Entomology students enrolled in the COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL) section will volunteer a minimum of 25 hours with the Natural History Museum of Utah-Entomology Lab and/or the University of Utah Beekeepers Association. Both community partners have volunteer opportunities for public education & outreach, hive or collection maintenance, and scientific research.

The CEL component of BIOL5445 is optional, completely voluntary, and does not affect your overall class grade for Entomology. If you meet the section requirements, you earn the CEL attribute on your transcript. If you do not complete them, you will not have the CEL attribute on your transcript.

In addition to your 25 hours of volunteer work with a community partner, you need to commit to the following:

1. Participate in 2 small group discussions with Amy & classmates over the course of the semester (~45 min ea, dates TBA). The first discussion will focus on sharing thoughts, hopes, and worries about the upcoming community engaged learning projects, and the second will focus on reflection of what you’ve learned and experienced “so far” to allow for improving outcomes by the end of class. How can you make the biggest positive impact on your community partner and your entomology studies?

2. Compose one 5-page creative essay reflecting on your volunteer work, due at the end of the semester. This essay will describe your CEL work, observations about the community partners you worked with, your joys and frustrations of your volunteer work, as well as how it connects with class topics, insect conservation, your education and professional aspirations. What do you know now that you didn’t know before your CEL work? How did your CEL work affect your understanding of entomology and the functioning of your community partner?

Questions? Interested? Contact Amy Sibul, the CEL coordinator for the Biology Department right away! Amy.sibul@utah.edu

Community Engagement Coordinator
U of U Department of Biology