I discovered an insect that lives hanging from the threads of a spider’s web and steals food from the spider.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a scientist. I knew it before I even knew what it really meant.

Important Scientist Characteristics

As a scientist, two characteristics that have helped me are being curious and a careful observer. I pay close attention to forests and other ecosystems that I visit and study. I become very curious about the interactions between insects and their environment and how these interactions affect insects and their host plants.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

I was asked to identify an insect, specifically a bark beetle, which was attacking spruce trees because it was different from other bark beetles that were known to attack that tree in Colorado.

Technology or equipment used in research:

In my field, I use different types of microscopes. A dissecting microscope amplifies my view of insects so I can look at them in detail. A high power light microscope allows me to study fungi transported by many insects.

Most Exciting Discovery

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