

**Alumni Profile for Mira Holford  
Nysmith Class of 2010**



***Mira at Google***

At Nysmith, I was involved with both Mathcounts and Odyssey of the Mind. Our Odyssey of the Mind team went to World Finals two years in a row! I also played soccer for almost all of my time at Nysmith.

After Nysmith, I attended Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, VA. At TJ I managed the Boys' Varsity Soccer Team, and focused in particular on studying Computer Science and Physics. Now, I attend University of Virginia and am studying Biomedical Engineering and Computer Science. When I have free time, I attend Gymnastics Team practices, and work to develop technological solutions for UVA Hospital.

Regarding summer jobs, my first internship was after my sophomore year in high school. It was at my dad's work, Zeta Associates, writing code for geolocation. While at TJ, I also interned at NIST (National Institute for Standards and Technology) and NASA doing other software engineering related projects.

After my first year at UVA, I interned at a small healthcare startup, helping to develop a system of sensors to monitor motion after orthopedic surgeries. I spent last summer in Seattle, WA, interning for Google, working to implement Machine Learning algorithms to help understand failures in Google's Data Centers. I will be returning to Google next summer, but I don't know where or what I will be doing yet.

Academically, Nysmith prepared me to confidently take on the challenges presented in high school. Nysmith also taught me how to study effectively and manage my own time, which made the transition to high school very natural.

In the 10 years I spent at Nysmith, I made many close friends that I still keep in touch with. Just last summer, I lived in Seattle with a good friend who attended Nysmith with me who also happened to be interning at Google. It's been really exciting seeing what my friends are up to since graduation on Nysmith's Alumni Facebook page; people are doing amazing things in all different disciplines all across the country.

When asked what advice I would give to current students, I would say don't go crazy worrying about getting into a specific program, high school, or college. If you are honest and work hard, everything will work out. Focus on finding what excites you, and building your skill sets in that area.

***Favorite Nysmith...***

*Field trip:* 8th Grade New York Trip

*School play:* Dobdinob

*Book you read for one of your classes:* *The Giver*

*Classroom story involving one of your teachers:* Jaidan singing a song he wrote himself, "Sometimes M-R Stephens..."

*After-school club:* Odyssey of the Mind

*Memory:* Dressing up as Albert Einstein for Famous American Day. I looked fabulous.

*Do you still know all the words to the 50 states song?* I could probably get through at least the first half :)

*What state were you?* I was Nebraska!