



Class of 1981 Internship Fund INTERN PROFILE



Soleil was funded by the Rockefeller Center for a Spring 2021 internship, with generous support from the Class of 1981 Internship Fund.

Soleil Gaylord '22 **Humane Society of the United States**

Soleil Skye Gaylord '22 was raised in Telluride, Colorado, and is currently a senior at Dartmouth College. She is studying government and environmental studies. On campus, she is a staff news reporter for The Dartmouth, the oldest college newspaper in the country, she works at the Life Sciences Center Greenhouse, and she performs research on avian bioacoustics. In her community, she hosts a radio show that highlights the biological intrigues of southwestern Colorado. She finds climate policy, public lands conservation, campaign finance reform, American political thought, geopolitics, the expansion of voting rights, and the influence of gerrymandering in politics to be fascinating. When not nose-deep in a book, Soleil is listening to her favorite podcasts and running, rafting, backpacking, or hiking.

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Executive Summary from Soleil’s final report:

As an intern for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), I was able to expand upon my work with state and federal governments and experience the nonprofit side of politics and policy.

HSUS works to ban the sale of fur, to improve the lives of farm animals, to end puppy mills, to limit cosmetics animal testing, and to end trophy hunting. The HSUS operates at the local, state, federal and international level — the scope of the organization is incredibly broad. Over 100,000 animals are cared for annually through the HSUS rescue team, in the organization’s sanctuaries, and through HSUS

veterinary programs. HSUS works with the private sector, multinational companies, governments, and public policy campaigns to improve animal welfare.

In my role as an HSUS intern, I wrote several letters to the editor, crafted opinion pieces, helped to confirm wildlife-friendly commissioners to state wildlife agencies, drafted informational documents that summarized how to cohabitate with wildlife in a non-lethal manner, helped to pass bills protecting mountain lions in Nevada and wolves in Idaho, and researched various state and federal wildlife policies. The bulk of my time was spent writing. I also attended one-on-one meetings, organization-wide meetings, and informational interviews. I had an immensely powerful experience working with the HSUS — I emerged with a newfound understanding of the power of local action and the importance of nonprofit organizations in advocating for animal welfare. I garnered a valuable glimpse into the functioning of nonprofits. My experience dovetailed beautifully with previous internships with government agencies. Interning with a nonprofit allowed me to have a comprehensive experience of the government realm.