

Member: **Camryn Pettenger-Willey!**

Age: 14

Hometown: Wilsonville, Oregon

Time working with bats: about 4 years

I got excited about bats when: I was concerned that so many bats were dying because of wind turbines. I felt a responsibility to let others know what complex interesting creatures they are.

Advice for kids who want to help bats: I would say that it helps to find a mentor that can teach you about bats and to learn about the major issues. From there you can find an idea that you want to explore, and build off of that to teach others and end up benefiting the bats.



My Bat Squad Service Learning Project

The challenge/problem: I was concerned that so many bats were dying because of wind turbines and was curious how to prevent their deaths

My solution: I created a science fair project about protecting bats from wind turbines. My question was about where to place a sound-making device on a turbine to make a noise that would keep bats away. I tested to see if placing a sound-making device on the nacelle (the center of the turbine) or on the tips of the blades would distribute the sound better. I found that the placement on the blades distributed the sound more equally all around the turbine, whereas the sound was stronger from the front when placed on the nacelle. I presented my project at the district and state science fairs. At districts I received Best Individual Project at the fair, first place in my category and Best Demonstration of Background Knowledge. At the state science fair I received first place in my category. From both fairs I was nominated to apply for Broadcom Masters National Science Fair. From there I was elected a semifinalist for the science in a group of about 300 students in our nation. I have also had an article in the newspaper about my work and have presented to my science classes and an elementary school class.

Telling others about bats: I presented my science fair project at the district and state fair, and people attending the fairs saw my project and learned more about the dangers bats face. I was also featured in the newspaper explaining how I helped bats, and have talked to my friends and people at school about what I have done.

How will you help bats in the future: I will continue to teach those around me about bats and I am looking into placing bat houses in the school district.

Funny story about bats or something that happened when you were studying or helping bats: One time when we were having our chimney cleaned a bat flew out of it and scared the cleaner. I then went outside and saw it hanging in a tree, and it was really cute.

One thing I wish everyone knew about bats: I wish that people knew how important they are for our world. They pollinate our plants and control the amount of insects, without them we could lose important foods.

My eight words to describe bats: Fascinating creatures who are vital to the environment. OR Interesting, fascinating, important, complex, misunderstood, echo-locaters, bug-eaters, pollinators