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My Personal Experience at SCIPP

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When I was trying to decide what to do with my summer, many options stuck out. But none as strongly as interning at SCIPP. Physics has always interested me, and being able to work in an actual lab doing real experiments seemed like a dream come true. The application process was a tough time because I was so nervous to find out if I had gotten in. Luckily, I did, and I was able to spend an excellent summer at SCIPP.

Coming into the internship I felt a little like the odd man out. All the other kids all came from the same school, had classes together, and had all done research projects to prepare them selves. Coming in, I had little background, and I wasn't completely sure what the goal was. But that all changed very quickly. The other interns were great and helped me learn what I needed to know, and the endless meetings with Steve quickly got me up to speed with the goals at SCIPP.

I think that one of the best parts of the SCIPP internship was the lectures that we had from UCSC professors. It still amazes me that real college professors were willing to take time out of there day to give a small group of kids a private lecture. I think I learned more about the physics in our universe from one lecture with Anthony Aguirre than I did from an entire year of high school physics.

Probably my favorite part of the internship, was our trip to SLAC. I've been there before, but I've never been able to understand in such depth exactly what goes on. Having Terry as a guide was amazing; I never thought that I could learn so much about particle physics in one day. Although I still don't understand what gravitational charge an anti graviton has.

I found that the daily team meetings seemed to disrupt our work time too much. We were all working so closely on the same projects, that meeting and discussing them with each other again was not necessary every day. Maybe a bi or tri weekly meeting would be a better solution.

Overall, my experience at SCIPP was great. I wouldn't trade it for the world.