GEOFORCE AT AGU 2023

The Annual AGU (American Geophysical Union) National Conference, one of the largest scientific conferences in the world, was held last week in San Francisco. AGU is an organization for Earth, atmospheric, ocean, hydrologic, space, and planetary scientists and enthusiasts which boasts over 25,000 attendees. Of those attendees this year, several GeoFORCE team members, students, and alumni presented posters and gave talks over the work that they have done.

Dr. Leah Turner gave a talk on the GeoFORCE Family idea, which would propose introducing families to the geosciences. Outreach coordinator Eleanor Cote also presented a short talk and poster over using a social framework in the 2023 virtual academy. Several of our GeoFORCE alumni also presented posters, including Enrique Morales (who was featured in the April 2021 monthly, linked here!), James Sun, and Jada Siverand (who was featured in the December 2020 monthly, linked here!).

Our 12th grade students arrived on Wednesday to present in the high school session of AGU called Bright STaRS, which stands for "Bright Students Training as Research Scientists". While at the conference, the students had the chance to explore the cutting-edge research and fascinating presentations.

Paola Sarabia (Eagle Pass High School) stated, “My favorite part of the conference was the vibrant exchange of ideas and the sense of camaraderie among scientists from diverse backgrounds. AGU created a dynamic environment where intellectual curiosity flourished, fostering connections that extend beyond geographical boundaries. Engaging with experts and fellow researchers expanded my perspectives and ignited a renewed passion for the scientific community.”

The research they presented was from the 12th grade research experience this past summer, where they worked alongside researchers and faculty from the Jackson School. The six groups had ranked top place at the GeoFORCE Symposium which took place at the end of the academy.

The Bright STaRS session took place Thursday morning, and the students did an amazing job presenting! “I loved presenting at AGU, leaving people fascinated and making them aware of micro plastics was impactful. We got to meet so many people ranging from teachers, professors, college advisors, CEO’s, even other students”, said Claudia Hernandez (Eagle Pass High School).
Roxell Bonilla (Carnegie Vanguard High School) stated, “I would love to present my poster again! It was an opportunity of a lifetime and my research could possibly help others in the future with their studies!”

Many of the students expressed that the experience heightened their interest in science.

“I am way more interested in science, I’m really looking forward to doing more research on water quality”, said Sergio Long (CC Winn High School)

The 12th grade students also got to experience a bit of sightseeing around San Francisco, including places like Pier 39, Union Square, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Lilly Moore (Utopia ISD) stated, “My overall favorite part of the trip was getting to see the city of San Francisco. I enjoyed getting to experience driving up and down the hills, seeing the Golden Gate Bridge, and all of the normal things like houses that to me were so interesting because of how different they were from what I was used to.”

AGU 2024 will take place in Washington D.C. We can’t wait to see the projects our amazing 12th graders come up with this coming summer!
IMPORTANT DATES

Here are a list of dates to keep in mind for January and February:

**JANUARY**

Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat
---|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------
1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 
7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13
14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20
21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27
28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 

**FEBRUARY**

Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat
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 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 
4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10
11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17
18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24
25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 

Jan 23rd  Virtual Resume Workshop
Jan 31st  GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event

Feb 1st  New Student Applications Close
Feb 15th  Summer Registration Opens
Feb 16th  JSG Student Research Symposium
Feb 21st  GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event

LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP THIS SUMMER? CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR JOB BOARD!

GeoFORCE is a free youth education outreach program that targets underserved and low-income communities in Austin, Houston, and Southwest Texas. The Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas created GeoFORCE to identify and develop the next generation of STEM leadership for discovery, research, and management of energy, minerals, water, the environment, and natural hazards for the benefit of society.