



Sophia Wicho



Sophia Wicho was born in a small town in Austria and she was preparing to lead the "typical" life there. Small town house, friends within walking distance, Austrian husband, bunch of kids ... the end. However when she was 15 years old her fathers' job got moved across the world to Beijing, China. She didn't want to go nor stay there. Looking back, she is relieved that her parents didn't give her a choice. She finished high school at an international school; became fluent in English and French (which before didn't seem possible) and started studying Disaster Emergency Management at York University in 2010. Toronto alone is 12 times bigger than where she was born. She is engaged to a Canadian and could not be happier that her small-town life did not happen the way she thought it would, because now she can make other dreams come true.

When you're not working, where can we find you and doing what?

Either at home on my computer studying or at one of my volunteer jobs at the Canadian Red Cross or the Humane Society. At the Red Cross I have 3 volunteer jobs, which are the mobile food bank, PDA and shelter team. At the humane society I am a foster parent and a "cat volunteer". I love dedicating my time to services that help people and animals. What else would I do with my study-free time? I might as well make a difference for someone!

Thing that you're most passionate about?

Animals: More specific sharks. I absolutely love sharks and I try to get involved as much as possible, especially to raise awareness of shark fishing and banning shark fin soup. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to swim with sharks twice in the Beijing Blue Zoo Aquarium, where I got to touch Nurse Sharks and Sand Tiger Sharks. Some people think it's crazy, but I love them as much as the next person loves dogs.

Favorite quote or motto you live by:

"I'd rather regret taking a step, than regret never having taken it." – Sophia Wicho

