

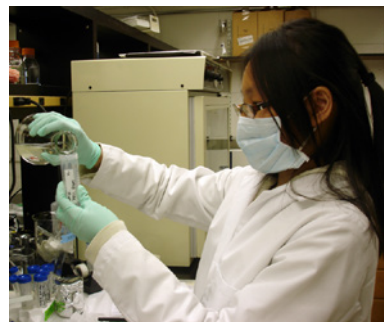


Student

Yvette Leung
Brookville, NY

Summary

As a volunteer high school mentor on the Science Buddies Ask an Expert Forum for three years, Yvette Leung helped assist K-12 students with a wide range of science questions. Yvette was awarded a Science Buddies Craig Sander Outstanding Mentor award in 2010 for her strong performance as a volunteer.



Overview

As a sophomore, Yvette Leung performed a Google search in an attempt to answer a science question. Among the top links was the Science Buddies Ask an Expert Forum. While exploring the forums, she was so impressed by the scientific diversity of the questions asked, and by the quality of the answers posted by volunteer professional scientists, that she decided to volunteer as a mentor herself.

Yvette's research interests span a variety of fields, including cosmology and astrophysics, zoology, medicine, and computational biology. Her broad interests made her a perfect fit at Ask an Expert, where volunteers field a wide range of science questions.

As a mentor, Yvette spent many hours at Ask an Expert, answering questions for students of all grade levels and in a range of disciplines within the Life Sciences Forum. With each answer she provided, Yvette found herself expanding and deepening her understanding of the sciences. "Volunteering at Ask an Expert gave me a myriad of opportunities to understand and explore new topics in science," notes Yvette.

For today's students, community service is an important factor in the college application process, and Yvette encourages other high school students to volunteer their time helping others with science questions at Ask an Expert. "You really learn more about a subject," says Yvette, "when you have to explain it to someone, instead of simply studying it."

Among other academic successes, Yvette received a Grand Award for a project exhibited at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), was a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search, was a National Brain Bee Champion, was a scholar at the MIT Research Science Institute, and participated in the Siemens Competition. At Harvard University, Yvette hopes to major in chemical and physical biology or neurobiology.

Yvette was awarded the 2009-2010 Science Buddies Craig Sander Outstanding Mentor cash scholarship for the quality of her participation as a mentor at Ask an Expert. Though she has graduated, she plans to continue volunteering at Ask an Expert. "The satisfaction of helping other students achieve their scientific dreams," she says, "is one of the greatest feelings in the world."