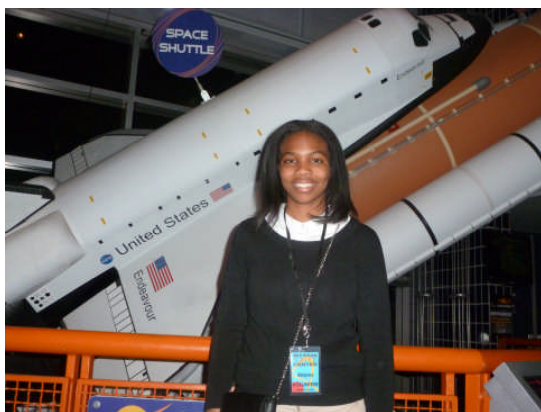


Student Scientist Volunteers at Michigan Science Center



Above: Briana Young at the Michigan Science Center standing near Space Shuttle exhibit

There are a number of ways to give back to your community. Some individuals volunteer at the library, while others may spend time working at a hospital reception desk or serving meals at a soup kitchen. Briana Young, a senior scientist at Ecotek Lab and a senior at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence, decided to give back by volunteering her time as a Newton Society member at the Michigan Science Center.

While volunteering her time, Briana has been able to share her love of science with young people and adults, alike. Some of her work has included educating visitors to the science center about butterfly ecology; the physics of rocket systems; and the impact of biochemistry on food safety and nutrition.

The volunteer opportunity that the Michigan Science Center offers many benefits. First, it requires Briana to interact with a broad spectrum of stakeholders; it provides a platform for her to utilize the technical skills that she has developed in the Ecotek Lab program; and it has placed her in a position to further investigate STEM career options as she heads off to college.

Briana is not your typical student volunteer. She brings a lot to the table. Since middle school she has worked on a number of hands research projects ranging from bioenergy to marine ecology to food chemistry. She has participated in summer STEM programs at top universities, traveled abroad and met with world leaders at the United Nations to discuss how international policy can be enabled through science.

With all of the distractions in today's society, what's most impressive is the fact that Briana, with her hectic schedule and ongoing work in Ecotek Lab, has maintained a grade point of average of 3.5 over her high school career. The volunteer position at the Michigan Science Center is a great way to connect inspired scientists with a growing and vibrant science institution.



Briana discussing space food samples with Michigan Science Center patron



Butterfly exhibit at Michigan Science Center



Briana working chemical wood burning experiment in Ecotek Lab

About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>