



Summary of National Ocean Sciences Bowl® (NOSB) 2016 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 four candidates with the highest average scores received scholarships.

2016 Recipients:



Emma Gregory competed in the Orca Bowl for two years and attended the Science and Math Institute in Tacoma, Washington. In her essays, Emma noted education is critical to ensuring healthy oceans, and while part of The Nature Conservancy's Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future program, she had the opportunity to build on that belief by participating in interviews with print and broadcast media. She also stresses the role of visual aids in communicating science and helping others understand difficult topics. Emma is attending Eckerd College and will major in Marine Science. Her plans include joining the college's Ocean Search and Rescue Team, a group of student volunteers who work closely with the Coast Guard, 911 Emergency Medical Response and state/local agencies to answer more than 500 maritime distress calls per year.

Nathan Marshall, a student at Boise High School in Idaho, competed at the Salmon Bowl in Oregon for four years. Reviewers noted he is a standout student with excellent grades – no small feat given he filled his schedule with honors and advanced placement classes. His outstanding work ethic was proven when he took third place in his category of the Intel Science Talent Search. Although “landlocked” in Idaho, Nate has become passionate about ocean science. While attending Stanford University, Nate plans to continue an original paleoceanography research project he created during the summer of 2015, while perusing field work opportunities, including the Stanford@SEA program, a semester-long curriculum on shore and at sea aboard tall ships. He aspires to work with NOAA in oceanography and climate research, in part due to a field trip experience at the 2014 NOSB National Finals Competition.





Ryan McGinnis competed at the Great Lakes Bowl for 4 years as a member of his Dexter High School team in Michigan. His love of the ocean was apparent as he participated in his school's Ocean Ambassador Program and taught elementary and middle school students about cartilaginous fish and recycling. Reviewers stated that Ryan is extremely focused, something rather rare for a high school student, and has a very clear idea of what he wants to do and be in the future. His goal is curbing climate change and ocean acidification by creating a new and clean source of renewable energy based on cyanobacteria. Ryan will attend the University of Michigan and major in Biochemistry, focusing on marine biofuels research. During the summer of 2016 he is already studying these biofuels during an internship at the University.

D'rtanyon Wells attended Da Vinci Charter Academy, a project based school in California, where he created a proposal to improve a local watershed and created a visual report about the anatomical structures of native California garden plants. He participated in the NOSB for two years, but put in two years of hard work just to form a team so that he could compete at the Sea Lion Bowl. He read the rules, successfully found four classmates willing to participate and prepared them for competition. He noted that he learned a lot about leadership and communication through the process. D'rtanyon clearly has passion for marine biology and ocean conservation that will serve him well when he attends Hawaii Pacific University. Reviewers noted that if he shows the same grit and determination presented in his scholarship application, he'll do amazing things.

