

Kennebunk High School Gulf of Maine Field Studies Student Bios & Pics



Meet Abby. Abby is a Senior at Kennebunk High School. She is attending RWU for early education and dance. She has worked with young children for over 7 years and has danced for 13 years. Abby is worried about the future of herself and her family because of climate change. People are unaware of what is happening to the Gulf of Maine, leading us to get to the point of no return. If ignored, the damage will be irreversivel. We are losing communities one by one, and losing what makes Maine individualistic. That being said, Abby is hopeful to the people of her generation to make change. They are strong activists who are working hard for change. There are lots of options for us to make a difference. We can make the change needed to slow the rise.



Meet Makayla Wright. Makayla is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine and a student in the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class. Makayla will be attending Simmons University in Boston, MA in the fall. She will be majoring in a 3+1 social work program and dancing in their dance company. Her goal in life is to help others and to make a difference and change in this big messy world. However, this won't be able to happen without protecting the planet. The Gulf of Maine is already facing so many challenges that will put the coast in danger. Makayla is scared that her home won't be here to enjoy in the future. Wherever she may be in her life by then she still wants to come back and enjoy the place and people that

she loves most. That can't be done unless we take action against the rising seas now. Makayla is hopeful that everyone will come together to want the world to be in a better place than it was yesterday. This needs to happen now more than ever.

Meet Donavyn Corcoran. Donavyn is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine. He also is a student in the Gulf of Maine Field studies class. Donavyn will be attending The University of New Hampshire in the fall and will be majoring in Environmental Engineering. He is not only worried for the ski industry and how northern areas will be affected by climate change, but also the tight knit coastal communities that make Maine so unique and will directly be affected if no action is taken. His goal in life is to make people more aware of the effects that are going on around the world, how it's affecting the smaller communities and make it more visually appealing to the people who might not understand what's going on. Donavyn is also hopeful about how aware the next generation is about climate change because of the action that people have already taken to further our future.



Meet Anela McMichael. Anela is a senior at Kennebunk High school and a student in the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class. This fall she will be attending the University of New England with a major in Marine Science/Marine Biology. She grew up surfing with her family up and down the east coast which has caused her strong connection to the ocean. She is concerned about the future of the Gulf of Maine. Her concerns include the resilience of biodiversity, the approaching of sea-level rise, and the livelihood of the diverse group of people that are "Mainers". Anela is fearful that climate change is rising faster than our actions can be taken. However, Anela is optimistic about the future. She is hopeful that students like herself and her peers continue to push for climate action. She hopes that each and every person can find time in their daily lives to advocate for the environment. She remains hopeful

knowing that the upcoming generation has the ability to make a difference.



Ainsley Luken is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine, and a student in the Gulf of Maine Studies class. She will be majoring in Interior Architecture at Endicott College, with minors in Environmental Science and Photography. She is concerned about the state of our Earth for her generation, and future generations especially relating to lack of government action for problems such as loss of biodiversity, sea level rise, and social justice. Ainsley is worried that the things she loves will be gone, sooner than we think. She is hopeful that the world's youth will have major positive impacts on these problems, and change will happen. She hopes that we will have the knowledge and resources needed to make a difference throughout the world.



Meet Corinna Rec. She is a senior at Kennebunk High School. Corinna Rec will be attending the University of Maine, Orono in the fall. She will be majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science. Her goal is to become an environmental activist who helps others to see what danger the earth's ecosystem is in while working for a conservation land trust. Corinna is worried about many things regarding climate change. She is most worried about people, and their attitudes towards global warming. For change to happen, people have to be willing to make modifications, and her big fear is that people won't. Her hope is that the generations on this planet start to accept and embrace change, and do good before the bad becomes irreversible.

Meet Abby Larrabee. Abby is a Senior at Kennebunk High School. After graduating, they are attending Paul Smith's College for Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. So far, their favorite thing they have learned about in the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class are invasive species, especially the green crab. Their interest in invasive species management was sparked in middle school, during a field trip to the islands of Kennebunkport. Abby is concerned that future generations may not have access to the same landscape that our generation has, and that the biodiversity of our oceans will be overrun by invasives. They are hopeful that future generations will brainstorm solutions to the issues causing climate change, sea level rise and decreasing biodiversity, stopping them in their tracks.

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Meet Ruth Metcalfe, a senior at Kennebunk High school. Ruthie will be studying political & environmental science over the next four years and hopes to continue her work as a lobbyist and advocate for community based work against climate change in college. She has greatly appreciated the opportunity to conduct field work this year to understand the wide array of impacts due to climate change on her home in Kennebunkport. Working alongside interconnected groups like the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative, she's grateful for this engaging class which has shown her the loss of land

and life associated with carbon emissions, rising tides, and invasive species – while also elevating her voice to speak out against climate change. She's hopeful for a future where climate is a top policy and public priority, and is excited for her generation to continue to make a difference on these pressing issues.



Meet Tate Brown. Tate is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine. Tate will be attending Arizona State University in the fall, with a major in Aeronautics. Tate has a passion for the outdoors, and a concern for its future. The communities of coastal Maine where he grew up are facing environmental adversity, and will continue to face adversity well into the future. However, Tate is hopeful about the next generation and their knowledge of, and concern for these environmental issues. He also hopes that the environmentally focused classes he was able to

take in high school will stay in place for future students to develop a passion for the subject and continue to inspire change in the future.



Meet Robin Gorham. Robin is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine, and a member of the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class. Robin will be attending the University of New England in the fall to study Marine Biology/ Environmental Science. He is concerned about the growing issues around the ocean such as warming waters, rising sea levels, and loss of biodiversity. He is also worried about the mindset of many people who are unwilling to help mitigate the effects of climate change or even acknowledge that it is happening now. He wishes to

continue to study and work as much as he can to take action against climate change. Robin is also hopeful for the future of coastal Maine as well as the rest of the world because he believes we have an incredibly strong and driven generation who wants to make a difference.

Meet Sami Chaves. Sami is currently a senior at Kennebunk highschool, and is hoping to continue her education at the University of Vermont where she will be studying zoology. Sami has a passion for nature and wildlife everywhere and is very concerned for our local ecosystems. This class has helped teach her about the various implications of climate change right here in Kennebunkport and the Gulf of Maine. She is specifically concerned with local habitat loss in the Salt Marsh ecosystem as salt marshes make up a great amount of coastal land in Maine and are among the most biodiverse and productive ecosystems in the world, making them very important. There are many factors such as rising sea levels and invasive species, such as the Asian Green Crab that contribute to the loss of these salt marshes, and the species that inhabit them. Sami has enjoyed taking initiative both through this class and outside of the classroom to help mitigate these issues and is hopeful that in the future more people of all ages, backgrounds and locations will get involved and take action.





Meet Zach Ricker, a student focused on a degree in marine biology and a student in the Gulf of Maine research class at Kennebunk High School. When it comes to the issues in the Gulf related to climate change, his concerns lie with the ecosystems. He has seen how the local species, such as cod and lobster, are directly affected by the changes in the climate, and that the populations are on the downfall. Cod is a prime example of this, as the majority of their population is now moving north, out of our coastal areas. Zach sees the problems that follow this migrational change, not only for other marine life but also for his fellow Mainers that rely on coastal species. He is worried about the lifestyles of so many people in Maine, and is hopeful that these people can take advantage of the new opportunities that come with the new species. While they are technically invasive, he thinks it isn't as bad as if they were introduced to an area. He says that, since the native species are starting to leave, it's better to have a replacement of some sort rather than nothing at all. He

hopes to make a difference in the world by protecting the most critical ecosystems around the globe.



Meet Sophie Ferrick. Sophie is a senior at Kennebunk High School, and a student in the GoMFS class. After graduating, she will be attending Bard College at Simon's Rock in the fall of 2021. Sophie is planning to major in environmental science and policy. She is worried about what the future holds in terms of our environment. She is concerned about sea level rise and what that means for her family as they have lived on the coast for decades. Despite her concerns, Sophie is hopeful about the inclusion of youth voices in important topics. She hopes that youth take the resources that they have to make change.



Meet Anthony. Anthony is a senior at Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine, and a student in the Gulf of Maine Studies class. In the fall, he will be attending the University of Massachusetts Boston and will be majoring in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. He is concerned for the future of our coasts and how climate change will affect the more economically vulnerable communities. He is worried that rising sea levels, declining fisheries, and gentrification will start to hurt the U.S. without proper prevention and government assistance. With progressive classes like this, Anthony is hopeful that the younger generations will create environmental change and use clean energy on an international scale. His goal is to use his education to spread awareness and introduce solutions to outdated and destructive strategies.

Meet Aiden, a senior at Kennebunk highschool planning a future in cinematography, he is concerned about many things when it comes to the future of his own and our world in regards to sea level rise. Before Aiden took this class he was already pretty knowledgeable about the climate crisis that our world is having but, he did not know off or hear of any small effects impacting regular day to day people. For example he learned about how native americans were being pushed out of their homes because of sea level rise. This horrified him because he knew that there were many other places and people who were in similar situations and were not getting the publicity for whatever reason. Things like this need national headlines because it's a worldwide issue. But at the same time he was glad that there are classes like this to spread the word and get the snowball rolling. He knows plenty of organizations that are helping slow the decline of our world's health and he himself is doing his part, no matter how small, he says, Many small actions make one big action.