A Day in the Life of a Kansas City Sports Commission Intern
SUMMER 2015

Katie Yager (Events Intern)
Being a part of the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation has not only been a learning experience but has also given me the opportunity to grow as a young professional in the Sports Industry. I worked as an Events Intern during the Summer of 2015 so my main focus was to help the events team prepare and execute their local events like the Waddell and Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds, the Father’s Day 5K Run, the 26th Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K Run and Family Stroll and I also helped with the Youth Clinic Series. I learned very quickly that not one day is the same at the Sports Commission.

As an events intern I was responsible for getting all equipment ready for the runs, expos, or packet pickups as well as count inventory to make sure we had enough merchandise for the events. I also helped with numerous research projects from different marathons in Missouri to researching “How to make a successful Youth Clinic.” We stayed very busy as events interns but we were not restricted from working with the other departments in the office.

Outside the events side, I helped the WIN for KC staff. During the summer, WIN for KC is in full affect and has a number of big events like Camp WIN and the All-Women’s Triathlon. Camp WIN is an all-girls youth clinic that focuses on empowering young girls to play sports and be strong individuals. The camp is two separate weeks out of the summer where young girls learn and play 16 different sports. During these two weeks I was responsible for set-up, helped the volunteer coordinator, kept all campers safe and helped coaches when needed. I also helped with the WIN for KC Women’s Triathlon. This triathlon is for all first-timer triathletes as well as returning triathletes that want to enjoy and be a part of a special event.

My internship with the Kansas City Sports Commission has been an amazing experience. We were introduced to a number of people that have careers in the greater Kansas City area and we got to attend meetings and events where we could network and grow as an individual. Interns at the Sports Commission have a wide variety of roles where we contribute our ideas and perspectives to the organization, which makes us an important asset to the Kansas City Sports Commission.

Cal Ballou (Events Intern)
As an intern with the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation my days were rarely the same. I was categorized as one of the Events Interns so my main focus was helping with our local events that include the Waddell and Reed Kansas City Marathon, Father’s Day Run, 26th Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K Run and Family Stroll and Youth Clinic Series events. These events require lot of planning and attention to detail, so as an intern I helped by making sure we had all the equipment and merchandise needed for the run, expo, or packet pickup. I also helped research and helped bring new ideas to make our events more successful.

My work was not limited to our local events however. I helped out with our national events including a few NCAA, NAIA, and Big 12 championships. I reached out to local alumni organizations to gain support for these championships when their former schools come to play in Kansas City. I also researched and brainstormed different sporting events and championships that could possibly be hosted here in the future.

I also did a lot of work with WIN for KC, an organization with the mission to empower women and girls in our community through sport. This program hosts two weeklong camps for girls ages 6-12 that allow them to play 16 different sports. My responsibility was to make sure our campers were safe and that they interacted with coaches to have the best time possible.
I also helped with our Women’s Triathlon, a special event that prides itself on being a great first-timers race. My role varied, but ultimately I helped with keeping the racers and spectators safe and having a great experience. I also had the chance to reach out and acquire sponsorships to help support our events.

Lastly, as interns with the KCSC, we attended numerous meetings such as event, board, or sponsorship meetings. We were able to meet with other sport professionals, which allowed us to network with other great organizations in the area. As an intern, you are placed in a variety of roles where you will contribute to an organization that makes Kansas City stronger and more connected through sports.

Logan Routh (Sponsorship Intern)
I know everyone says this about their internship, but no two days at the Sports Commission are the same. The very nature of the Sports Commission means that we were constantly planning and preparing for the next big event (at least one every month), so we never got bogged down into one, boring, monotonous project. As soon as you start to become disinterested in any particular event, a new one pops up on the schedule, and you have a whole new set of challenges to take on.

Also, the Sports Commission is wonderful for someone who doesn’t want to be trapped at a desk for their entire internship. You should fully expect to spend time being active outdoors while helping coordinate Camp WIN or the WIN for KC Triathlon, and to visit amazing venues like Sporting Park or Sprint Center to plan watch parties or various NCAA tournaments.

But most importantly, regardless of whether or not you enjoy the sports business, you will truly enjoy working with the people here at the Sports Commission. They have created a fun, laid back environment, while also teaching you as much as they can while you are an intern. This is a small office, and you will become close with nearly all of the employees, from the other interns, to the CEO. They get to know you on a personal level, so they really do want to see you succeed, and will do everything they can to help you develop as a young professional.

Kelsey Lacy (Marketing Intern)
Coming in as an intern, many never know what to expect. For me, I REALLY didn’t know what to expect coming in to the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation/WIN for KC. Heck, I didn’t even know I was the Marketing Intern—I just thought that’s what they called everyone. Even though I had no clue what to expect, it turned out to be one of the best experiences and summers of my life. Working in the world of sports is crazy, yet fun and always exciting. Some days are longer than others, but they are never the same and always worth it.

Throughout the summer, I worked on a variety of different projects for the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation and WIN for KC that included: writing a variety of different social media posts for different events, writing featured articles, working with local print media and television to gain coverage of our events, composing a triathlon guide and many other little projects. All of these projects kept me pretty busy and taught me a lot about how to promote different events and how to work with the media.

Even though I was just the marketing intern, I also got to tag along with the events team and help work events. Coming into it, I didn’t think I would be interested in working events at all. By the end of the summer, I fell in love with working events just from working Camp WIN and the WIN for KC Women’s Triathlon. At Camp WIN, a week long camp from girls ages 6-12 while offering 16 different sports, I helped mostly with setup, teardown and keeping track of campers. I also got to interact with many different groups and help with the sports. At the triathlon, I was in charge of packet pickup, setup, teardown, TRI Girls, and swim waves. Even though this event was exhausting and a lot of work, it was so worth it seeing ladies run across the finish line after a grueling hour or two being out on the course.

Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation/WIN for KC, makes interns feel like they are real, full-time staff, not just interns. They place the interns in positions to make decisions and provide their own personal feedback on how to better the organization as a whole. They also allow interns to sit in on big time meetings. Being an intern helps you discover the things you like to do or the things you maybe don’t enjoy doing as much. The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation is the perfect place to get your feet in the door and opens the door to so many more opportunities than I ever imagined.