

# Natural Areas Conservancy x Second Day

## About Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC):



NAC is a non-profit organization located in New York City that strives to restore and conserve its green and blue spaces in order to enhance the lives of all New Yorkers. They partner with NYC Parks to care for the city's natural areas through innovative research, partnerships, and advocacy, while also striving to increase the health and resilience of urban forests and wetlands, catalyze connections between people and nature, and strengthen the environmental workforce.



## NAC's Challenge in Summer 2020

In 2016, the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) launched a new internship program to help expose City University of New York (CUNY) students to environmental careers in New York City. In just four years, they had managed to support over 100 paid internships for CUNY students to gain experience in conservation work, yet they were still looking for ways to further support them in their career paths. In 2020, NAC partnered with Second Day to invest resources in professional development and personalized career coaching.

## About Second Day

Second Day is a non-profit organization dedicated to dismantling inequitable talent pipelines into the social impact sector. We achieve this mission through their paid impact fellowship, free career resources, and professional development days.

### Learn more here:

- Download a sample of our Professional Development Strategy [here](#)
- Email Phil Dearing: [phil@secondday.org](mailto:phil@secondday.org) to schedule an introductory call

## The Summer Experience

During the summer internship, Second Day hosted 3-4 professional development days! We offered a combination of in-person and virtual workshops. Some professional development topics covered include:

- How to better show up at your internship
- How to navigate careers in sustainability and climate justice
- How to leverage your internship experience into a full-time role
- How to jumpstart your career in social impact

## The partnership has continued for the past 3 years! Based on post-programming survey data:



The percentage of interns who felt confident in their ability to use their internship to land a future role increased from 57% to 100%



The percentage of interns who felt they have a community of peers that they can rely on increased from 53% to 87%



The percentage that felt they had a professional network they could leverage for their future ambitions grew from 32% to 80%

Since then, Second Day has supported more than 60 NAC interns in their professional development and career paths.



Having professional opportunities available in a college internship is crucial to not only support interns during the program but also after the internship ends as interns work toward graduation, apply for jobs, and navigate the workplace. With that in mind, Second Day has been a big piece of our internship when it comes to building community, sharing professional skills, and teaching self-leadership with our interns. Working with professionals in the field of social impact careers was important for us because our internship focuses on urban natural areas management which is incredibly niche. With all that being said, collaborating with Phil and Mariam over the seasons, cohorts, and years has been wonderful as they are always looking to tailor their programming to our interns' needs, adapt based on feedback, and overall support the goals of our internship program.

- Giselle Herrera, Natural Areas Conservancy



I liked the wide range of topics covered in these sessions. There was a nice build-up from resume to cover letter to networking to interview training. I also liked that there was one-on-one time built into the sessions so that I could address personal questions in a private setting. The most helpful part of the workshop was having to write a cold email – being assigned that task and having to complete it before moving on with the session forced me to actually email someone, and I am hopeful about their response.

- Intern, Natural Areas Conservancy

