STUDENT EXPECTATIONS
RMBL EDUCATION PROGRAM 2022

Goal

The primary goal of this program is to help students become scientists through a mentored research experience and a cohort-based professional development program. Students will be given opportunities to learn in what it means to do science and be a scientist. We expect students to be engaged, self-motivated, honest, and respectful of all program participants. The setting at a field station provides a full-time science immersion experience in the Rocky Mountains ecosystem; students should make the most of this opportunity by participating fully in program and community activities.

For 2022, students will participate in-person at RMBL onsite in Gothic, Colorado, following the RMBL Covid-19 safety protocols. If required by the protocols some of the program activities may be conducted with limited group sizes or virtually (for example, field trips in vans, seminars, networking, panels, workshops, and presentations). Field research and indoor laboratory activities will be in-person as long as they follow RMBL's health and safety protocols. Each lab group (Scientist Mentor + graduate students, research assistants, and students) has specific Covid protocols in place. Students must follow the protocols for RMBL and their specific lab group. Students who need assistance with technology (loaner laptop, printing, wifi help, etc.) should contact the Program Coordinator.

Timeline (On-site at RMBL Program Dates: Wednesday June 8- Sunday Aug 14, 2022)

- 2 days of pre-program orientation activities in online/virtual format.

June 8&9 Arrive RMBL, settle into cabin, facility tours, and general information orientation.
June 10&11 2-days of Orientation activities- Establish cohort dynamic. Learn about RMBL, the variety of field biology research projects, and pathways to science careers. Explore the scientific methods, data presentation, and pitching a project.
Jun 13-Jul 8 Wildlife and Ecosystems Short Courses begin this week!
June 13-23 Proposal development, learn research skills and sites, initiate research activities
June 24 Oral project proposal presentations/feedback sessions: FULL Time research students
June 27/28 Oral project proposal presentations/feedback sessions: Part-Time research student
June 29/30 Written proposal and RMBL research application due
July 5/6 Peer Proposal review due
July 5-8 Short courses conclude this week. Students transition to full-time research.
August 1 Symposium I presentations (for students who started program early)
August 5 Draft of final project report due
August 8&9 Symposium II presentations (most students)
Aug. 11/12 Submit Final written paper, with maps and metadata, and approved by mentor. *No later than 24 hours before you check-out!*
Aug. 13 Last day to check-out. Check out forms due to RMBL staff the day before departure.
Aug. 14 Depart RMBL.

Weekly activities

Short courses meet 2 days per week until July 8.
Workshops and Discussions for Professional Development- Monday and Thursday.
Mentor and lab group meetings
Research activities (reading, proposal development, data collection & analysis, writing)

Summer expectations

- We expect you to conduct an independent, research project, supervised by a scientist.
- You will participate in a Program Orientation and education program activities.
- You will discuss and present your proposed research project, both orally and in written form, as well as complete a Peer Review.
- You will attend Research Design, Statistics and Scientific Communication Workshops.
- You will present your results at the end of the summer.
- You will write a paper in the scientific format describing your results.
- You will attend a GPS and GIS workshops, produce a map of project field sites using GIS, and archive your dataset (metadata).
- You should plan to work an average of 35-40 hours/week, understanding that field research is NOT a M-F, 9-5 job and may require early, late, or weekend hours. You should make a schedule for your short-course activities (if you are taking a short course it will meet 2 days/week, June 13-Jul 8), the workshops & panels, reading scientific papers, developing the research question and proposal, discussions with your mentor and research group, and data acquisition, analysis, interpretations, and presentation.
- You should participate fully in the required components of the educational program. The student handbook provides a detailed list of required components. Participation will be evaluated mid-way through the summer and students not in compliance will work with the Coordinator and their mentor to come up with a plan for meeting expectations, including regular check ins.
- Students who miss a deadline must contact the Coordinators (Rosemary Smith and Susan Washko) within 24 hours with a written plan. Students who miss deadlines without communicating with the coordinators may have their stipend reduced, scholarship revoked, or grades/credits withheld.
- Students receiving RMBL scholarships or REU awards are required to maintain the equivalent of a 'B' average to keep their scholarships. Performance will be reviewed mid-way through the summer.
- Health and Safety is a priority. Prevention and avoidance of unsafe conditions is expected at all times. Any activities that are deemed to be unsafe will lead to dismissal from the project.
- Smoking/Alcohol/Restricted Drugs. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the Smoking/Alcohol/Restricted Drug policies. Violations will result in dismissal.
- Students should READ the RMBL Community Handbook for specific policies, behaviors, and information about the RMBL community and rules/expectations for all residents.
- Students are responsible for creating an inclusive, equitable and welcoming work environment. Sexual harassment, discriminatory speech or actions will not be tolerated.
- Students are required to fill out and submit an online evaluation of the education program before leaving. Some students may be selected to participate in a focus group to provide feedback on the program to outside evaluators.
- Students receiving REU awards are required to submit demographic information to the National Science Foundation, which funds the awards.
- Students will receive a transcript when the Educational Program Final Checklist is completed. Note that transcripts come from the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL). RMBL is not an accredited institution. Check with your home institution to see if they will accept credit from RMBL for this program.

Things you should know

- The RMBL is a research facility but is also a community. Over 160 people live and work in or near Gothic during the summer. You will have the opportunity to socialize, explore outdoor pursuits, and contribute to the amazing RMBL community.
- You will learn how to work collaboratively as part of a scientific team, while at the same time being self-motivated to work independently on a project. While you will receive support from your mentor and the coordinator, it is largely up to you to make your project a success.
- We expect your mentor to meet with you every week throughout the summer. The schedule will be determined within each research group. Communication is key to success.
- Funds for research supplies will be provided to mentors for use within the research team. Research supplies can be broadly applied- it includes traditional lab equipment and materials as well as research-related gear (e.g. boots, rain gear, waders, packs) and sample processing fees. Questions about research supply funds should be directed to Jennie Reithel, Science Director.
- Students should make their own travel arrangements to/from RMBL. You should contact RMBL and your mentor about the dates you plan to be at the lab *before* making travel arrangements.
- Student requests for housing and meals will be accommodated to the extent possible.
- If you are having any problems or have concerns about your progress in the program, feel free to discuss them with your mentor or the Program Coordinators (Rosemary and Susan), whoever is most appropriate. See 'Who to go to' below.
- Students may request feedback or guidance from the Rosemary, Susan, or Jennie Reithel at any time. Staff can give scientific feedback as well as guidance on time management skills, communication skills, and other soft skills.
- Students will not receive their transcript from RMBL until the Educational Program Final Checklist is completed.
- Students with REU awards will not receive their final paycheck until the Educational Program Final Checklist is completed.

Who to Go To

- Katie Harper and RMBL office staff –Katie is onsite at RMBL and can assist with student logistics such as travel, housing, and meals, and scholarships/stipends. katie@rmbl.org
- Dr. Rosemary Smith (rsmith@rmbl.org) and the Program Coordinator, Susan Washko can assist with questions about mentor-student research groups, the education program schedule and requirements, as well as due dates. They are also available for statistics, writing, and other research-related help.
- Dr. Jennie Reithel is the Science Director (sd@rmbl.org). Jennie is onsite at RMBL June-August. She coordinates all RMBL research projects, including research supplies funds, research project impacts, choosing new research sites, mapping, permits, and research equipment use.
- Shannon Sprott – Shannon will provide online GPS and GIS training. She can assist with GPS and GIS questions and mapping sites. She does not live on-site.
- Dr. Jane Ogilvie teaches the Experimental Design and Statistics training and is also a Mentor. She will be teaching workshops for students at the beginning of the summer as well as providing consultant services in July/August.
- Dr. Ruben Alarcon teaches the Rocky Mountain Ecosystems course and is also a Mentor.
- Dr. Caitlin Wells teaches the Wildlife Biology course and is also a Mentor.

I have read and understand the expectations for students.

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Name Date