

Internship Interview

Introduction Paragraph: My mentor at the Reef and Reptile Co. was Mike Yacoub, and he is the owner of the store and business. I had the chance to finally interview him on the day before the final day of internship. Mike was an amazing mentor due to the fact that he is so experienced in the saltwater hobby and he is able to manage his own business. I also admired his knowledge for snake genetics; I learned how to identify some ball python morphs from him too. We always kept putting the interview to the side because of how busy the store was on weekdays. I was finally able to interview him on the day before he was leaving for a reptile show in Fresno. I told him I wasn't leaving until we got that interview. I was working overtime that day, and we were also still packing for the show after work hours. I was able to get a four minute interview with him because time was tight and my ride was waiting for me. Mike explained to me how long he has been doing the saltwater hobby, what he does outside of work, and his opinion on the internship program. I learned from this interview (and over the month) that he reminds me so much of my dad.

Nick Parga (NP): Alright, welcome to the High Tech High interview for mentor Mike!

Michael Yacoub (MY): Hello!

(NP): Alright, my first question is how long have you been doing the saltwater hobby?

(MY): I've been doing saltwater hobby since I was 18 years old; I'm now 43; so all my adult life.

(NP): Wow, that's amazing! I'm inspired to be like that. Second question; what do you do outside of work? Like when you're not here, what are your hobbies? What do you do?

(MY): I'm a pretty avid fisherman and I'm more of a game fisherman so I like to go off shore y'know? I go after big game fish and then I have a pretty bad car addiction, I've got everything from classic muscle cars to Porsche 911 track car to old 52 Willys 4 wheel drive; so I have my old cars and I also surf once if not twice a week. I gotta kinda be in the water so I'm a water baby. I'm born in June so I'm a cancer. I start getting anxiety if I don't see the water. I gotta see the water; hence why I love to fish. I love to surf, and I'm also a certified diver so I'm just a water person in general y'know.

(NP): Wow! You remind me of my dad, oh my God he does the exact same thing!

(MY): Yeah I love it.

(NP): Alright, last question. Do you wish you had the internship opportunity in high school and if so, where would you intern?

(MY): Absolutely, I do because I think it's a great program due the fact that it's not only teaching you guys the real world experience but it's also showing you how to deal with adults, deal with customers, potentially depending on what you are into. I mean for me when I was in highschool, I technically thought I wanted to go to law school, so I would've loved to intern at a law office to woulda seen whether I really would've loved it or not. Because who knows you know? I could've maybe really gone that route. When I came to San Diego, mainly for the water aspect, I ended up kinda switching to marine biology as a major and then I ended up kinda, wanting to hurry up and finish college so I actually ended up changing my major a third time and I actually finished with finance degree because by my third year of college, I decided that I thought I wanted to own and operate my own business at some point so... I opened my first business when I was 23 years old; so within a year or two out of school I opened my first shop so I was pretty avid about wanting to be a business owner so the finance thing helped. But if there was an intern program, who knows... I might've gone to law school, or I might've realized that's not the way I wanted to do it at all. So I do wish there was something like that for me because y'know... nowadays y'know we joke around about how millennials are all lazy and this and that and I believe those of you who are doing the intern program obviously aren't lazy because you would avoid having hard work. Look at what you've had to do, you've had to clean everything from rodents, to dust shelving, to help customers, to top off saltwater tanks, to do testing, to clean reptile enclosures, so the reality is, most people are too lazy and they want more of a cake job and wouldn't want to do that... so I think it's a good real world experience because it also lets you know what you have in store for what type of job you know? If you're gonna be an office guy then obviously you should go into an office; if you're gonna be more of a hands on guy, and say you want to be a marine biologist or something this is a good place to learn practical application before you go into the world to hopefully get a job at like Scripts or Seaworld or something like that but it'd be nice to come in with some actual real experience you know so I think it's a phenomenal thing, and I really wish we had something like that I mean we didn't even have volunteer hours, we didn't have to do any of that when I was in highschool but you gotta remember I graduated in 1993 so it was way prior to a lot of these programs y'know...?

(NP): Alright thanks you so much Mike, that concludes our interview.