

## **SOTC 2021 Student Testimonials**

### **Ruth (Denison University) – LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential)**

Being a part of Summer on the Cuyahoga, this year was a wonderful growth and opportunity-filled experience. I connected with Denison alumni, other SOTC alumni, students from many different schools, and people within my own work experience. I was also able to learn how to effectively communicate and manage high school students with disabilities within my work. SOTC did a wonderful job welcoming us, and showing us the many metro parks, museums, and other sites within the city. However, my favorite part were the friends that I made. Nearly every night my apartment-mates and I cooked dinner and talked about our lives. From those conversations, I learned a ton. Not only about my peers, but about the world. Those moments will live on in my memory for a long time.

### **Audrey (Colgate University) Cleveland Museum of Art**

While I knew very little about Cleveland before SOTC, it now has a special place in my heart. Summer on the Cuyahoga was an incredible experience that I am so grateful to have had. Through my internship, I was able to work on projects that were meaningful and stretched me as a student and young professional. Not only was I able to grow in my field of work and study but I also established profound friendships that I will treasure forever.

### **Joey (Case Western Reserve University) The Aspire Program at Hathaway Brown**

This wasn't my first summer near the Cuyahoga, but it was my first summer on it. I came out of this program with a much greater appreciation of the things that make my hometown unique. The Metroparks! The arts scene! The affordability! I realized that much of what I took for granted about Cleveland from my upbringing was actually quite extraordinary.

### **Jaweria (Smith College) MetroHealth**

I've never felt like I truly grew from an experience quite like this one. I learned to work on my own, with a partner, and alongside other employees. I feel more confident in myself as a professional and as a person. Forming a community with other students helped me feel less alone as I was in a city so far from home for the first time. SOTC meant so much to me I will hold these memories close to me for a long time.

### **Jayson (University of Chicago) Mutual Capital Partners**

Summer on the Cuyahoga was a great program to be part of, especially after a year of remote school. Being able to work in and explore Cleveland alongside a group of excellent peers was an unparalleled experience and I plan on recommending it to all other college students I know.