



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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## **HOME-SCHOOLED LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER VOLUNTEER NOMINATED FOR SUN “STUDENT OF THE WEEK”**

Bay Village, Ohio --- “Student of the Week” Brittni Bennett learns lessons about wildlife and “gives back” to the community at the same time, serving as a weekly Animal Care Volunteer at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Brittni, an 18-year-old, home-schooled Senior from Cleveland, became involved at the Bay Village non-profit organization after bringing an injured bird to the Center’s Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program about a year ago.

Since then, Brittni has logged close to 20 volunteer hours a week helping with all facets of animal care at the Center. Her duties include feeding wildlife and cleaning exhibits in all kinds of weather and assisting with wellness checks. She is also trained to handle the Center’s educational animals including snakes, owls, and a skunk. Brittni says she enjoys sharing the animals with Center visitors and with guests at off-site outreach events.

Brittni’s supervisor at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, Wildlife Specialist Derek Skapes says the non-profit Center is grateful for Brittni’s gift of time. “We’re always looking for hard-working animal care volunteers like Brittni.” (He says Animal Care Volunteers must be at least 16.)

In addition to her passion for animals, Brittni enjoys writing. She says she’d like to combine those two loves in a future career.