

Summer 2018 Field Research Assistant
Jackson Hole & Laramie, WY



Our research team, comprised of researchers at UW, Teton Science Schools (TSS), and Colorado Mesa University (CMU) is exploring an immersive field education program at TSS (Jackson, WY). Specifically, we examine the benefits students experience from involvement in distinct models of field science education in a broader field learning setting: *adventure education*, *contributory citizen science*, and *open inquiry*. Our aim is to tease apart what students learn from these different experiences, how they learn it, and how each impacts student growth and development. We seek a summer research assistant to support this work.

Our population is ~450 middle school students from the Columbia, Missouri Public School system (CPS), their teacher chaperones, and the field instructors who teach them at TSS. Our methodology is mixed, integrating qualitative and quantitative metrics to develop a full and rich understanding of the learning that students do in varied field science contexts. Specifically, we employ student pre- and post-surveys, instructor pre- and post-surveys, student interviews, instructor interviews, chaperone feedback, and field observations, integrating the six lines of inquiry in our analyses of student learning and growth. **For summer 2018, our team seeks a research assistant to join Clare in the field at TSS for 6 weeks, followed followed by 5 additional weeks of data processing and analysis in Laramie.**

We prefer the following in a research assistant:

- Interest in field science, science education, mixed methods research, collaborative research teams, middle school learning, and/or educational research;
- Commitment to 6 consecutive weeks of field research in Jackson, WY (5/20 - 6/30);
- Commitment to 5 consecutive weeks of data analysis in Laramie (7/9 - 8/9);
- Willingness to learn and use interview protocols with students and instructors; and
- Willingness to learn NVivo 11 qualitative data analysis software.

For their work, the research assistant will be compensated in the following ways:

- All food and housing covered during 6 weeks in Jackson (communal living environment, working closely with a small research team);
- Summer research stipend of \$2,900;
- 3-day weekends for the duration of work in Laramie (July 9 - August 9); and
- One week off mid-summer (July 1 - July 8) and 2.5 weeks off between research and the fall semester (August 10 - August 28).

The nitty gritty details you need to know include:

- Field time - you will spend full 7-8 hour days in the field, 5 days per week, hiking between 1-8 miles per day for field observations;
- Field accommodations - you will work and live with the other researcher (Clare) for the six-week duration of the field work. The accommodations are communal, and space to be alone will be minimal;
- Field setting - you will be in the TETONS, exploring nooks and crannies of the National Park and its surrounding public lands on foot;
- Weather - your field time will be in all weather, e.g. rain, sun, variable temperatures, wind, hail, etc.;
- Insects - some field locations have impressive biting insect density;
- Middle schoolers - you will spend 7-8 hours a day with energetic, spunky, and curious middle school learners as they explore the meanings of independence and science;
- Methods - you will follow up full field days with interviews, and will spend opportunities during work days processing these data whenever possible;
- Laramie time - during work days in Laramie, you will work closely with the other researcher (Clare), processing and analyzing data on computer screens;
- Organization - while you will be working with prescribed protocols, you will need to organize yourself and your data diligently throughout the summer.

Interested applicants should send (1) a cover letter explaining why you want to join our research team, your relevant experiences, and why you would be an asset to our team, (2) a resume, and (3) an unofficial transcript to ahouseal@uwyo.edu and cgunshen@uwyo.edu. We will follow up with in-person interviews for qualified applicants.

Best,
Clare Gunshenan & Dr. Ana Houseal