AAAR Student Chapters
2012-2013 Annual Report
(Due at AAAR Office by May 1, 2013)

Name of Institution  Colorado State University

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Student Chapter Rep.  

Total number of chapter members: __13_____

Did your chapter receive AAAR funds during 2012-2013?  ____No____  If yes, how much? __________

Describe chapter initiatives and activities during 2012-2013. If you received AAAR funds, please give a breakdown of how funds were used.

The CSU AAAR Student Chapter participated in several fun events throughout the 2012-2013 academic year. During the summer, we completed several maintenance hikes along the Blue Lake Trail, which we adopted to maintain several years ago in the nearby Poudre Canyon. We also volunteered as a group for the CSU Fall Clean-Up event which connects students with residents in the community who need assistance with their home yard care. The AAAR Chapter was highly involved with the CSU Atmospheric Science Department 50th Anniversary Celebration in July. For a fundraising project, we designed T-shirts for sale to department alumni, students, and faculty at the event and we volunteered as student assistants throughout the celebration.

In September, we hosted the “Young Scientist Symposium on Atmospheric Research” at CSU. We invited graduate students and post docs in the area in the atmospheric science, chemistry, engineering, and environmental health fields to attend a one day mini-conference. With over 30 participants from CSU, the University of Colorado, Denver University, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the University of Wyoming, we had 14 oral presentations, an afternoon poster session, and ended the conference with a fun science-oriented tour at a local brewery.

During the Spring semester, we took a trip to Boulder to volunteer at the National Center for Atmospheric Research Super Science Saturday where we participated in several different hands-on science exhibits and presentations for members of the community. We also created our own aerosol-related science demonstration which we shared at the CSU Little Shop of Physics Open House in February.

Some of our members took another trip up to Storm Peak Laboratory at the Steamboat Springs Ski Resort where we collected snow samples for an atmospheric chemistry class project and learned about the lab instrumentation used to study aerosols and clouds at the site. We also invited Dr. Gannet Hallar from Storm Peak Laboratory to visit CSU, meet with students to discuss science and career paths in the field, and to give a presentation at the Atmospheric Science Department Colloquium.
Throughout the 2012-2013 year we have held regular meetings, journal club discussions, and various social activities to help new student members to get to know each other.

What are your plans for the 2013-2014 school year?

We have already planned several activities for the Summer of 2013 including field trips to the new Fort Collins Museum of Science and Discovery as well as the CSU Engines Laboratory. We also plan to continue with trail maintenance hikes and to incorporate a camping trip with at least one of our clean-up days. We will also continue our regular journal club meetings and plan to host another scientist to meet with students and give the department colloquium next year. We also hope to continue the tradition of hosting the Young Scientist Symposium on Atmospheric Research and perhaps to expand the involvement of students studying aerosol science at other institutions.

Report prepared by:  Lauren Potter  5/31/13
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