

THE EXTERNSHIP



The **BBF EXTERNSHIP*** provides an authentic professional experience to students for one week during spring and summer breaks. The Externship is a unique opportunity for students to learn about different career paths in partnership with an organization in Alexandria as they prepare for life beyond high school. There are four goals of the externship:

1. **GET AN INSIDER'S VIEW** of a career field in which they show interest; Taking part in different experiences is a great step toward helping students figure out what they like – and what they don't.
2. **EXPLORE A PROFESSION** and understand what skills and education are needed to thrive in that particular field through shadowing, research, and inquiry.
3. **OBSERVE AND EXPERIENCE** the workplace up-close and personal and see what it is really like to interact with people of different backgrounds and personalities in a professional setting.
4. **LEARN, ACQUIRE, AND APPLY** 21st century skills – Today's students need to develop cognitive skills, content knowledge, and social and emotional competencies to navigate a complex life and work environment. They include:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration across networks and leading by influence
- Agility and adaptability
- Initiative and entrepreneurship
- Effective oral and written communication
- Accessing and analyzing information
- Curiosity and imagination

*Funds will be provided for transportation, along with a \$100 stipend after successful completion.

THE IMPORTANCE of AN EXTERNSHIP

Some high school students go to college knowing exactly what they want to do, some have ideas, and others have no clue. An externship can be a valuable opportunity in any of these cases. The BBF Externship is a great way to “test drive” a potential career. Involvement in an externship can help a student to determine if that certain career field is the right fit for them. If they enjoy an externship experience, they can work to obtain additional experiences and knowledge within that field during college years, career training, or apprenticeships. A student could also determine from their experience that a position or career field is not a good fit and see what other options they may want to follow.

STUDENT PREPARATION AND CRITERIA

- The candidate for the externship program is screened to assess maturity, self-direction, and interest in program.
- Through support from BBF enrichment activities, the student will demonstrate the ability to make important decisions regarding time management, problem solving, and goal setting.
- The student will be highly motivated to work independently, as well as directly with experts in the field.
- The student who is invited to participate must have good attendance in BBF enrichment workshops created to support and develop skills needed to be part of the professional work place.



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