



Talcott Mountain

SCIENCE CENTER & ACADEMY

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Talcott Mountain Academy Students Selected as Two of the Top 300 Young Scientists in the US

September 10, 2018 (Avon, CT) — [Broadcom Foundation](#) and [Society for Science & the Public](#) announced that Julian Kage and Emma Ruccio, who are both 2018 graduates of Talcott Mountain Academy in Avon, are among the Top 300 competitors in the 8th annual [Broadcom MASTERS®](#). Broadcom MASTERS consists of the top 10 percent of 6th, 7th and 8th grade projects entered in Society-affiliated fairs around the country. Both students qualified for the competition based on projects developed as part of their curriculum at Talcott Mountain Academy. The Broadcom MASTERS seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers and innovators to solve the grand challenges of the 21st Century and is the nation's premier Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competition for middle school students.

Emma Ruccio's project, *Got Your Back 2.0*, was inspired by Emma's personal experience with scoliosis. *Got Your Back* was designed to give patients the ability to monitor changes in the curvature of their spine at home using infra-red technology -- reducing their overall x-ray exposure and minimizing disruption in their everyday life.

Julian Kage developed *Quick Lyme: The Rapid Test to Detect Lyme Bacteria in Ticks*. The protocol Julian developed can be done at home and takes between 2-5 minutes to test a tick for *Borrelia*, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Julian's quick, new test offers an affordable alternative to current tick testing methods that require a lab and often take up to two weeks for results. *Quick Lyme* test results are shown on an easy-to-read test strip.

"Broadcom MASTERS competition is the culmination of the national science fair season when hundreds of thousands of young people showcase their prowess and passion for STEM projects to educators and professionals who volunteer to judge their projects," said Paula Golden, President of the Broadcom Foundation. "The Top 300 are the best-of-the-best and represent all science fair participants throughout the country."

The Top 300 Broadcom MASTERS were selected from a pool of 2,537 applicants from 48 states, two US territories and one Department of Defense school. These competitors were evaluated by a panel of distinguished scientists, engineers and educators and judged on creativity and originality of their science fair project, their ability to engage in analysis of data and understanding of STEM principles as they relate to the real world. Thirty of the 300 Broadcom MASTERS will be selected as finalists by a nationally ranked panel of scientists, engineers and educators on September 18, after which they will travel to Washington, DC to compete in a four-day STEM competition for more than \$100,000 in awards and prizes.

About Talcott Mountain Academy:

Talcott Mountain Academy in Avon, Connecticut, is an independent school for intellectually excited students K-8. Founded in 1983 as a division of the Talcott Mountain Science Center, the Academy is a unique on-site learning laboratory that nurtures children's innate abilities from an early age. www.talcottacademy.org

Additional Resources: Broadcom Foundation, <http://broadcomfoundation.org/>
Society for Science & the Public, www.societyforscience.org

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