



Q & A with Gabe Waldor

How long have you been interested in science?

I have been interested in science since I was 2-years old. I have always loved it.

How did you discover Telluride Science?

I have been attending Town Talks for as long as I can remember, probably since I was 10 years old.

How was your internship with Dr. Leo?

I spent a week with Dr. Leo. I was working in a battery lab to make more sustainable and eco-friendly batteries. It was an incredible experience. A graduate assistant took me under his wing and walked me through the ground up of how everything worked. We synthesized two chemicals to run in a battery experiment. It was so incredible. As a career, I am considering working as a chemist in a professional lab as it is just as much fun as I thought it would be. I am interested in chemistry and climate sustainability.

Why do you believe Telluride Science is such an important organization?

The main stumbling blocks in the community are that scientists don't actively share or have dialogues as much as they should. It's difficult to share ideas, and it's just not a priority in the scientific world. Telluride Science gives the space and opportunity for scientists to come together to have long dialogues, often across different fields. It's really important to hear different view points on different issues.

The fact that the workshops are in Telluride which is incredible for the scientists. It's also a great asset for the town. I'm in love with science. We moved to Telluride not knowing there would be an organization with some of the leading scientists from all across the world coming every year. This was such a wonderful surprise. When you get a Nobel prize winner speaking at a Town Talk, that is incredible.

If you could solve one of the world's greatest challenges through science, which one would you tackle?

That is a difficult question as there are so many challenges. One focus would be making super efficient solar panels so people and large tech companies have a reason to switch as they would be more energy efficient than fossil fuel powered energy sources. Another challenge I am interested in is developing an application to Get rid of plastics through bioremediation, using special types of engineered cells or mushrooms to eat away plastics.

Are you interested in pursuing science as a major in college?

I would like to major in chemistry, engineering, and climate science. It's important to have a broader scope. That's one advantage of Telluride Science-it allows scientists who have a very narrow focus in a specific field to interact with other scientist from different fields. This gives them a different perspective.