

Application for the 2018 SUPER Program at Au Sable Summer Undergraduate Preparation in Environmental Research

The 2018 SUPER program provides coursework and guided research instruction to introduce students to the principles and practice of environmental research, including experimental design, statistical analysis, research techniques, and scientific writing. Students in the program will design and complete a research project during their 13 weeks at Au Sable.

The current focus of the research in the SUPER program is a biodiversity survey of “overlooked” organisms in the habitats near Au Sable, which include lakes, ponds, bogs, hardwood and pine forests. In the process of their training, SUPER students will learn to observe, identify and quantify species presence and abundance in a variety of habitats. Only then can we make informed decisions about con-serving, protecting, or restoring these species and habitats, thus helping to fulfill Au Sable’s mission “to serve, protect, and restore God’s earth.”

2018 Focus Taxonomic Groups

Students will typically choose from one of the following groups as their research focus: herbaceous understory plants, shrubs, deciduous trees, coniferous trees, aquatic macrophytes, zooplankton, aquatic macroinvertebrates, dragonflies and damselflies, butterflies and moths, flies, beetles, bees and wasps, and arachnids

The following materials are required in application for the SUPER Program:

- A letter of recommendation from the Au Sable Faculty Representative attesting to the student’s academic ability, interest in environmental research, and potential for successful completion of the SUPER program and its application to their program of study.
- A current academic transcript (official or unofficial)
- A personal essay from the student describing their background and interest in environmental research, specifically in one or more of the focus taxonomic groups, and a description of how the program will support their future goals and aspirations in caring for God’s creation.

Deadline: All application materials should be submitted via e-mail (preferred) *at the same time* by the Au Sable Faculty Representative to the office at the Great Lakes Campus. Review of applications will begin on **February 1, 2018** and will continue as space is available. Students will be notified of their status on a rolling basis beginning February 15.

Students are encouraged, but not required, to be enrolled in Au Sable classes prior to their application for the program. It is strongly suggested that students discuss their research interests and their plans for specific courses with Brian Keas (brian@ausable.org), Director of Educational Development, prior to enrolling to properly prepare for completing the Field Naturalist Certification as part of the SUPER program.

Email: brian@ausable.org

If you have questions, please call: 231-587-8686

Brian Keas
Au Sable Institute
7526 Sunset Trail, NE
Mancelona, MI 49659