

Intern learns about science, state at Mountain Studies Institute

BY CHASE NOONAN

Wouldn't it be perfect to have a way to experience Colorado's stunning locations, while in the process learning about the complicated small world we live in?

Well luckily for us there was.

The Mountain Science Institute is an amazing way for people to stray from the long treadmill of summer, and truly live in the moment by experiencing this beautiful state and the intriguing science behind it. When I first joined Mountain Science Institute I had no clue what to expect.

Would I like it? Would it be what I expected?

The Mountain Science Institute is a non-profit organization that strives to make "Science You Can Use" its status quo. The doorways this amazing internship opened for me and the other interns gave all of us unbelievable opportunities for our future careers and endeavors. When I signed up for this program, I wanted to experience a fun, adventurous learning program that got me more involved with nature and gave me extensive knowledge for future reference.

Not only did the program accomplish that, but the future career path options I gained from this internship are probably the most useful expertise I have ever learned. Being able to take home these newly-found skills and assets puts a smile on my face when I get to share them with my family and friends. While getting to see the ins-and-outs of Colorado in its true form, and also meeting many scientific and intelligent people, I was shown the true beauty in



Courtesy photo

Mountain Studies Institute interns this summer include Chase Noonan of Bayfield.

these mountains. To meet with these amazing people and knowing that I am learning these very trustworthy facts makes this internship one of the best out there.

During these amazing two weeks I did numerous activities and lessons with these professionals. One included getting the opportunity to plant over 200 carax seeds, a perennial sedge that is indigenous to Colorado. This showed us what wetlands really do to help these mountains, and how various programs and companies work on restoring them. Creating new life for the plants and many other wildlife that benefit from it brought new light to my outdoor knowledge.

Another exhilarating moment that occurred during the two weeks was a varying range of life skills, such as resume building and English expertise, aside from nature. I was taught the most proficient way to perfect my personal resume, allowing me to have the

potential to get into numerous jobs in the future with ease. I also learned about writing articles and how I could perfect my writing horizon to give the reader the best in-depth experience. This was especially rejuvenating because it expanded my skills in not just article writing, but all other forms of English curriculum.

And who can forget the people I shared the ride with?

Guided by spectacular counselors, there to help me every step of the way, the program wouldn't be as great as it was without them. Making new friends with fellow interns and teachers, the people I met were my guidance into the ongoing world of science.

It would be a mistake to not sign up for this life-changing experience, because when it's all over you will be wishing you could do it all again. I sure am.

Chase Noonan is a 15-year-old Bayfield resident.

ney has been community

had happened to one of our boys, and we didn't know if our own children were safe.

Slowly, things returned back to normal, but not quite. We still didn't know.

Finally, in 2013, part of Dylan's remains were found on Middle Mountain.

Later, the sheriff's office said his disappearance was a homicide, and that Mark Redwine was a person of interest.

Our nightmares were coming true. A father, a person a child should be able to depend on for love and protection, a member of our own community, was possibly a suspect in the case.

Hall does not focus on the length of time between her son's disappearance and the arrest of her ex-husband.

"The focus right now is on Dylan and the sweet gentle soul that he was," she said on Tuesday. He would have wanted his mother, step-father and brother to continue their lives, "so we try to live for him and be his voice every day. That's never stopped and it won't stop."

As much of being the mother of a child who dies is bad enough, being the mother of a murdered child must be even worse.

"Thank you everybody for helping in this journey," she said. "We could not have done it without you."

She then received hugs from Dylan's friends. Most of them graduated this spring from Bayfield High School. They're heading off to college, to work, or to join the military.