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 REQUIREMENTS:

1. Philadelphia-area students who will be at least 14 years of age by January 23rd, 2026, and are currently enrolled in grade 9-12 are eligible to apply to TRIP.
2. Completion of at least one high school Biology or Chemistry course is preferred but not required.
3. Students must commit to attending ALL days of the program (including the symposium) in either Session A or B.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

The letter of recommendation is due by 5:00 PM on Monday, October 6th and should be written and submitted by the recommender. 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'26 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.

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 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 the 2027 TRIP program.