Program: UW Using Media to Explore Health and Wellness with the Bad River Ojibwe, Summer

Lily’s Majors: Journalism; Environmental Studies

Academic Life: This program is at the Bad River Ojibwe reservation in northern Wisconsin. The program is full of discussions and activities where you learn about native culture and life in the community. The course is led by Patty Loew, an incredibly endearing woman who herself is a member of the Bad River tribe. She has such wonderful insights to share about her community and knows their history very well so you learn a lot!

Learning Moments: The best part of the week was hearing from tribal elders! They have so much insight and when you hear their perspectives on life, it makes you question the way you’re living. Just listening to the way they discuss nature and seeing how appreciative they are of everything they take from the earth makes it clear they are very forward-thinking and focused on their family/community. It reminded me how little materialistic goods actually mean and how important it is to focus on the greater good.

New Perspectives: It’s really unique that I was in northern Wisconsin, staying on an Indian reservation and working with tribal youth for a week. I think people are quick to dismiss traveling within our own country, and so many people have these stereotypical views of native people that never get adjusted because they ignore the communities that live by them! Having this experience has expanded my knowledge of the disparities in our own state.

Using Skills: This experience allowed me to combine my majors when I helped kids produce a video project showcasing the damage a flood caused to the wild rice sloughs in their community. This experience is a good way for me to explain how my backgrounds can be combined to tell better stories.