

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat and safety glasses, is focused on her work in a laboratory. She is using a pipette to transfer liquid into a small container. In the background, another person wearing a white lab coat and blue gloves is also working. The scene is brightly lit, typical of a modern laboratory setting.

10 YEARS

OF YOUTH EDUCATION AT SPRI

SPRI'S EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE HAS SERVED OVER 4,000 LOCAL STUDENTS IN STEM EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMMING

Over the past ten years, Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI) has been educating Colorado students in STEM experiences through its Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC). The program includes laboratory tours for fifth graders, middle school visits and immersive programming for high school students: the year-long Science Club and Summer Scholars Program, a week-long STEM course at SPRI's Vail Campus.



THE GOAL OF SPRI'S EPOC HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PROVIDE UNIQUE STEM EXPERIENCES TO LOCAL STUDENTS, HELPING TO IGNITE A SPARK IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE IN YOUNG PEOPLE. PARTICIPATING STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO SEE, FIRSTHAND, WHAT A CAREER IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE MIGHT LOOK LIKE, AND MANY ALUMNI HAVE GONE ON TO PURSUE COLLEGE CONCENTRATIONS IN STEM FIELDS.

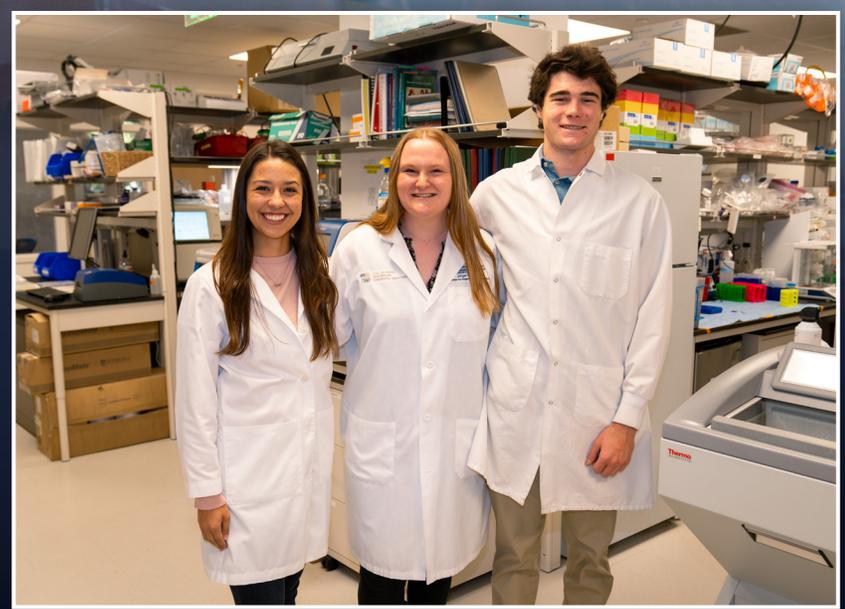
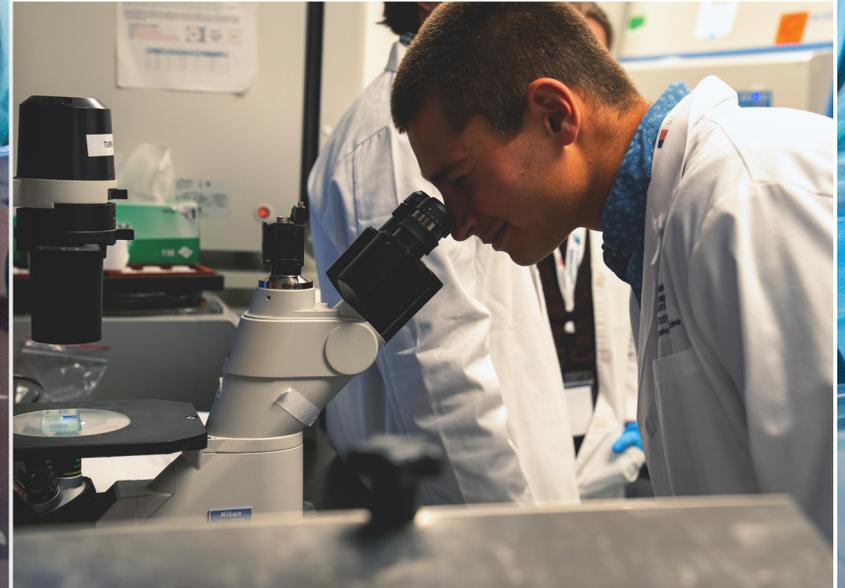
ONE OF THESE STUDENTS, JONATHAN DALY, SHARED HIS SUMMER SCHOLARS EXPERIENCE:

My name is Jonathan Daly and I was a member of the first EPOC Summer Scholars class at Steadman Philippon Research Institute in 2018. I was then a rising senior at Vail Christian High School and had almost no idea what I wanted to do in college. However, I decided that participating in EPOC would afford me a unique opportunity to gain insight into many aspects of the medical field. During the weeklong program, I had the opportunity to participate in laboratory research, use biomotion technology, program a scientific robot, and engage in a dissection, amongst many more activities. My highlight of the week was observing Dr. Philippon as he conducted a hip surgery. Outside of having an incredibly informative and fun week at SPRI, I found that my experience in EPOC was instrumental in my decision to pursue a career in medicine. I am now a senior at the University of Notre Dame studying Neuroscience and hope to attend medical school in the near future. Although Summer Scholars is a week-long program, I believe it was one of the most important stepping stones along my path to a lifelong career in medicine.

EPOC ALUMNI RETURN TO SPRI

Three EPOC alumni are currently working at SPRI. Dylan Boyes, 2022 EPOC Science Club alumn, is currently working as a Summer Research Scholar in SPRI's Center for Regenerative and Personalized Medicine (CRPM), earning three college credits from Clemson University. Ella Page, a Summer Scholars alumna from 2022, also joined the CRPM team this summer, working as a Summer Research Assistant. Having recently graduated from Baylor University, Jasmine Hartman, 2019 Science Club Alumna, is a full-time Research Assistant, completing a one-year internship at SPRI.





Three alumni from SPRI's EPOC programs are currently working as Research Assistants at SPRI



Expanding EPOC's Reach

With such a positive impact on the Vail Valley, SPRI's EPOC team has been focusing on ways to expand its programming beyond Eagle County students. This has included inviting Summit County elementary schools to participate in fifth-grade tours, and the exciting new collaboration with Keystone Science School in April.

This summer, SPRI's reach further expanded—for the first time since the program began, 25% of Summer Scholars participants came from Aspen, Basalt and Glenwood Springs, and two students joined the program from Leadville. In Fall 2023, SPRI will officially launch the High School Science Club in Basalt, serving eight students from Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley from the state-of-the-art Steadman Philippon Building in Basalt.

EPOC is officially launching its alumni network this fall, with the goal of keeping alumni connected and active within this unique community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPRI'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT SPRI VP OF DEVELOPMENT LEE JONES AT LJONES@SPRIVAIL.ORG

