

Member: Calvin Carpenter!

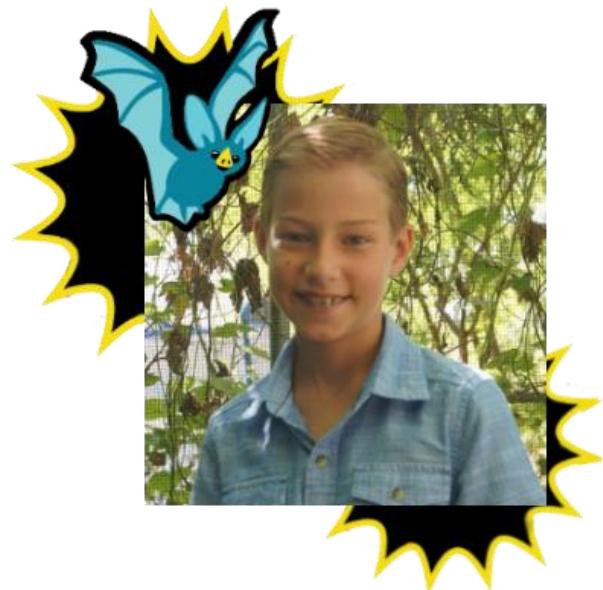
Age: 10

Hometown: Lubbock, TX

Time working with bats: about 5 years

I got excited about bats when: When I visited my first cave, Inner Space Cavern, located in Georgetown, Texas when I was five years old. Inside the cavern, I saw a live bat hanging from a low ceiling. That was pretty cool.

Advice for kids who want to help bats: My advice for kids wanting to help bats is not to be afraid to email a scientist and ask questions. Find their name and email address on a website and ask a parent or teacher help you write. It is so exciting when they write you back with information.



My Bat Squad Service Learning Project

The challenge/problem: Texas has two of the largest bat colonies in the world. I was worried that White-Nose Syndrome, a disease that has killed millions of bats, would make its way to these colonies.

My solution: I did a science fair project about White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) and presented my research at my school and at the South Plains Regional Science and Engineering Fair. At the time of my research, Texas had no confirmed cases of WNS, but it was spreading southwest toward Texas. Since infected bats can spread the fungus that causes WNS when they come in contact with other bats, I wanted to see how likely the two colonies in Texas might intersect bats with the fungus. At the time of my research the closest location with confirmed WNS was Franklin County, Arkansas. I used special GIS mapping software to map and see if the summer habitat ranges intersected. Since the ranges did not intersect it is unlikely the fungus would spread between bats from these locations.

Telling others about bats: I talk to people about bats and I have presented my project at school and the regional science fair.

How will you help bats in the future: I hope to help find a cure for White-Nose Syndrome.

Funny story about bats or something that happened when you were studying or helping bats: My fourth grade class took a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns. None of us wanted to leave during the bat flight that evening!

One thing I wish everyone knew about bats: I wish everyone knew that bats are not as harmful as many people think.

My eight words to describe bats: Helpful, cute, insectivore, hairy, echolocation, fast, threatened, long-eared