



Summary of National Ocean Sciences Bowl® (NOSB) 2015 National Ocean Scholarship Program Recipients

Background: Applicants submitted an application, SAT/ACT scores, two written essays and two letters of recommendations. One essay was personal, describing their inspiration and interest in ocean science and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The second essay was a choice between two topics: 1) choosing one oceanic feature and explaining its current societal impacts and significance to our understanding of the ocean; or 2) taking a position on one of the current challenges in ocean management (their choice) and writing a persuasive argument to convince others to also take that position.

Each application was reviewed by three reviewers from various departments and backgrounds within the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. Reviewers used a provided rubric to evaluate each application. After all the scores were summed and averaged, the top five candidates with the highest average scores received scholarships.

2015 Recipients:



Ashley Davis graduated from Dutch Fork High School in Irmo, South Carolina where she was immensely driven and consistently sought out academic challenges. Ashley was motivated to conduct a year-long research project on impacts of ocean acidification on aragonite, working with a University of South Carolina professor. Due to her academic integrity, she was selected to be a student in her high school's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Magnet Program which is highly competitive and challenges students to complete STEM courses that exceed graduation requirements. At the University of South Carolina Honors College, Ashley plans to major in Marine Science and take advantage of the school's coastal Baruch Marine Laboratory.

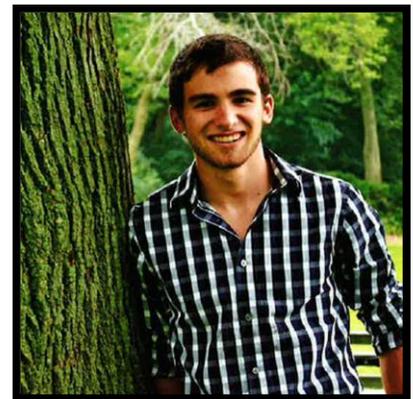
Devon Gaynes attended Mt. Sinai High School in Mt. Sinai, New York. Reviewers noted that Devon's essay was extremely well written and shows her perseverance and determination. In fact, to help secure her place on the school's A team for NOSB, Devon took a college level oceanography course to assist her during "tryouts." Her coach noted that although she was not team captain, she assumed responsibility for organizing, preparing and motivating her team in completing their Science Expert Briefing at the 2015 NOSB Finals. After competing on an NOSB team, Devon realized there was more to ocean science than whales. She now plans to study physical oceanography in college, with a focus on the environmental effects of pollution and methods for remediation and future prevention. She will attend Stony Brook University.





Jeffrey Keene attended Strawberry Crest High School in Dover, Florida. In his personal essay, Jeffrey showed candor in owning up to his nickname of “Shark Boy,” which partially came due to his role as president of his high school’s marine science club. He has volunteered for the Florida Aquarium, interpreting conservation messages to the public, and been involved with the Regional Ocean Conference for Students, an annual conference that inspires students to develop service projects, including planting sea grass. His team’s most recent project was a short video to inform the public about the danger plastic bags pose to marine life. Jeffrey has noted his desire to teach others about the value of the ocean ecosystem and hopes to one day work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Jeffrey plans to attend Harriett Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University, majoring in Marine Biology.

Augustus Pendelton graduated from Shorewood High School in Shorewood, Wisconsin. Reviewers agreed that Augustus shows excellent academic potential and seems willing to address topics, even from a controversial perspective, with ease. Recommendation letters noted he has a combination of intelligence, perceptiveness, exuberance and humor that has made him a favorite amongst his peers on his NOSB team. He thrives on challenges and maintains a can-do attitude. In college, Augustus plans to focus on aquaculture because he believes that while the field is still relatively small, it “will become a vital solution to overfishing in the future.” He also plans on taking summer courses in the Bahamas to study coral reef ecology and sharks. Augustus will major in Microbiology with a minor in Marine Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Noa Randall attended the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where Noa’s grades were exceptional and nearly all the classes she took were rigorous and challenging Advance Placement or Honors courses. She noted that her team’s NOSB practice sessions were the highlight of each week. Noa is conscientious of the environment, and does not just talk about solutions, but acts on them – for example, riding her bike to school, even during winter, versus driving a car. Noa took a year off between high school and college to study and travel in South America and put her ability to speak Spanish to the test. Also during her year off, she interned with the Ocean River Institute, learning about how ocean management and how science influences policy. While at Smith College, she plans to major in Environmental Science.

