

MWPARC Travel grant recipient: Danielle Galvin, University of South Dakota
Mentor: Dr. Jacob Kirby, University of South Dakota

Report
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During summer of 2021 I conducted multiple projects simultaneously. The first project required the collection of Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*) tadpoles for a laboratory based experiment. I travelled to various wetlands in Eastern South Dakota where I was able to collect my tadpoles. The second project involved collecting tissue or skin swab samples from amphibians all across South Dakota to measure ranavirus prevalence. Approximately 300 individuals were sampled across the state. All samples will be processed during fall of 2021.

While conducting field work, I was able to lead teams of undergraduates and other graduate students. I taught everyone on the team how to collect samples and gather the necessary data. The travel award assisted in paying for the travel fees for these projects. As part of the state-wide amphibian sampling project, I took a team of 3 other students to the Black Hills of South Dakota. This trip was, by far, the highlight of the summer. While we conducted our sampling we were able to see some gorgeous lakes and mountains. For several of the students in the team, this was their first time being to this area. In addition to catching tadpoles and adult frogs, we saw numerous painted turtles, red-bellied snakes, garter snakes, and even some racerunners.

This field work aided in completing two projects for my doctoral dissertation. From the work I completed this summer I should be able to publish at least two papers related to these projects. My career aspirations include being a professor or government biologist, therefore these publications and the experience I gained will be very helpful for earning a job in the future. I learned how to lead a research team and I successfully completed my first camping-based field research. I now have a greater understanding of how to lead a team and how to plan for trips where there are minimal resources available in the field.

I appreciate the opportunity to conduct field work and I am thankful for the aid provided to me by the MWPARC travel grant.

Danielle Galvin