

Parth Patel



My career aspiration is to become a commercial pilot. Pilots are responsible for filing flight plans, conducting weather assessments, performing pre-flight checks on aircraft, and filing post-flight reports, to ensure each flight is operated to the highest level of safety. My internship experience was based at the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA), an independent government company that manages and owns the four airports of Jacksonville, FL. My role was to help with the creation of business deals with aerospace suppliers to maintain the level of safety at the airport.

One of my assignments was to find a suitable supplier through a ratification process for the extension of runway 26 at the JAX International Airport. I learned how to professionally deal with companies wishing to work with JAA through meetings and preemptive selection. We also went on tours to the new \$300M Boeing Hangar Project at Cecil Airport and the FBO at the Herlong Recreational airport to see how our deals were coming to life and learn how every department plays a special role in getting a project done. I spoke with several engineers and pilots to learn the difficulty and sheer endurance it takes to build experience in the aviation field.

Becoming a participant in the AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program was a wake-up call for me about the opportunities available to achieve success in the aviation field. With this new knowledge, I now have an educated plan of action to train as a pilot. During my time at JAA, I began working on my private pilot license as a result from the inspiration and wisdom gained throughout the internship. This experience taught me the value of professionalism in the work force through official dress code, interview preparation, and self-confidence. Most importantly, I was able to establish through this experience that becoming a commercial pilot is what I want to pursue as my career and that flying has become my lifelong hobby.