

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Teen Research Internship Program (TRIP) Initiative is a hands-on learning program for high school students who are motivated to explore their interests in science and medicine. At its core, the program aims to foster a love for science whilst building resiliency, communication, and critical thinking skills outside the traditional confines of school.

The program is split into three phases, including Project Design, Experimentation, and Communication. During the Project Design phase, students use their creativity and curiosity to develop potential research questions surrounding the impact of diet, inflammation, and environmental stress on organismal health, development, and behavior, while learning basic lab and problem-solving skills. During the Experimentation phase, students perform experiments, learn to collect and analyze data, and, most importantly, learn how to think through and overcome failure. In the final phase, students present their findings to the scientific community, their peers, and their family in a scientific symposium where they gain insight into the real world and big picture applications of their work. Beyond the lab, students also receive one-on-one mentoring with Fox Chase faculty; they learn team building and leadership skills, get exposure to careers in science and become part of a growing family of driven and curious students. Stories from our past students can be found on TRIP's official webpage (<http://www.tripinitiative.com/blog>), as well as TRIP's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages (@TRIPInitiative).

PROGRAM DETAILS:

The next TRIP course will be held on Saturdays from January 29th through April 9th (11 consecutive weeks). Prior to the course, an optional parent/guardian engagement event will be held on Saturday, January 8th. After the in-lab portion of the course concludes, students prepare for the symposium by giving a practice talk online, and then present their work at an all-day scientific symposium on Saturday, April 30th.

Two sessions of the program will be offered where Session A meets from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and Session B is from 1:30 am – 5:30 pm; both sessions attend the all-day symposium, which typically runs from 8:15 – 4:30 pm. Up to 8 students will be enrolled in each session. All classes will be held at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

High school students currently enrolled in grade 9-12 are eligible to apply to TRIP.

Completion of at least one high school biology or chemistry course is preferred, but not required. **Extra help is available for those students without previous coursework.**

Students must commit to attend ALL days of the program (including the all-day symposium) in either Session A or B.

Parents/Guardians must confirm and agree to the attendance policy.

TO APPLY:

All application materials are due 11:59 pm on Monday October 25, 2021.

To apply to the next session of TRIP Initiative, complete the [online application](#) by following this link: <https://forms.gle/5QDyxKfJ6XNXhG266>. Applicants are also asked to upload a current transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) and their course schedule to the application.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

In addition to completing the online application, applicants must have two letters of recommendation (LOR) submitted on their behalf. These documents can be submitted directly by the letter writers by following this link: <https://forms.gle/eQZ1sXx9KzyTtHGz8>. Note: LORs should be sent directly by the letter writers NOT by the student. If your writers have trouble submitting documents through the online form, documents may also be sent to Dr. Alyssa Leystra at tripinitiative@gmail.com before **11:59 pm on Monday, October 25th, 2021**. If letter writers need to email supplemental documents, please ask them to use the subject line: "TRIP@WTHS'22 Recommendation - APPLICANT'S NAME".

One letter of recommendation should come from your science teacher (e.g. biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, etc.), while the other can come from, but is not limited to, the following individuals: High school administrator (Assistant Principal, Principal, etc.), high school teacher (math, science, English, art, etc.), coach, minister or clergyman from your place of worship, and supervisor from a current/previous job, club or volunteer position.

Letters should: 1) state the length and capacity that the recommender has known the applicant, and 2) contain an assessment of the applicant's strengths and weakness with specific examples that support participation in the TRIP program. Please rename the file as "Last name, first name of applicant_Your first and last name". Official letters of recommendation should be submitted by the letter writers through the online form: <https://forms.gle/eQZ1sXx9KzyTtHGz8> or emailed directly to Dr. Alyssa Leystra at tripinitiative@gmail.com before **11:59 pm on Monday, October 25th, 2021**. When submitting a letter by email, please use the subject line: "TRIP@WTHS'22 Recommendation - APPLICANT'S NAME".

*****When requesting a letter of recommendation, be sure to give the writer this information and a minimum of three weeks to complete your letter.*****

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of program staff and alumni in November 2021. Following review, qualifying applicants will interview with program staff in December 2021 with final decisions made by the end of December.

If you have questions, please ask! Direct all questions to Dr. Alyssa Leystra at tripinitiative@gmail.com. Please use **TRIP@WTHS'22** in the **subject line** of all emails regarding the 2022 TRIP spring program.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION:

We are looking for motivated and curious applicants that can think and express themselves logically. You do NOT have to have a high GPA, previous lab experience, or be a superstar... just be you. Be sure to use your answers to tell us who you are.

Take your time to answer each of the application questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. You will be

compared to all other applicants based upon the answers you give...make sure we learn about who YOU are and what you are interested in through your answers. Don't BS your way through the answers or give the answer that you think we want to read.

Incomplete sentences, spelling errors, and poorly thought-out responses will **NEGATIVELY** affect the review of your application as will a failure to adhere to the word limit. Therefore, to prevent mistakes, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you compose your answers in a word processing program, and then paste them into the application. Be sure to have an adult (e.g. your parents, high school counselor, or mentor) read through your application **PRIOR** to submission.

Use the 250-word limit! Don't miss an opportunity to tell us about yourself.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please direct all questions to Dr. Alyssa Leystra at tripinitiative@gmail.com. Please use **TRIP@WTHS'22** in the **subject line** of all emails regarding the 2022 TRIP spring program.