

Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) on Corridors and Insect/Plant Ecology



An NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) position is available at Savannah River Site (SRS) Corridor Experiment (South Carolina) to do a project on the role of corridors on insect/plant ecology in the summer of 2023. This student will work directly with Thomas Smith (University of Wisconsin, based at SRS) and the project collaborators (Ellen Damschen, John Orrock, Lars Brudvig, Nick Haddad, Julian Resasco, Doug Levey) to: (1) gain insight and experience in ecology field research and (2) receive guidance to develop an independent project within the context of ongoing research.

The REU student will be on site at SRS collecting data in the field in the largest corridor experiment in the world. In addition to working with a large team of other undergraduates, graduate students, principal investigators, and other researchers, they will gain experience with experimental design, data collection, data analysis, and scientific writing and presentation. The successful candidate will design and conduct an independent project with the guidance of their mentors, attend lab meetings focused on research and professional development, and assist with field tasks associated with the Corridor Project. Potential tasks include surveys of plant associated arthropod communities, mark-recapture of insect populations, collection of plants for functional traits measurements, vegetation surveys, and/or misc. site maintenance tasks.

Applicants should be hard-working, inquisitive, dedicated, and responsible. This would be a good opportunity for students interested in pursuing careers in science, particularly in ecology and conservation biology.

Application Process:

Deadline to Apply: March 31, 2023 for full consideration, rolling deadline thereafter until position is filled
Interested students are encouraged to apply by submitting to: tasmith28@wisc.edu

(1) a short letter (~1 page) that explains your interest in the position and summarizes any relevant experience, (2) a CV or resume, and (3) the names and contact information for two references. Applications will begin to be reviewed on **March 31** and will continue to be considered until the position is filled.

Applicants should expect to dedicate approximately 12 weeks of summer 2023. Start and end dates are flexible. Stipends are ~\$500/week with an additional offset to living expenses (\$50/week), reimbursement for travel to South Carolina for non-local individuals (up to \$500), and funds for research expenses related to the project.

We are interested in individuals at any stage of their undergraduate career, but REU students must be enrolled as undergraduates through at least August 2023 (i.e., cannot be graduating in May 2023) and be US citizens or full-time residents. Students from underrepresented groups in science are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information contact the REU mentor: tasmith28@wisc.edu