

When I started my project I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I knew very little about microbiomes, or how to collect data. After our first zoom meeting I was feeling a little overwhelmed because everyone there was older than me and it sounded like they knew what they were doing. Once we finished planting and building our plot I knew I had some serious work to do. Every morning I would go outside to water and check to see if any of my plants had grown. This helped me build a routine while in the middle of a very uncertain summer. The next step of the project was to collect data about each plant. This process taught me how to be patient even when things are a little slower and I'm struggling with a task. During this whole process, we would have Zoom meetings every week. This was one of my favorite parts because I was able to talk to others and I learned something new every meeting. The final step of the project was to collect samples from our plots and plate some of the samples. I feel I learned the most through this process. In the zoom that week we talked a lot about what would happen to the samples after they were collected. While I was a little confused about the process it was quite interesting to know what was going to happen to our samples. I also learned a lot while collecting the samples. I had never done anything like this before so it was fun to see what it was like to be a scientist. Before this, I had always thought scientists would be in a lab all day analyzing data but now I see how hands-on their job is. I have never done anything like this before, and I'm interested in trying it again. I'm not really sure what I want to do when I'm older but I'm not closing the door on science. This project has helped me see that there is so much to science that I could ever imagine.