

My Experience at Orcas Online

By: Diego Rivera

When I first started at Orcas Online over 4 months ago, I knew little to nothing about how wifi worked. By the time I finished, I felt like I had learned a lot. The internship was set up to be 10 weeks long (around 13 weeks in my case because of trips), spending a few weeks with different people in the business and learning a little about what they do. The overall internship setup was one of the biggest pluses of my experience there. The clear goals and time frames were easy to follow and it just made everything go smoothly.

The first two weeks were spent with Nathan at the front desk. Even though I didn't particularly like the front desk work, I still was able to get a good introduction to the internet business from Nathan and various things he had me do. The next two weeks for me were with Stu out in the field. During this time I was able to go on a couple surveys and learn the basics of installations for radios and routers. Out of all the things I did at Orcas Online, the field work was the most enjoyable. The next two weeks were with Rick in the back room. During my time in the sauna room, Rick explained and showed everything from digital computers to circuit boards to the history of IP addresses. The only downside to this was the level of complexity, probably 50% of the info went over my head but I still was able to retain the more important parts. The following two weeks were spent with Gerry doing website design. During this time I learned the basics of creating a webpage from scratch while simultaneously learning the importance of attention to detail needed to complete the project. This was another part of the internship that didn't really interest me even though I learned valuable information from it. For the last couple of weeks I did small projects with Stu and Steven out in the field setting up radios, routers and moving access points.

At the end of the day I had a good experience at Orcas Online, all the employees were fun to work with and each person held their own as far as explaining any and every question I had for them. I can confidently say that this was the first job experience I have ever had that I didn't have toxic coworkers. In my humble opinion I would definitely recommend this internship to any highschooler who wants to learn some new skills and get out of their comfort zone a little.