

2020 Department of Biology Awards

IVAN G. PALMBLAD SCHOLARSHIP

Cameron Allred, Biology with Ecology and Biodiversity Emphasis



My name is Cameron Allred and I was raised in the small town of Montpelier, Idaho. I am the youngest of 5 children and the only child that has plans to obtain a master's degree. I chose my major of study, Biology, because I have an immense interest and fascination with animal life. Ever since I can remember I would watch all the documentaries I could on animals. You could find me

each week of elementary school in the library looking at the eyewitness books on fish, reptiles, and insects. I constantly expressed desire in learning more and more about animals. I even took it to keeping animals themselves as pets and learning how they function. During the summer of 2015, I successfully bred my two bearded dragons which resulted in three clutches of 21 eggs that all hatched into healthy baby bearded dragons. I chose this major because I have a desire to implement my love of animal life into more than just a fascination, but to extend my reach into the professional world. I wish to expand my knowledge and skills to broaden my scope on the subject of biology. I have been learning how to go past the entry-level learning of just reading new facts by diving into my classes and trying to understand how all the aspects of animal life intertwine to produce a functional organism.

I am attracted, particularly to the exploration of animal life on the organismal level itself. Being able to interact with organisms in a first-hand experience is what fuels my excitement for the subject of biology. Through my years at school, I have leaned towards aspects of possible careers such as zoo work or wildlife biologist. This has helped me see that I love learning about behavior and what influences an animal to express certain behaviors. To me, it is very rewarding to be able to find ways to enrich an animal's life experience as well as educating the public on the beauty of animal life. I can see how those two specific jobs are similar and different at the same time. I have also learned that even though I am not interested by research itself and doing more molecular science-based biology, that I need to embrace the many practices in biology in order to increase my capacity to perform as a contributor and future employee.

I am currently on track to graduating with a BS in Biology, an emphasis in Ecology/Biodiversity, minor in Chemistry, and a minor in Wildlife Biology. I plan on using my degree and subsequent minors to become a valued member in a community as well as in the workforce. I specifically plan on applying to the government for a wildlife biologist position, hopefully in a local area so that I can give back to my community. I also plan on applying at the same time for different positions in zoos and aquariums in the state of Utah and possibly neighboring states. I have a great desire to begin my life-long career of using the knowledge I learned from my education to further my expertise in my field. I wish to expand my work-related experience by utilizing my educated experience. Finally, I am making plans to pursue a MS in either Wildlife Biology or Zoology in order to continue pursuing education and the wealth of knowledge that it brings.