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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service Pittsburgh
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When evaluating summer volunteers at the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Pittsburgh, the office team examines many aspects of their performance. Learning how to do the job is just as important as being professional and working well in an office setting. During the volunteers' time at the office, the team monitors how they progress through the summer program. We perform evaluations by working with and training the volunteers and also by using input from other forecasters. This process allows the team to create a better overall picture of the students during their volunteership.

The focus of the Student Volunteer Program this year has been on three critical aspects of a successful full-time, entry-level NWS Meteorologist at the Pittsburgh office: meteorological training, weather forecast office operations, and local research. The student is expected to become engrossed in a wide array of excellent, online training modules that bolsters their hands-on experience shadowing focal points, managers and operational staff conducting day-to-day duties. The extent of exposure includes the generation of aviation forecasts, monitoring and issuing river forecasts, public forecast familiarization, performing upper-air balloon launches, and supporting severe weather operations. In addition, the student conducts a weather study relevant to the operational needs of the NWS Pittsburgh office and presents their findings to office staff.

Marco Monrouzeau was a fantastic and consistent volunteer this summer. He proved a valuable and reliable member of our office during his stay, bringing a positive attitude and strong curiosity to learn each day. His eagerness to grasp concepts within severe-weather meteorology and public coordination translated into notable help gathering storm reports after a few weather events and numerous mesoanalysis discussions on expected impacts in a near-term environment. Marco exhibited a strong work ethic that translated to the development of numerous skills, including becoming proficient in the upper-air program (including becoming MROS upper air-certified), the generation of various hydrology forecast products, basic ability to issue an aviation forecast, and basic skills at dual-pol radar interpretation.

He utilized his time and resources effectively to significantly bolster his meteorology knowledge through diligent studying of available learning modules and consistent discussion shadowing experienced meteorologists and field experts. Adaptive and strong organizational skills were also displayed during his time in the program by successfully balancing the variability of an operational meteorologist's schedule with last-minute severe weather events as well as the development and completion of a local research project.

That project looked to examine a few of the more historical snowfall events to impact the National Weather Service Pittsburgh forecast area, including gathering information on the societal impacts along with detailed meteorological reasoning for how the event came together. Marco's research proved enlightening on the details of the Snowmageddon event of 2010 and Thanksgiving Winter Storm of 1950, including useful forecasting clues on the climatic signals leading into each event. His information will be translated into a web-format to further educate the public on these historical weather events.

Marco's passion for weather and dedication to serving the agency's mission were evident throughout the summer. Our entire forecast staff was very complimentary on his performance and really enjoyed working with him. We believe this experience will make Marco highly competitive for future job vacancies within the National Weather Service.

Sincerely,

Jason Frazier

Student Volunteer Team Coordinator
NWS Pittsburgh, PA