, in a room with 24 other girls that I didn’t know, who would grow to become my sisters. I look at some of the faces of some of the girls and see my younger self reflected in them, and I’m excited to watch them blossom and come into their own as they move through the program. I know that is what this program really did for me: it helped me become more confident in who I am as a person and find something I love to do.

My Co-op Experience with WINS

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.

Jacquelyne Ng

As I’m finishing up this co-op, I will start my fourth out of five years at Drexel. With my program of study, I am able to have three job experiences during my career at this university. Being with WINS and working with Ms. Betty and Ms. Kim has been a wonderful second job experience (hopefully my third too, hint hint)! I began in May with last year’s WINS I trip to Delaware. Straight off the bat I was diving into the deep end of WINS. The girls and I were all knee-deep in the marshes and melting in the heat during our “hike” to the beach. Not exactly how I planned on beginning my co-op, but exciting nonetheless and I wouldn’t have it any other way! After getting back, I helped interview candidates for the new WINS I batch. Many of these girls showed potential and we were eager to see how they would do in the program.

As soon as we had finalized the list of girls, I was pumped for the start of the summer, but especially for PEEC (Pocono Environmental Education Center), the big end-of-summer overnight! I had almost forgotten what it was like to be a shy, quiet 13 year old, in a room with 24 other girls that I didn’t know, who would grow to become my sisters. I look at some of the faces of some of the girls and see my younger self reflected in them, and I’m excited to watch them blossom and come into their own as they move through the program. I know that is what this program really did for me: it helped me become more confident in who I am as a person and find something I love to do.

My Co-op Experience with WINS

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.

Jacquelyne Ng, left with blue sweater, assisting a WINS I lesson on maps in August 2017.

I’m really glad we have a great group of girls. They absorb the material and ask meaningful questions. They’re all pretty smart and we try to challenge them as much as we can, intellectually and physically (hah!). We’ve definitely pushed a lot of the girls out of their comfort zones this summer—they’ve touched cockroach and newts, hiked steep trails, smelled foul rotting trash, and slurved up oysters! Not only that, we stole them from their families and took them up to the Poconos, where they weren’t allowed to be on their phones (gasp!) and they had to be around the other girls all day for a week! At first, they were wary of going up there, but by the end, some wanted to stay a little longer and were eager to see how they would do in the program.

This experience helped me to solidify my choice in going into environmental science and education.
MAYA Summit 2017

Every year, the WINS program sends participants to the Mid-Atlantic YouthALIVE! (MAYA) summit of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. This year the theme was “Into the Wild” and was held in the Prindle Pond Conference Center, of Charlton, MA.

MAYA (Mid-Atlantic YouthALIVE!) was probably one of the most exhilarating and exhausting trips, I have gone to. The car ride to Massachusetts seemed never-ending for the other WINS girls, who had to endure my off-pitch singing as Tiffany Allen (our mentor) jammed along with me. The excitement and curiosity prevented me from back-arching road naps. When we arrived, there was a hill that escalated up to three buildings. There was a boy’s dorm, girl’s dorm, and a learning room connected to the dining room. Our first activity was a nature hike, and we were unprepared! Mosquitos bit us left and right, however, I was distracted by the new people I just met. My eyes scanned each individual, making me more nervous. MAYA was educational, but it felt more like a meeting of delegates from other programs.

Fast forward to the third day, everyone had gotten comfortable due to countless team building activities. During free time, we played foursquare, card games, and occasional chatted. I was able to socialize and break out of my defensive shell through playing cards. I would play speed with almost everyone, including Tiffany and Sam, one of the mentors from the New England Aquarium. Sam was one of those of people anyone could add to their list of “cool people I have met.” Everyone knew me as the girl who aggressively slapped and screamed when playing speed.

Our last day was heartbreaking—it was not because we were already friends, but that we were in the midst of becoming friends and our goodbyes made it harder to turn it into something more. That morning we had a hearty breakfast with all our tables combined like a huge family, each one of us conversing and laughing. Afterwards we took pictures and got gifts. We had to leave earlier than the others to return our van. When we were ten minutes into our drive, Cash’e forgot her bag so we had to drive back. Closer to Philadelphia, we stopped and ate at a Popeye’s and saw some of our peers from the National Aquarium in Baltimore. We exchanged hugs once again and said our goodbyes and left. On our ride home I couldn’t help but feel sad and somewhat hopeful to see the other MAYA members again.

Amy Voong, WINS II

Wading in the Cherry Creek

This summer I was given the opportunity to have an internship studying Fish Ecology under my mentor at the Patrick Center, David Keller. I was also given the opportunity to help him collect data out in the field. This meant collecting different pieces of data about fish in the wild, such as their length, their species, and their natural habitat. The main goal was to see if the dam removal that occurred in the Musconetcong River caused any changes with the living organisms since its removal last year. David and his team had previous data collected from last year in 2016 and they collected information again this year, which would show if there were any major changes in the river habitat.

During the trip I learned many great things I never thought I would learn. I learned about electrofishing, and how to use a seine for collecting the living organisms so we could be able to measure them. Walking on rocks with constant flowing water isn’t as easy as it sounds, especially if the riffles are racing through your legs. It was also my first time wearing waders, and I loved the experience! I learned how to identify some of the fish, like the Black Nose Dace Minnow, Long Nose Dace Minnow, and other organisms; we caught mostly eels.

Elizabeth Escobar, WINS II