

Nalini Kotecha

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Honors Environmental Science student at Georgia Tech combining marine ecology, bioengineering, and human-centered design to advance conservation research. Seeking research and internship opportunities in marine ecology, coral reef conservation, and coastal ecosystem resilience.

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology (GT), Atlanta GA
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science; GPA: 3.84
Minor in Biomedical Engineering, Minor in Ocean Sciences
John H. Martinson Honors Program, Dean's List

Anticipated Graduation: December 2028

San Mateo Community College District (SMCCD), San Mateo County CA
Associates in Arts in Social Sciences, Magna Cum Laude
Associates in Science in Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude
Dean's List Spring 2023–Spring 2025; GPA: 3.90

May 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Great Reef Census | Trusted Contributor & Citizen Scientist | Remote February 2025 – Present

- Analyze high-resolution reef images to identify coral cover, species diversity, bleaching, and ecosystem health indicators
- Support scalable citizen science infrastructure monitoring the Great Barrier Reef to contribute to global conservation datasets

Innovation Diploma | Design Lab Scholar | Redwood City CA August 2023 – October 2024

- Applied human-centered design to research, prototype, and defend a solution addressing a real-world gap in female physiology education through stakeholder-driven design

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Acadia National Park | Volunteer Crew Member | Bar Harbor ME May 2025

- Collaborated with National Park Service rangers and student crew to repair trail infrastructure
- Mitigated severe trail erosion by clearing overgrown drainage ditches after 18-month maintenance backlog
- Brushed trails and cleared vegetation along trail corridors to ensure safety for hikers
- Manually transported materials to support native ecosystem restoration initiatives

SMCOE Outdoor Ed | Cabin Leader & Naturalist Assistant | Portola Valley CA April 2024

- Co-led residential cabins of 12-15 fifth graders during intensive, week-long natural sciences camp
- Collaborated with staff naturalists to teach ecology and lead activities

TECHNICAL SKILLS & COURSEWORK

Coursework: Microbiology + lab, Oceanography, Biological Principles, Organic Chemistry, Bioengineering Statistics, Material Sciences, Multivariable Calculus, Physics (Mechanics, E&M)

Field & Laboratory: Rapid Prototyping, Trail Maintenance

Technical & Data: QGIS, Python, LaTeX, Markdown, Excel

Design & Communication: Human-centered Design Thinking, Data Storytelling, Narrative Writing, Empathy Mapping

Certifications: Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Certificate - Ireland National Biodiversity Centre, CPR/AED & QPR Certified

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Samaritan House | Kitchen Volunteer | San Mateo CA August 2022 – Present

- Coordinate with a multi generational team to prepare 300+ hot/cold meals for weekly distribution to local shelters
- Identify available foods, setup stations, troubleshoot machinery, instruct and onboard new volunteers

Team Captain & Varsity Athlete | Cross Country, Track | San Mateo CA August 2021 – May 2025

- Mentored younger teammates and directed physical conditioning and warm-ups for 20+ endurance athletes
- Liaised regularly between coaching staff, athletic directors, athletes, and parents to manage event logistics and build team culture