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St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 68  
St. Marks, FL 32355  
(850) 491-8457  
[amanda\\_bessler@fws.gov](mailto:amanda_bessler@fws.gov)

Dear Amanda Bessler,

I am writing to apply for the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Winter-Spring 2025/2026 Biological Internship position. As a recent Biology and Geography graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I'm enthusiastic to apply my technical skills and enthusiasm for conservation to the unique and biodiverse ecosystem of St. Marks. What drew me to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and USFWS was your shared interest in commitment to environmental stewardship. I was also enthused by the variety of opportunities this internship provides such as wildlife surveys, data collection, and habitat monitoring. These areas closely align with both my academic training in biology and geography while applying my skills in field research to meaningful conservation work.

Throughout my degree, I have developed a strong appreciation for the importance of restoring native ecosystems and managing invasive species. I have also learned the importance of species data collection especially for endangered and threatened species. Through my research projects, I learned how to collect geographic data in the field using tools like differential GPS and Survey123. I have also learned how to manage that data for analysis and how to communicate that information accurately and clearly in reports and public presentations.

I am experienced in conducting fieldwork in a variety of climates, as my research projects have led to collecting geographic data in the hot, humid weather of North Carolina and the rugged terrain of the Galapagos highlands. I am also experienced in working with the public as I did with both the garden and cemetery projects I completed in Princeville. For the community garden I designed an educational map, cataloged species, and illustrated native and edible plants to engage community members with the ecological value of their garden.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge program while continuing to expand my skills as a scientist and conservationist. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at +1 (704) 980-7936 or [emmaor44@gmail.com](mailto:emmaor44@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,  
Emily Ormond