



Summer 2018 Testimonials

Students

"I had little expectations for this internship program going in. I saw it only as a way to get experience for later internships in better cities. But my time with SOTC was amazing and hugely enriching, so all my expectations were met tenfold."

"Being a part of Summer on the Cuyahoga meant a lot of things for me. One, I was proud to be chosen for such an amazing experience because of the amount of applicants that applied. Two, I had the opportunity to live in a new city, which I had never lived in any city before, so it led me to believe that I can live anywhere. Three, I got to learn so much from my coworkers and supervisors within my internship and gave me an insight to my career path. Four, I was able to make new and lasting friendships that I hope will stick with me because of being in the program."

"Easily my favorite thing about Cleveland is the people that I have met here. Through my work, I was introduced to so many local leaders, organizers, nonprofit workers, and community members, and in my interactions with all of them I was continually impressed with their friendliness, their dedication to their respective missions, and their vision for their communities. I think Cleveland is lucky, because though it faces significant obstacles, it also has some really hard-working and good-hearted people as its champions. I have loved being in this sort of environment for the summer, and I have a new appreciation for nonprofit work. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have met all of these people, and this internship experience alone would have made the trip out here this summer worth it. I give SOTC full credit for providing this experience to me, and so its value in my mind is rooted in the meaningful connections it helps its members make."

"SOTC meant a lot to me. It came at the perfect time in my life. It really helped me maximize getting the most out of my last summer in college. I would not trade the experience for the world because it helped me realize so many things that I want out of my future. This program is an amazing idea, and it makes me happy that it is a reality. I hope it can continue to help other young professionals into the future."

"I was very overwhelmed by SOTC at first. However I have to say that without it I would not have had the amazing experience I did at the Rock Hall. I loved my internship and the people it connected me with. Additionally I loved every single one of my roommates. We got along very well and I would not have met them without SOTC. Biking the towpath was definitely my favorite event. It showed me that just because I am from Cleveland does not mean I know everything about it. I had no idea the towpath existed, let alone how beautiful it was. Also, Ivan Schwarz was the speaker at the closing ceremony and I have a meeting with him next week to talk about film (the industry I really want to go into after graduation). All in all SOTC connected me with really great people and I could not be more thankful that I got to meet them this summer."

Employers

“Summer on the Cuyahoga offers college students a rare and incredibly valuable opportunity to have a paid internship and a cultural immersion in Cleveland. Their mission benefits not only the development of college students, but also enhances the awareness and development of Cleveland as a city.”

“Both interns were exceptional and exceeded our expectations on willingness to be flexible and coachable. Their level of self-driven independent performance exceeded expectations in comparison to our prior experiences with non-SOTC interns. Their enthusiasm to jump right in from day one was awesome and this continued all the way through the internship. We greatly appreciated all their hard-work and dedication to excellence and to our brand in all the projects and departments they worked this summer.”

“Jiazhen was a pleasure to mentor and work with. She brought energy, curiosity, adaptability and learned very quickly. Her presence and abilities are already missed.”

“We loved having Lydia on our team this year. She connected well with the kids and left open to teaching in a way she had not expected. I hope she'll come back again!”

“Rocio was outstanding. She came in and completed projects ahead of time and went beyond expectations.”

“Ariel joined us last minute and jumped right in, not only to our organization and mission, but to all that SOTC had to offer. SOTC offers Cleveland experiences and connections that help bring amazing talent, like Ariel, to Cleveland that might not have otherwise even considered moving here after graduation.”

“Summer is the busiest time in our office. Having a responsible and reliable intern through SOTC helped our whole team be successful in all the different things we had going on.”

“We loved our interns. They were hard-working, eager to learn and great stewards of their schools. I would never be able to hire this caliber of interns on my own, and have been incredibly happy with the SOTC interns over the last two years.”

“Olivia did excellent work with a challenging collection and managed to make solid progress on a project that had been in need of attention for years.”

“As an early stage startup, any support we get from the region is greatly appreciated and goes a long way. Our interns took pressure off the leadership team for daily tasks and allowed us to focus on bigger picture strategy. Knowing that the interns had a home away from home when neither from the region was also a big relief for us. We knew they'd be cared for by the SOTC team.”

“This was my first experience hiring a summer intern through SOTC and it was a success. Not only did the fresh perspective help me look at the business in a new way, the intern provided meaningful work that will impact the start-up and the next phase of our rollout. I am especially grateful to benefit from the employer fee waiver, since this made the experience possible. GiveNext has limited funds at this stage of its development and the fee waiver made the hiring of the University of Chicago student possible and practical.”