



Name: Miah Burch

Host Organization: The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

Internship Role: Events Intern

School/Major: Iowa State University/Event Management

Tell us about yourself (Background, interests, career goals): I'm from Kansas City and currently studying Event Management at Iowa State University. I'm passionate about creating events that bring people together and leave a lasting impression. I love traveling, which made spending my summer in Sarasota an exciting opportunity. After graduation, I hope to build a career in corporate events where I can combine creativity, organization, and relationship-building while continuing to learn from talented teams.

What made you interested in the InternConnect Program?

I wanted an internship that would give me hands-on event experience while challenging me in a new environment. InternConnect gave me the opportunity to spend the summer in Sarasota, learn from experienced professionals, and gain a deeper understanding of the event industry.

What are your main responsibilities?

I assist with planning and executing Chamber events while supporting everything from vendor and attendee communication to event logistics. This summer I've also been developing an event sponsorship playbook and organizing the Chamber's event calendar to create resources the team can continue using in the future.

What's one skill you're hoping to develop or strengthen this summer?

I'm continuing to develop my ability to think quickly and adapt when plans change. Every event comes with unexpected challenges, and learning how experienced professionals solve problems while maintaining a great guest experience has been one of the most valuable parts of my internship.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Expect that something won't go exactly as planned. Great event professionals prepare for those moments by thinking ahead, creating backup plans, and focusing on the guest experience. The little details and anticipating people's needs is what often leaves the biggest impression.

What advice would you give to someone applying for this internship?

Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Ask questions, volunteer for new opportunities, and share your ideas. Your perspective has value, and showing initiative is one of the best ways to make the most of the experience.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I hope to be part of a team that shares my passion for creating exceptional experiences and is always looking for ways to improve. Whether it's making someone's day better, creating a memorable event, or helping build stronger connections, I want my work to have a positive impact while continuing to grow as an event professional.