Science Research Mentoring Program (SRMP)

Application: Research Mentorship 2017 – 2018

DEADLINE: March 17, 2017 @ 5pm

Thank you for your interest in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) Science Research Mentoring Program (SRMP), an opportunity to conduct one year of research under the mentorship of an AMNH scientist. Please carefully read the following guidelines and requirements before applying to SRMP.

Check out our student website [http://www.srmp4life.com](http://www.srmp4life.com). This website is for primarily for students already in SRMP. However, click on Projects to see what type of research our students conduct. Also, check out our FAQ page. If you have further questions, please contact Mark Weckel, SRMP Manager ([srmp@amnh.org](mailto:srmp@amnh.org)).

Benefits of the SRMP Program

- Opportunity to conduct an authentic research project with AMNH-affiliated scientist.
- One free Kaplan SAT or ACT prep course, and other college preparatory resources.
- A stipend upon completion of all research and program requirements.
- Access to special events at the AMNH

Requirements: *All SRMP activities are mandatory for participating students.*

- Applicants must have completed three Research Courses in the AMNH After School Program within a Life Science or Physical Science track.
  - For course and track information, see: [http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/grades-9-12/science-research-mentoring-program](http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/grades-9-12/science-research-mentoring-program).
  - If you have not yet completed the three courses, but intend to by the end of this school year, you are welcome to apply.
- Applicants must attend school and/or live in New York City to be eligible.
• Applicants must be a student currently enrolled in 10th or 11th grade, or equivalent standing (homeschool or other academic system).
• Applicants are required to attend the SRMP Summer Institute

**SRMP Expectations and Schedule of Mandatory SRMP Activities:**

• SRMP Summer Institute 2017: August 14th – September 1st (*weekdays only*).
  o Accepted students must participate in a 3-week summer session. During this session, **ALL** students will attend a weeklong, **sleepover** experience of fieldwork at Black Rock Forest ([http://www.blackrockforest.org](http://www.blackrockforest.org)).
• One-year mentored experience: *September 2017 – June 2018*
  o Students will work in small groups of 2-3 students led by research scientist. Students will be expected to work on their projects twice a week, for a minimum of two hours per session, with their mentors and partners at the Museum.
  o We expect our students to make SRMP their primary extracurricular activity. Students must have flexible schedules to facilitate scheduling with their mentors and fellow team members. Other activities (e.g. volunteering, sports) must be scheduled around SRMP activities.
  o SRMP students will participate in mandatory monthly Friday advisory sessions, where they learn about science professions, practice presenting their research projects, prepare their final posters and presentations, and attend lectures from invited speakers. (Please note: some advisories may occur on a Saturday or Sunday).
  o SRMP students are expected to write a paper on their research due in early July 2017.
• SRMP Graduation: *Early June 2018*
  o SRMP students will present a scientific poster and oral presentation about their research in an annual SRMP Symposium. Parents, teachers, mentors, Museum staff, other high school students and the general public are invited to attend this event.

**Application Package**
The application package consists of **one online form** and **four paper documents**. The paper documents should be submitted in one single envelope clearly labeled with your name.

• **Online form:** Please follow this [link](https://amnh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4pnSu2jFXvx4ln) to complete the 2017-2018 SRMP online application:
• **Paper Documents:** (DO NOT STAPLE)
o A copy of your most recent official transcript.
o Two letters of recommendation from adults in an educational, professional, or extracurricular capacity. Individual letters of recommendation should be submitted in a sealed and signed envelope and enclosed into the package you submit. AMNH instructors are NOT allowed to write recommendations, but they will be consulted about your application.
o Essay (no more than 2-pages; double-spaced) addressing the following questions:
- Why are you interested in science? Or is there something you’ve experienced or read about that has inspired your interest in science and research?
- What areas of research are you most interested in and why?
- Why do you want to be in SRMP, and what you hope to gain from it?
- What, if any, research experience have you had? (Include any school or extracurricular activities). Please note, prior research experience is NOT a requirement for SRMP.
- How has your participation in the Science Research courses, or any other courses you have taken at AMNH, influenced your interest in science?
- Is there anything else we should know about you, including any special skills, talents or other abilities you have?

o At the bottom of your essay and using the list below, please indicate two research areas that are most interesting to you. Make sure you select from the appropriate track.
- **Life Science SRMP**: Cultural Anthropology, Bioinformatics, Conservation Biology, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Genetics & Genomics, Paleontology, Physical Anthropology, Taxonomy, Systematics.

**Deadline:** Submit your completed application no later than **5:00PM on Friday, March 17, 2017**

**How to submit your paper application:** All paperwork should be submitted in one envelope with your name and “SRMP Application” clearly marked. Do not staple your paperwork. There are three delivery options:

- **Option 1** - If you are currently taking ASP classes, give your application (in a clearly marked envelope) to your ASP instructor.
• **Option 2** - If you ARE NOT currently taking classes, take your application to the 1st floor Security Desk at the 79th st and Central Park West entrance. Please tell the security guard that you are dropping off your application to SRMP. Then are expecting you!

• **Option 3** - If you ARE NOT currently taking classes, you may mail your application. HOWEVER, please remember, **your application must arrive by Friday, March 17, 2017**:  

    Education Department; Rose Center - 4th Floor  
    American Museum of Natural History  
    Central Park West at 79th Street  
    New York, NY 10024  
    Attn: Mark Weckel; Science Research Mentoring Program

All completed applications will be reviewed. Applicants may be asked to participate in an in person interview at the AMNH. Final decisions will be made by mid-June.