

Let's Meet SERV-OR's Summer Intern, Gabbie Hemmelman | *written by Anthony Brande**



SERV-OR Intern, Gabbie Hemmelman (on the left) with a friend and classmate at Nye Beach, Newport, Oregon.

When Gabbie Hemmelman began her summer internship with SERV-OR and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), she hoped to gain experience in public health and emergency preparedness. In addition to gaining that experience, she's had the opportunity to learn how the systems behind emergency response are built and how volunteers can strengthen those systems.

Gabbie, a premedical sciences student at Oregon State University, will begin her junior year this fall. Her primary project with SERV-OR has been to develop an onboarding process for non-licensed medical volunteers. Her work includes creating training modules, designing forms and processes, and updating the SERV-OR handbook to reflect recent changes that allow licensed and non-licensed healthcare volunteers to be deployed during certain emergencies. She also assisted with the planned restructuring for SERV-OR's developing Advanced Team (or A-Team), which brings together volunteer cadres from around the state to support emergency response.

For Gabbie, volunteering is ultimately about community. She began volunteering at a family resource center in high school, where she helped organize donated clothing for those in need. She found meaning in seeing how small efforts can make a difference.

Gabbie's interest in healthcare began long before her internship. She spent more than five years working in her mother's chiropractic office before recently becoming a unit host, providing non-clinical patient-care, at a nearby community hospital. Her experience with SERV-OR has strengthened her interest in emergency medicine. She hopes that serving as one of SERV-OR's first non-licensed healthcare volunteers eligible for deployment will provide additional experience and insight into how emergency preparedness helps create a coordinated and effective response during a time of crisis.

Outside of healthcare and public health, Gabbie has a passion for theater. She's participated in theater from elementary through high school and currently works as a stagehand at Oregon State University. Looking ahead, before applying to medical school, she plans to take a gap year to gain additional clinical experience and pursue opportunities exploring emergency medicine.

For now, Gabbie is making the most of her time with SERV-OR. Her internship has provided a look at the intersection of public health, emergency preparedness, volunteerism, and medicine; while allowing her to contribute to the community she hopes to serve as a future physician.

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