

## YES! Intern Talk: 'Identifying With Science'

[00:00.51] (upbeat music)

[00:06] Hello, my name is Jordyn and I got a chance to intern at the Natural History Museum and get a deeper dive into what science is. Now, I know you may think of science as being something only white men can do, or maybe you think of many things exploding in a laboratory, or maybe that's not what you thought at all. But when I hear science, that's all I ever thought about. Ever since the fourth grade, science was something that I struggled with.

[00:29.00] I remember being in class, not knowing what I was doing. But I was too afraid to ask for help because I thought people would laugh at me. My teacher would come up to me at times and ask me if I needed help, but I would tell her no, knowing that I really did need the help.

[00:44.67] As the years went on, I got better in science, but I knew that when I got older and it was time for me to choose a career I didn't want to do anything with science. My sister tried to convince me to try different science related programs, but I just was not interested. It wasn't until my sister told me about the YES! program at the National Museum of Natural History that I became slightly more interested in science.

[01:08.43] The YES! program is for people like me who may not know what they want to do in the future. It gives you the opportunity to work with different scientists and researchers who work in the museum. And the best part is, you get to choose what you want to do. For example, I got to work with my mentor, Molly, in the herpetology department, which is the department that focuses on amphibians and reptiles. Me and my partner were helping our mentor with her research, looking at frog toes, and we were trying to determine if the shape of their toes was mostly based on their behavior or the environment that they lived in.

[01:40.02] Each day we were with our mentor, we would go on our computer into this application called MeshLab, which allows you to delete parts of a skeleton. Me and my partner would go delete different parts of the frog skeleton except for the right hand. We would then take it to this coding application called RStudio, which allows you to place five points on the frog's largest finger, which we called Digit B. After six weeks of doing this, we found that the frog's toe shape was more linked to its behavior.

[02:02.47] It's very rare for scientists to complete research in such a short amount of time, but we got it done. I felt like a real scientist, and I got to share my research with visitors who came to the museum. We have something called Community Day, where each intern gets to talk to visitors about their project. It's a great public speaking experience. We also got to go on many science-related field trips such as to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and to the zoo.

[02:28.76] One field trip that we went on that was really cool, was to the Museum Support Center, and one cool thing that I got to see there was the goliath frog, which is the largest frog in the world. I'm so glad that I got to be part of this program. Even if you've gone through this program and think that science is not for you, that's okay. You don't have to continue to do science, it's just to give you the experience.

[02:51.66] For me, as a black female, it lets me know that science isn't just for white men like I thought when I was a child, but that really anybody can do it. I also love the camaraderie of it. I got to meet so

many amazing people, and they made the program much more enjoyable. I hope this not only shows you what we can do in the world but how we can have a greater influence on society. (upbeat music)

[03:15.74]

[Return to the video, "YES! Intern Talk: Identifying With Science"](#)