

Local Students Receive Prestigious National Science Foundation Funding

Working through the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, local high school students, Benjamin Swift and Ryan Myers, are participants in the prestigious National Science Foundation program “Research Experience for High School Students”.

Both students are extending an engagement with RMBL research that started with RMBL’s high field biology program. This two-week course provides students a chance to meet scientists and learn more about research into the local ecosystems. When Benjamin and Ryan expressed an interest in getting more involved in the research, RMBL secured NSF funding for them to work in-depth with RMBL scientists.

Benjamin, now in his third summer at RMBL, is studying the drift (feeding) behavior of parasitized mayfly larvae with Dr. Bobbi Peckarsky (University of Wisconsin, Madison). Benjamin remarked at how unique this experience has been for a high school student, “I’ve been adopted into a community of like-minded individuals, I’m surrounded by world renowned scientists, and even had the chance to present my research at the Society for Freshwater Science in Sacramento, CA this May.”

Ryan is studying competition between burying beetles for dead mice – the preferred food source for their offspring - with Dr. Rosemary Smith (Idaho State University). He aspires to be an engineer, and said his primary motivations for continuing with RMBL are that he loves to learn and to be outside. “It’s amazing that using simple tools -- a bucket, wire mesh, a dead mouse, and your brain-- you can answer interesting scientific questions. My research at RMBL has got me thinking about bioengineering or how to make engineering projects more ecologically sustainable.”

For students interested in the high school course, through RMBL the National Science Foundation provides scholarship support for local students. Interested high school students can learn more about our summer programs at <http://www.rmbll.org/students/>

About the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

In a rapidly changing world, RMBL sustains our quality of life by accelerating discoveries about the world's ecosystems, which provide food, clean air, and clean water. Because biological processes are fundamentally the same everywhere, the work of RMBL is relevant globally.

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