

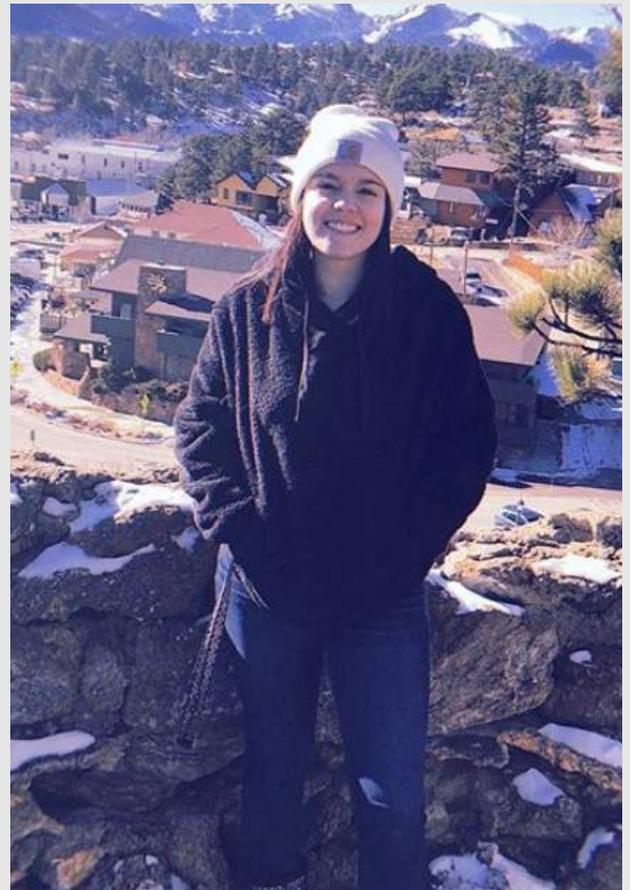
Chautauqua team members on serving during COVID-19

With
Bella Doherty -
Hospitality Staff



What brought you to the
Colorado Chautauqua?

Well that is a loaded question. I always knew about Chautauqua's hiking trails, Dining Hall, and even attended a concert with my family many years ago but it wasn't until I saw the Auditorium again that I realized I had more memories up here than I thought. When I saw the ad on for a seasonal hospitality assistant, I jumped at the opportunity. I never knew that this community was in the hotel/lodging business, I just had assumed it was a hidden neighborhood.



What is the first thing
to tell people about Chautauqua
when they ask where you work?

Whenever someone asks where I work, I always encourage them to come up and see for themselves! Words do not do Chautauqua's beauty justice; there are so many different activities that we offer up here it is hard to summarize it into a short answer of "I work at a hotel."





What do you think separates Chautauqua from other lodging/dining/nature spaces?

Most people come up here to hike, have a picnic on the green or eat at the dining hall, but little do they know we also offer venue spaces, volunteering opportunities, and overnight accommodations.



What has been the most enlightening part of this pandemic for you?

The most enlightening part of this pandemic for me is recognizing the opportunity to think outside ourselves, protect our community, and truly appreciate the time we have left with the people on this earth. It has taught me to take advantage of the little things and in times like these it's important to not lose where we came from.

You originally began as a hospitality team member but have recently expanded your role into the gardening team as well – what made you “branch” out?

I have always had a passion for taking care of plants. I would find myself researching any and all plants I didn't already know about. Joining the garden department seemed like such a great opportunity to expand my knowledge even more. Some days it is hard work but at the end of the day it is so fulfilling to see all that hard work come to life. I hope I can keep working with Jeff Rump and the rest of garden team for months to come. It is such a great experience, and I've learned so much that I can one day use in developing what I want to do in the future.

Do you have a favorite spot on campus?

If I had to pick just one spot it would have to be The Centennial Garden. I love walking through and reading all the engraved bricks people have bought over the years for various reasons.

