



**Davidson Fellow
Arielle Tambini**

(\$10,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Arielle Tambini

Age: 17

Suffern, N.Y.

School, College and Career Plans

Arielle graduated from Suffern High School in the Class of 2003 and will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) beginning this fall. After earning her undergraduate degree, Arielle plans to either attend medical school and pursue a career in neurology, or attend graduate school and pursue a career in research.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Science*)

Arielle studied the role of organophosphate pesticides in the etiology of Gulf War Syndrome. In her project titled "A Comparison of the Neuropsychology of Gulf War Veterans and Civilians Exposed to Pesticides", Arielle examined the neuropsychological status of Gulf War veterans compared to civilians exposed to the pesticide organophosphate. She established a link between this pesticide and Gulf War Syndrome that could aid in the development of a treatment for Gulf War Syndrome.

Biography

A native of Suffern, New York, Arielle participated in many high school extracurricular activities, including Science Olympiad, Academic League, Gay-Straight Alliance, and community service through Girl Scouts and the Suffern Federation of Temple Youth.

For the past three years, Arielle was a participant in her high school's STIR (Science and Technology Investigative Research) Program through which she initiated, designed and completed her scientific research on the Gulf War Syndrome. Upon entering the STIR Program, Arielle had to select a topic of interest to research. Her initial interest was in the effects of pesticide exposure, a topic she knew little about. While she was researching a widely used family of pesticides, organophosphate pesticides, Arielle stumbled upon information regarding this pesticide's use as a nerve agent to which soldiers were exposed in the '90 and '91 Persian Gulf War. She wanted to learn more about the potential relationship between these exposures and specific neurological decrements experienced by veterans since their return from the Persian Gulf.

Arielle ran track and played field hockey on her high school teams. She will continue to play field hockey at MIT. She also enjoys playing the trombone and played in the high school jazz band.

Please see next page.

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development

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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2003 Davidson Fellow
- 2003, 2002 National Honor Society
- 2003, 2002 Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society)
- 2003, 2002 Science Honor Society
- 2003, 2002 Science Olympiad
- 2003, 2002 English Honor Society
- 2003, 2002 Social Studies Honor Society
- 2003, 2002 Published Poet in *Pick the Endangered Wildflowers* magazine

Community Activities

Arielle participated in the Girl Scouts from kindergarten through 12th grade attaining the Gold Award, the highest award a scout can receive.

Another of her favorite activities is songleading for her temple, temple youth group and NFTY-GER (North American Federation of Temple Youth – Garden Empire Region).

During the summer of her senior year, Arielle participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at Villanova University.

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