



April 2, 2021

Dear Science Teachers, Science Coordinators, and Principals,

On behalf of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, we are pleased to announce the Research Training Program (RTP) for the **2021-2022** academic year. This program is designed for highly motivated high school science students who have a strong interest in pursuing a career in science.

This exciting program was initiated in 1980 to provide high school students with the opportunity to carry out a research project under the mentorship of a professional working scientist. This experience exposes students to the rigors of actual scientific research – through experimentation, data analysis, scientific writing, and the art of conveying their findings to an audience of their peers. The project culminates with the submission of a final scientific manuscript-style paper, authored under the guidance of their mentor, with the findings to be presented by the student at the annual meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. At the annual meeting, the students will interact with other professional researchers and have their work evaluated on its merit. The top students will be invited to represent SCAS as a delegate to the American Junior Academy of Sciences (AJAS), a conference held concurrently with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest general scientific organization in the nation. At the national meeting, students will be inducted as lifetime fellows of the AJAS.

After completing the SCAS RTP, students will have a much better understanding of how science is conducted, and they will gain invaluable skills in the process, including field and laboratory techniques, data processing, scientific writing, and the effective delivery of a scientific presentation. The SCAS RTP is an outstanding way to supplement the standard learning approach experienced in a typical high school science classroom, where SCAS RTP student participants become much better versed in scientific methodology through hands-on experience and direct interaction with scientists. Many SCAS RTP students go on to earn college degrees in science, and eventually pursue careers in STEM-related fields, due in large part to their experience in this special program.

We ask that you encourage your promising and motivated students and their parents to consider this enriching experience. In particular, we seek students entering **9-12 grades** who are committed to completing the program. Students must be prepared to spend up to **20 hours monthly** on their research project from August through April. Students are encouraged to participate in multiple years.

Students should complete the application online:

<http://scas.nhm.org/junior-academy/>

The application requires students to provide the following to the best of their ability:

- Potential project description, including goals, methods, resources, literature cited, and, if already chosen, name of professional research mentor and their institution.
- Relevant course work, extra-curricular activities and other work, including part-time employment.

This online application must be completed no later than June 30, 2021.

In addition to the online application, please submit a letter of recommendation from a science teacher (cc the school principal) via email to Dr. Kimo Morris – morris_kimo@sac.edu.

All contributions to the Academy are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Southern California Academy of Sciences is a Federally-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



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Supporting scientists and students in Southern California

If accepted into the program, students will be required to:

- **Pay \$50 SCAS Student Membership fee** (includes registration to SCAS Annual Meeting and RTP insurance).
- Attend **3 RTP training meetings**, held on Saturdays in September, November, and March (TBA).
- Provide an abstract by **March 2022 (TBA)**
- Provide a written paper on their research by **April 15, 2022**.
- Present their research at the SCAS annual meeting in early **May, 2022** at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**.

We look forward to receiving applications from your most promising students.

Sincerely,

Kimo Morris
SCAS Board of Directors, Member at Large
SCAS-RTP Co-Chair

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