

Reina Balley, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN, for her project *A Spring Pulse: The Introduction of Accumulated Atmospheric Compounds into Lake Itasca during Spring Melt*.



Reina Balley is a Master's student studying biogeochemical processes in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota is working with Dr. Joel Barker.

Reina's research focuses on characterizing the accumulation of atmospherically derived compounds from the snowpack into underlying lacustrine environments during the spring melt. She is interested in how compounds are introduced and evolve within Minnesota lakes during and after lake ice melt.

Specifically, Reina is examining per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and black carbon (BC) at both Lake Itasca, a remote lake at the headwaters of the Mississippi River, and at an urban lake close to the Twin Cities. Both PFAS and BC represent potential contaminants that are of broader ecological and public health concerns.

Reina is grateful to be named a Lipman Student Research Grant recipient and is thankful to the Geological Society of America for supporting her research. This funding will enable her to collect and analyze PFAS and BC samples from remote sampling sites at Lake Itasca.

Reina received her B.S. in Environmental Geoscience at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 2023. She spent two years as an Environmental Consultant before returning for her Master's. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, exploring nature, making art, and spending time with family and friends.