

USS Enterprise Scholar

Madison Powell

Chesapeake, VA

The College of William & Mary

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology and Environmental Science

Activities:

- ❖ W&M SEAC Sustainability Committee
- ❖ Ducks Unlimited Chapter Member
- ❖ Volunteer: W&M Freshman Peer Advisor Executive & Advisor, Williamsburg Animal Shelter
- ❖ Summer Employment: Virginia Beach Aquarium Water Quality Lab-Water Lab Technician, W&M Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Research Assistant



I have always had an interest in science, but I specifically love environmental science because it requires an interdisciplinary approach. Rather than the study of one field, environmental science is the study of interlocking systems that influence the natural world. In college, majoring in environmental science and biology, I seek out classes and extracurricular activities that allow me to explore different aspects of the field and its real-world applications. My most influential learning experience was a summer unpaid internship with the Virginia Aquarium's Water Quality Lab, collecting daily environmental samples from six different sites in Virginia Beach. I gained academic and lab experience and presented an independent research project of my own design that has led to a summer research internship position at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The Wings Over America Scholarship will assist with the overall cost of my tuition and allow me to accept intern opportunities that I could not otherwise pursue due to the significant costs associated with travel and living expenses. This includes both research and experience internships that may influence the remainder of my college education and potentially build the foundation for the start of my career.