BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Since 1985, seniors have been offered the opportunity to spend the last six weeks of their Derryfield careers pursuing an outside interest as part of an Independent Senior Project. Participating in the ISP program is a logical conclusion to their high school education, and gives soon to be graduates a deeper appreciation not only of their own talents but the importance of serving and learning from others.

From the initial design to its successful completion, students assume ultimate responsibility for the success of their undertaking. Over the years ISP projects have included working at a government agency, museum, hospital, school, law office or business, studying abroad, doing studio work, or completing a research project.

Our Students...

- Contributed to a multi-dimensional project related to artificial intelligence
- Traveled to Iceland to work on a farm/B&B leading tours on horseback
- Built social media platforms and assisted with legislative monitoring
- Developed and tested a series of nutritional plans specifically designed for female athletes
- Learned how a car dealership operates and assisted with all aspects of the business
- Worked with the Seacoast Regional Energy Hub to assist in community outreach events
- Built the rolling chassis of a Lotus 7 replica car
- Taught a drama class at a local performing arts center
- Created and re-purposed apparel for a small clothing company
- Learned about the important facets of overseeing a landscape architecture firm
- Engaged in data collection and analysis of fire development and arson investigation
- Helped with retail, production, packaging, and shipping operations at a bakery
- Observed surgeries and performed minor procedures at an animal hospital
- Learned about project management at a construction company
- Worked with authors teaching children through literary creations
- Learned about audio production and engineering using modern recording technology
Annalise Groves ’17 traveled to Utah to pursue her passion for rock climbing and raise awareness about the importance of land conservation.

“I could not recommend the ISP process to any future senior more strongly. This is because it truly is a life changing experience for us to leave the protected nest of Derryfield and venture into the real world, where I believe real learning gets done instead of learning how to get good grades.” - Sam Anderson ’17

“I believe I have returned home [from Iceland] with a greater sense of not only independence and responsibility, but with an understanding of what is important to me and what makes me truly happy. Being able to design your own project with the support of Derryfield is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Regardless of what the project may be, you will emerge for the better simply from engaging and following through with something that interests you.” - Anja Stadelmann ’17
PAST HOST SITES

A Market
BAE Systems
Beaver Meadow School
Bedford Youth Performing Company
Big Brick
Cater Stables
Catholic Medical Center
Child Health Services
Company C
Common Earth Farm
Concord Community Music School
Concord Family Medical Center
Concord Hospital
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Daghir’s Gym
Department of Environmental Services
The Drift Collection
DYN
Elliott Hospital
Fidelity Investments
The Hotel Portsmouth
Jewish Federation
Lahey Medical Center
Lantos Foundation
Lavallee Brensinger
Let’s Play Music
The Livingston Group
m5
Make-A-Wish (Manchester)
Manchester Animal Shelter
Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Mercedes Benz
Mills Falls Charter School
Nanocomp
NH Fisher Cats
NH Public Radio
NH Women’s Foundation
NH Small Business Development Center
North Point Construction
North Side Animal Hospital
Owen Farm
Palace Theatre
Pan Mass Challenge
Parkland Hospital
Pax World Management
Pellettieri Associates, Inc.
Reaching Higher NH
92.5 The River
Rocking Horse Studio
Spectrum Marketing
Sports Medicine North
St. Anselm College
Tamarac Farm
TFM Structural Engineers
United Airlines
Vertical Dreams
Webster School
World Affairs Council of NH
YMCA of Manchester

HOST REFLECTIONS

“Addie was a pleasure to work with, proving herself to be an efficient and enthusiastic participant in our daily activities. Addie was a fast learner, adapting to equipment and software with minimal oversight and instruction. She was also a tremendous asset to us as a proofreader, demonstrating aptitude with both grammar and critical thinking; a skillset honed beyond what would be expected for an incoming college freshman.”
Mary Kokorda, Pellettieri Associates, Inc.

“Sam has a rare and special kind of passion for making a difference. I think we would all do well to learn from the example he sets—the world is going to need more people like Sam if we are going to leave behind a future we can one day be proud of.”
Henry Herndon, Energize360

“I was honestly surprised by how efficiently and effectively Cecelia worked on this project [determining how much the angle of two adjoining walls contributed to the height of flames during a fire event]. Cecelia’s attitude matched her work ethic: I found her to be a pleasure to work with, and she wasn’t at all intimidated to suggest ideas, potential hypotheses, and solutions to various technical obstacles. Cecelia contributed so much that she not only will be an author on our manuscript, but potentially the lead author of the work.”
William Ryerson, PhD, St. Anselm College

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the Independent Senior Project Program at The Derryfield School, contact Dr. Andy Myers at amyers@derryfield.org.