



The National Ocean Sciences Bowl®

2020 National Ocean Scholarship Program Recipients

Since 2003, the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, has recognized and rewarded student achievement by providing scholarships to up to five students per year who plan to pursue degrees in ocean science or a related science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field. With the help of dedicated and caring individuals, we were able to reward five talented young scholars in 2020 as they begin the next phase of their education and start working towards their future careers.

2020 Recipients:



Daeun (Joyce) Chung competed at the Los Angeles Surf Bowl for three years with her team from Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in Los Angeles (CA). Her teachers noted that Joyce is a drive self-starter who is hungry for knowledge and never takes a break from learning. Reviewers commented on her clear passion for environmental issues, particularly related to the ocean, and very strong work ethic. She assisted her NOSB and Science Olympiad teams by writing and grading study materials, spending time outside of class to learn more about topics and share them enthusiastically with her teammates. Joyce will attend Wellesley College and major in the geosciences, hopeful to one day pursue a career as an oceanographer and environmental scientist. While at Wellesley, she plans to join the SEA Semester to gain some hands-on experience out at sea and participate in a sustainability program on campus.

Genevieve Coblentz-Strong competed in the NOSB's Salmon Bowl for four years with her team, the Nerd Nautili, associated with the Oregon Coast Aquarium (for the last two years she's attended the Early College High School program of Portland Community College). While serving as the captain of her team during her senior year, she also mentored a new NOSB team, putting her enthusiasm for ocean conservation and leadership to use to motivate and lead others. Both her teachers and the scholarship reviewers commented on her commitment to the ocean, evident given her extensive, 1000+ hours volunteering for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, work to inform others about the impacts of plastics in the ocean, and science experience aboard sailing and research cruises. One noted "many students express their desire to pursue a career in the Ocean Sciences, but she has clearly shown her dedication time and time again." Genevieve's goal after attending Oregon State University is to one day create new exploration devices that will help contribute to our understanding of the ocean.



Ireland Neville competed at the Los Angeles Surf Bowl on his Santa Monica High School (CA) team for 2 years, serving as captain his senior year. Letters of recommendation and reviews paint the picture of a very driven and well-rounded individual who loves to engage others in lengthy discussions and debates. After participating in a 2019 National Finals field trip with ThinkOcean, a youth led organization bringing awareness to environmental issues and engaging its members towards solving the challenges, Ireland become driven to pursue a career where he can merge ocean science and policy. Teachers note he thinks about the political and societal connections and implications of human action with respect to the environment and wants to consider the larger context of ocean science in decision making. Ireland plans to take marine science courses at Georgetown University as "the ocean is my interest. Politics is my passion."

Derek Raymond competed at the Quahog Bowl with his team from the Science and Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut for three years. His interest in engineering was evident after he spent countless hours designing, building, rebuilding, piloting, and modeling a cardboard boat for competition until finalizing a victorious design. Teachers have noted he possesses the drive, maturity, work ethic, critical thinking and leadership skills to succeed. Derek will focus heavily on math and science coursework at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, with the goal of becoming a commissioned officer after graduation. He also looks forward to learning about how to protect marine habitats and species in U.S. waterways and coastal areas as he studies the USCG's eleven missions; two of which focus on Living Marine Resources and Marine Environmental Protection.



Braeden Thomson competed for two year at the Blue Crab Bowl with his Norfolk Collegiate School (VA) team, which he assembled and captained after hearing about the program from a mentor. As a Hutton Scholar, he was awarded an opportunity to work alongside a PhD student mentor at the Virginia Institute for Marine Science, assisting with his mentor's research on the biology of invasive blue catfish populations in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as formulating his own mini-thesis regarding salinity patterns in the Lower Chesapeake Bay. Braeden's mentor noted he was inquisitive, motivated, diligent, and analytically driven when it came to assisting with tasks in the field and the lab, including those that many would consider tedious. Regardless of the task, he asked important questions about the relevance and applications of the work he was conducting. These characteristics lead to the comment his quality of work at VIMS said was on par with many of the graduate-level students. After attending Cornell University, with summer coursework at Shoals Marine Laboratory, Braeden's ultimate dream is to "bring together the realms of policy and marine science such that I can make the most profound impact on the welfare of our society."

