

Visshael Patel

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Bachelor of Science in Journalism
Concentration in Environmental Sciences

May 2018
Gainesville, FL

EXPERIENCE

BACK TO NATURE WILDLIFE REFUGE

June 2024 to Present

Animal Care Volunteer

- Create engaging social media content showcasing operations, rehabilitation processes, and conservation efforts
- Deliver specialized care for over 25 species, adapting handling and care protocols for each species' unique needs
- Prepare and portion species-specific diets while adhering to strict nutritional guidelines and feeding schedules
- Maintain habitat and biosecurity protocols for diverse animal enclosures, ensuring optimal recovery conditions

NONAHOOD NEWS

April to July 2019

Staff Reporter and Copy Editor

Orlando, FL

- Engaged local community of over 40,000 residents by covering a wide range of topics
- Coordinated and carried out interviews with diverse groups of residents and credible sources
- Spearheaded recurring veterans column with meaningful story pitches, interviews and profile writing
- Often developed quality, accurate articles on short timelines of 36 hours or less for web and print
- Was appointed additional role of a copy editor and worked directly with editor-in-chief

WUFT NEWS

January to April 2018

Student Reporter

Gainesville, FL

- Collaborated with 2 senior editors to understand how to develop purposeful pitches
- Networked with residents to identify, pitch and write valuable stories on public safety, business and feature news
- Furnished exemplary stories for class assignments that led to web publications

BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Researcher and Interpretive Writer

November 2023 to May 2024

- Head all writing and editing of signage to disseminate information for the roughly 25,000-30,000 visitors who explore the 183-acre campus each week
- Research and curate information from credible videos, interviews, documents, and historical texts to create a comprehensive database for the temple's campus

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Full-Time Volunteer

December 2021 to October 2023

- Seamlessly transitioned between projects, including electrical, stone placing, carving and polishing of intricately carved limestone and marble for the world's largest modern temple
- Collaborated with over 300 volunteers of various backgrounds to meet construction deadlines, often ahead of schedule, through effective prioritization

Swaminarayan Bal Prakash Magazine Writer & Editor

January 2019 to January 2023

- Wrote and edited 25 articles for BAPS's international children's magazine with over 1,500 readers
- Coached 5 writers to conduct effective interviews with youths
- Coordinated with teams from across the world to develop a special issue on the centennial birth celebrations of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj

Youth Wing Volunteer: Regional Core Team Lead

October 2015 to December 2021

- Oversaw and supported communication strategies, campaigns and projects to help advance North American Youth Activities' projects and impacts.
 - Mentored and educated 70+ youths and 50+ leaders across the Southeast region of the U.S. on Hinduism, spirituality, and skills including presenting, project management, writing, communication and cooking
 - Led a team of over 25 members to create, tailor and execute projects for youth activities for over 5,000 youths from across 93 chapters in North America
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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Writing
Editing
Photography

Microsoft Suite
Adobe Indesign & Lightroom
Canva

Gujarati & Hindi
Networking
Leadership