



Spring 2018 Intern Spotlight: Sierra Crist



“There is so much that can be learned about GIS far beyond the classroom.”

-Sierra

Q: When did you graduate?

A: B.S Biology (Salisbury University – December 2016)
B.S Geography (Salisbury University – December 2017)

Q: Where is your hometown?

A: West Grove, Pennsylvania

Q: When did you first use GIS?

A: I took GEOG 105 in 2014 as an elective for my degree in biology, the obvious choice over another chemistry or math course! Dr. Harris was the first person who really got me interested in geography and convinced me to join the major, which was the best decision ever. GEOG 219 in 2015 was the first time I had ever even heard of GIS, let alone use it.

Q: What interested you in working with the ESRGC?

A: I really liked using GIS in classes and research but I wanted to get more experience with it outside of the classroom. So I threw my name out there to Dr. Scott thinking I wouldn't find anything. I ended up getting an internship with the City of Salisbury prior to being hired as a GIS Technician at the ESRGC. I have always enjoyed how GIS is a tool to connect so many different backgrounds and information sources into a system that puts everything into a spatial perspective. GIS is so versatile and such a useful skill. There is so much that can be learned about GIS far beyond the classroom.

Q: What project(s) did you worked on as an intern? How long were you an intern?

A: I worked at the City of Salisbury with John O'Brien for about 8 months. I collected and updated utility layers using survey instruments and ArcCollector. During the summer there was a high school program that allowed for an intern to help me collect data. With the ESRGC I worked on updating Sussex County Delaware's utilities data.

Q: Where are you working now? What are you working on?

A: I currently work at the Town of Easton in Planning and Zoning. I work on a variety of different GIS and Planning tasks. Planning in Easton has been busy lately, in the past few months we had schools, medical centers, houses, a gym and Rise Up Coffee come through with development proposals. The GIS Department has been busy too! I've been updating and house-cleaning the data that I inherited and trying to get things up to speed. We are working on getting a good storm-water GIS layer set up for the MS4 permit coming this September.

Q: How has working with ESRGC prepared you for your current position?

A: Working at the ESRGC gave me the background and experience to be able to bring to the table, in new environments. It has been so important to have had the experience with the ESRGC and the City of Salisbury so that I can help the Town of Easton as best I can.

Q: Have you gone to any GIS conferences? How did they go?

A: I have attended the Mid-Shore Regional Council GIS Committee, Tri-County Council, Maryland State Geographic Information Committee (MSGIC), and Towson University GIS Conference (TuGIS). They've all been very interesting!

Q: Dream job? (Doesn't have to be GIS/ESRGC related)

A: I would love to have a job that involves traveling to places that aren't cold, but include hiking or scuba diving.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I like to spend time outside, hiking, eating pizza and traveling!