

EQV Internship

Jacob Sussman '17

Hometown: Wayland, Massachusetts

What is your major?

I am a film major because I have always been passionate about watching and studying films, and because of the reputation of Wesleyan's film major.

What was your job title and what type of work did you do through your summer experience?

I volunteered and shot a documentary film at Parque Ambue Ari in Bolivia, a wildlife refuge operated by the Bolivian non-governmental organization (NGO), Comunidad Inti Warri Yassi. While volunteering at the park, I helped care for a variety of animals, including jaffrey cats, howler monkeys, and tapirs, and completed miscellaneous tasks around camp such as carrying rocks and completing camp chores. While making the film, I served interchangeably as the co-director, co-producer, camera-man, sound operator, and editor of my own documentary film, tentatively titled "Parque."

How will your work this summer relate to your major or area of study at Wesleyan?

My experience watching and analyzing films within the film major will be hugely impacted and informed by the real-life film production experience I gained through this summer experience. In addition, my theoretical understanding of documentary film has enormously benefitted from getting to test my ideas and concepts of the genre in a real life project.

How will your work this summer relate to your post-Wesleyan career?

I am considering becoming a professional documentary filmmaker after Wesleyan, and this grant allowed me to experience the reality of that occupation first hand. In addition, the film production experience I gained will also translate well into other jobs within the film industry, increasing my chances of success in many other postgraduate paths.

What did this summer experience mean to you?

The EQV Internship afforded me an opportunity to pursue my dreams, push myself harder than I ever had, and realize an ambitious and challenging project which combined all of my artistic and personal goals. It was an immense privilege which I will always be grateful for, and it has impacted how I envision the rest of my life.

Thank you!

Dear Donors,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Being a Wesleyan student has many privileges, but I can think of few as impactful, exciting, and utterly transformative as being given financial support to make a documentary film in another country. You allowed me to bring an artistic vision to reality, to see the world, and to experience a way of life that I knew nothing of before. My experiences in Bolivia were among the most challenging of my life, but also the most rewarding. I cannot wait to finish this film and share it with the world. You have allowed me to experience something that was my dream for many years, and now may become my life's calling. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jacob Sussman