

# Findings from the Field

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Volume 1

Article 1

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2018

## Editor's Note

Findings from the Field Editorial Board Cynthia, Bill, Glenn, Molly, Meggie, Leigh, and Christine

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### Recommended Citation

Cynthia, Bill, Glenn, Molly, Meggie, Leigh, and Christine, Findings from the Field Editorial Board (2018) "Editor's Note," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 1 , Article 1.  
Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol1/iss1/1>

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# Findings from the Field

A Middle School Journal of Scientific Research  
Volume 1  
June 2018

**Note from the Editors:**

We are excited to present Volume 1 of *Findings from the Field*, Maine's first journal of scientific research produced by middle school students! This volume is the end result of a process of scientific research, writing, and peer review. Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, we received sixty-seven submissions from students in six different schools. Each submission was reviewed by at least one peer from a different community, with a total of nine schools engaging in peer review. Students shared their peer reviews through over one hundred comments - comments that included thoughtful critique and encouragement. Based on student recommendations, the editorial board conducted an additional round of review. Through that complete process and this incredible community's effort, the six articles in this volume emerged as the most impressive models of student work. You can find all submitted articles and reviews in the Vital Signs Project Bank at <http://vitalsignsme.org/project-bank>.

Through the collaborative efforts of all these participating classrooms, a community of student scientists has emerged. This community is investigating pressing, ecological questions and conducting data analysis, in their communities and beyond. They are engaging in thoughtful review of their peers' contributions, encouraging and inspiring one another to continue to explore and ask questions in the ecosystems around them. Teachers have been critical partners to their students and this editorial board, learning alongside us how to best support students in this work. We are so impressed with this community of young researchers and their teachers, and we can't wait to see what students contribute to Volume 2!

The Editorial Board  
Bill, Cynthia, Glenn, Meggie, Christine, Molly, and Leigh

*Findings from the Field* is a Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) project. It was made possible by the generosity of the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, the Noyce Foundation Fund of the Cornell University Foundation, and the Davis Family Foundation.

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