TEEN RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Teen Research Internship Program (TRIP) 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 family of driven and curious students. Stories from our past students can be found on TRIP's official webpage (http://www.tripinitiative.com/blog), Facebook and Instagram pages (@TRIPInitiative).

PROGRAM DETAILS:

The next TRIP program will be held on Saturdays from January 23rd through March 27th (10 consecutive weeks). Prior to the course, an optional parent/guardian engagement event will be held on Saturday, January 9th. After the in-lab portion of the course concludes, students present their work at a scientific symposium on Saturday, April 10th.

Engagement event – January 9th

#1 – January 23rd
#2 – January 30th
#3 – February 6th
#4 – February 13th
#5 – February 20th
#6 – February 27th
#7 – March 6th
#8 – March 13th
#9 – March 20th
#10 – March 27th
Practice talks – March 29th – April 7th
Symposium – April 10th (typically runs from 8:15 am – 12:30 pm)

Please note: the program runs through SAT and ACT dates.

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Two sessions of the program will be offered where Session A meets from 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and Session B is from 1:15-5:00 p.m. Up to 8 students will be enrolled in each session. Both sessions attend the all-day symposium. All classes will be held at William Tennent High School in Warminster, PA.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Philadelphia-area students who will be at least 14 years of age by January 23rd, 2027, and are 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.

Students must commit to attend ALL days of the program (including the symposium) in either Session A or B. Note that the program may run through SAT and ACT test dates, prom, and/or spring break. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE (MEANING ANY ABSENCE THAT IS NOT A DOCUMENTED ILLNESS OR PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND APPROVED ABSENCE) WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM. Parents/Guardians must confirm and agree to the attendance policy.**

To Apply:

The following items are due by 5:00 PM on Monday, October 5th:

1. Online Application
2. School transcript
3. One letter of recommendation

Online Application

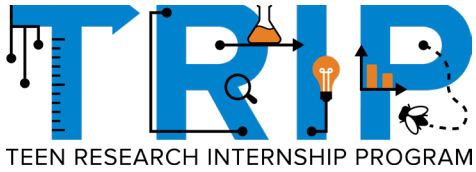
To apply to the next session of TRIP Initiative, complete the online application. We recommend that you download and complete the essay portion of the application in a word processing program and then copy/paste your answers into the online application. The essay questions can be downloaded from the ***"Apply To TRIP Signature"*** page in the Application Instructions section on the website (www.tripinitiative.com).

If you have a question about how to answer a question or have any technical issues with the online application, please email Dr. Theresa Austria (tripinitiative@gmail.com). Please use **TRIP@WTHS'27** in the subject line of all emails regarding the 2027 program.

Request a Letter of Recommendation

Please request a letter of recommendation to be submitted on your behalf. The letter 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, or a supervisor from a current/previous job, club or volunteer position.

The letter 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 weaknesses with specific examples that support participation in the TRIP program. If applicable, letters should be written on official school



letterhead.
Official letters of recommendation should be submitted by the letter writers through the online form (https://www.dropbox.com/request/f2lhom79kffpl2wggcxi) or e-mailed directly from the letter writer to Dr. Theresa Austria at tripinitiative@gmail.com with the subject line: "TRIP@WTHS'27 Letter of Recommendation - APPLICANT'S NAME". Please save your letter as "Student's Last Name, First Name – LOR, Recommender's First and Last Name" and submit in PDF format. Recommenders are also asked to complete a 2027 TRIP Letter of Recommendation form (https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/mPcHCifCr9) so we can keep track of all persons sending letters of recommendation and on whose behalf.
When requesting a letter of recommendation, be sure to give the writer a copy of these instructions AND a minimum of three weeks to complete your letter.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE
Applications and letters will be reviewed by a panel of program staff and alumni in October and November. Following review, qualifying applicants will interview with program staff in late November to early December. Final decisions will be made by the end of December 2026.
Please direct all questions to Dr. Theresa Austria at tripinitiative@gmail.com. Please use "TRIP@WTHS'27" in the subject line of all emails regarding 2027 program.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION:
We are looking for motivated and curious applicants that can think and express themselves logically. You don't have to have a high GPA, previously 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 following questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. You will be compared to all other applicants based upon the answers given here; therefore, make sure we learn about who YOU are and what you are interested in. Don't BS your way through the answers or give the answer you think we want to read. Be sure to explain yourself FULLY. Don't make the reviewers guess at what you mean--be clear.

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

BE HONEST IN YOUR RESPONSES. APPLICANTS SUSPECTED OF AI GENERATED RESPONSES MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE PROGRAM.

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

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

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