



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**August 11, 2014**

**RMBL Introduces High School Students to Field Biology**

If you've been through Gothic in the past week and noticed some younger scientists out in the field, you've had a glimpse of a new course being offered at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, a two week long high school course in coordination with the Gunnison School District. With supplemental funding from the National Science Foundation, the course, an 'Introduction to Field Research,' introduces teens to field biology. Students are conducting research with RMBL field biologists studying pollination, stream ecology, plant evolution, and small mammal populations.

The instructors are Lisa Hart, who teaches at the Crested Butte Community School, and Dr. Jill Anderson, from the University of South Carolina, in collaboration with other RMBL scientists. The goal of this course is to teach the process of conducting biological research in the natural world. Course activities include making natural history observations, asking research questions, and working with scientists on topics as diverse as plant biology, pollination, stream ecology, and animal behavior. Students are working individually or in small groups to conduct their own research projects under the guidance of instructors. Students also have access to modern scientific equipment, including a Li-Cor 6400 that measures photosynthesis and respiration, GEOXT GPS units and GIS software, drying ovens, microbalances, and a microscope/camera set-up.

Students are required to have a year of biology before being accepted into the program and they also earn 1/2 year (one semester) science credit in the Gunnison Watershed School District.

For information on next year's course offerings for high school students, please contact Dr. Jennie Reithel, RMBL Science Director at [sd@rmbi.org](mailto:sd@rmbi.org).

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