

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Alton Dodd at The Grand Canyon, Summer 2023

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALTON DODD

This month we are highlighting Alton Dodd, a second-year student currently studying electrical engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. Dodd, originally from Eagle Pass, went through the GeoFORCE as a high school student and has continued to be involved with GeoFORCE. He is a member of the GeoFORCE Longhorn group and joined us this past summer as a first-time counselor.

Eagle Pass, a small, rural Southwest Texas town located on the border, is a place where you know your neighbors. Transitioning from a small-town environment to a large urban city can be quite daunting. “It was a major shock.” Dodd says, “I went from knowing everyone to not knowing anybody. The evening silence turned to the noise of cars and frat parties. I got used to it all pretty quickly, but it was a major shift from what I was used to.”

Dodd described what his experience was like as a freshman starting at UT and shared the challenges that came along with it. “The first year of college was a bit rough at first. It was a completely different environment than I was used to, and it took me a while to adjust.” Now in his second year, he feels like he is much more acclimated to college life.

He mentions that GeoFORCE provided a support system as he was transitioning to college and now in his college career. “GeoFORCE provided me with multiple internship opportunities and allowed me to form friendships within the program. Both academically and socially, GeoFORCE has supported me greatly. The GeoFORCE alumni student organization allows me to keep in touch with other alumni at UT, and I have met some wonderful people through the organization. Those who I am most connected with are from my hometown since we have a lot more in common.”

Dodd joined us as a counselor for the first time this past summer. He expressed that it was an awesome experience, not only because he met new people and saw new things, but because he also saw the program through a different lens. “I was also able to help current GeoFORCE students further their interests in the STEM field. Seeing how excited the students were at the locations we visited brought back memories from my time in the program and made my job as a counselor a lot more meaningful than I had anticipated.”

If you're interested in working for GeoFORCE this summer, check out the next page for a list of positions and a link to apply!



GeoFORCE students engaging in a snowball fight on Mt. Hood on the 11th Grade Academy

GEOFORCE SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS

Every summer, GeoFORCE Texas inspires the next generation of students with engaging week-long academies. With 10 in-person and 1 virtual academy scheduled for Summer 2024, GeoFORCE needs the enthusiastic support of temporary staff and volunteers. It is the summer staff that make the largest impact on our students. There is one application for all positions. Applicants are encouraged to apply for any positions they are qualified for.

Instructor - Academy - The geoscience content expert in charge of instructing 30-50 students during the course of the week-long academy. Instructors hired for the in-person traveling academies work in collaboration with the EC and follow a pre-determined route and set of content (9th Grade - Life of a Sediment, 10th Grade - The Grand Staircase, 11th Grade - Pacific Northwest). Must have received or are currently pursuing a geoscience PhD.

Instructor - Virtual Academy - The instructor hired for the virtual academy to develop and teach a week-long course in remote sensing, coding, or other virtual geoscience discipline. Must have received or are currently pursuing a geoscience PhD.

Instructor - Math & Science - Instructors hired for the Math & Science Institute will instruct a week-long boot camp in intro to college calculus, chemistry, or physics. Must have received or are currently pursuing a chemistry, math, or physics PhD.

Educational Coach (EC) - A pedagogical expert or secondary school teacher in charge of supporting the Instructor through the creation and delivery of review activities, educational games, and supplementary instruction. Must have an education background and ideally is or has worked as a middle or high school science teacher.

Research Group Lead (RGL) - Lead a group of 5-15 students for the 12th grade research academy through working with a research scientist on a project, analyzing their data, and developing a professional poster to present at the GeoFORCE Symposium. RGLs will also drive students to and from field sites, pick up supplies, and other related responsibilities. Must have a Bachelor's degree and ideally be a current graduate student in the geosciences or a related field. Must have a Texas drivers license.

Trail Driver - The background support in charge of driving the trail van and picking up food and supplies throughout the week-long academy. Must have a Texas drivers license.

Counselor - Leads a group of 10-11 students, making sure they are listening to the other staff, rotating through activities and assignments, and staying safe during the field visits. Must be a current or recently graduated college student.

Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) - Tutors incoming college students in calculus, chemistry, or physics during the week-long Math & Science Institute boot camp. Must be a current or recently graduated college student.

GeoFORCE Summer Intern - Assists full-time coordinators in duties pertaining to the summer academies, including 40hrs/week of office work and additional hours over select field academies. Must be a current or recently graduated college student.

APPLICATION CLOSES NOVEMBER 30TH! APPLY HERE!

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are a list of dates to keep in mind for **November** and **December**:

NOVEMBER						
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		

DECEMBER						
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

Future Students

Alumni

Current Students

Nov 1st	Summer Staff Applications Open - VIRTUAL INFO SESSION (Watch the recording here!)	Dec 6th	GeoFORCE Longhorn End of Semester Social Event
Nov 15th	GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event	Dec 13th -16th	AGU Bright STaRs @ AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco Student Posters Dec 14 9am-11am
Nov 30th	Summer Staff Applications Due		

**WANT TO BE FEATURED IN THE MONTHLY?
GET IN CONTACT WITH US! GEOFORCE@JSG.UTEXAS.EDU**

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.