



A GUIDE FOR STUDENT RESEARCHERS

Most research programs end with a paper. Yours ends with something you put outside.

Rainflower is a youth research platform built around one method — L.E.A.P. You learn what matters, run real experiments, analyze the evidence you collect, and then build a pilot and deploy it where people actually live.

You will be graded, ranked, and pushed — by a worldwide advisory team and by an evaluator network that reads every single thing you submit. Nothing you turn in disappears into a folder. All of it moves you up.

Why "pilot" is the whole point.

Other platforms want a thesis statement. We want a working prototype in the rain. The first one — the flower-shaped rain collector this whole project is named after — was built by a high school student who is now a senior. He was in your seat about eighteen months ago.

Levels, from Scout to Fellow. Everyone starts at Scout. Where you finish is yours to decide.

Sets of eyes on your work – an advisory team of professionals, and an AI evaluator network that never skips a submission.

Raindrops to earn. Quizzes, puzzles, games, assignments and field work all pay out.

THE METHOD

Four stages. One loop. You'll go around it more than once.

Every assignment on the platform is tagged with the stage it belongs to, so you always know which muscle you're building.

L

Learn

Surveys, essays and reports on how water actually moves through a household, a street, a season. Understand the system before you try to change it.

TAGGED LEARN

E

Experiment

Rainfall measurement and other environmental experiments, run with a repeatable method so your numbers can be compared with a researcher's three time zones away.

TAGGED EXPERIMENT

A

Analyze

Collect and interrogate evidence – measurements, photographs, interviews – until you can say what it shows, what it doesn't, and what you'd need next.

TAGGED ANALYSIS

P

Pilot

Design and build something, then deploy it in the real world and document how it fails. This is the stage most programs skip. It's the one we exist for.

BUILT, NOT WRITTEN

"No problem is too big or too small for anyone – and especially not for kids in K-12."

That sentence is where Rainflower comes from. **Ethan Kabir** started studying rainfall and water with his family in elementary school, spent most of 11th grade building the first Rainflower pilot in Rocklin, California, and started 12th grade this month.

He built the pilot, the platform and its documents alongside AI agents – which is exactly why the evaluation system you're about to read about looks the way it does.

HOW YOUR WORK IS JUDGED

Two sets of eyes on everything you submit.

One is slow, human, and has spent a lifetime in the field. The other is fast, tireless, and reads every word you write. You need both.

ADVISORY GROUP

People who do this for a living

Professors, teachers, engineers, scientists, government officials, entrepreneurs and business owners from around the world. When your work rises above ordinary interest, it goes to them.

- Written feedback, commentary and a score, given in their own professional idiom
- An academic can challenge your method; an engineer can challenge your device
- A government advisor can tell you whether a public body would act on your finding
- You reach an advisor through your coordinator – always

EVALUATOR NETWORK

An unbiased read on all of it

A group of specialized AI agents built as an agentic research evaluator – one of the first deployed on a platform like this. It reviews the work the advisory team doesn't have hours to reach.

- Feedback arrives while the work is still fresh enough to fix

- Nothing is too small to be read — a one-page log gets a real response
- Points you at technique and style, not just right and wrong answers
- Applies the same standard to the first submission and the fiftieth

Why this matters to you: in most programs, feedback is a bottleneck — a handful of adults, a hundred students, and a queue. Here the agents catch everything and the advisors go deep on what deserves depth. The result is a transparent, visible path instead of a mystery.

YOUR RECORD

One page shows everything you've done.

You, your coordinator and your advisors see the same assessment page.
Filter it by today, this week, last week, this month, last month, any month, or all time.

rainflower.world/assessment/yourname				
Today This week Last week This month Last month Aug 2026 All time				
WORK	TYPE	RESULT	RAINDROPS	STATUS
QUIZ-100 Where household water comes from	Quiz	9 / 10 · answers saved	+120	SCORED
EXPERIMENT-100 Six-week rainfall log, station placement notes	Experiment	Reviewed by evaluator network	+340	FEEDBACK READY

WORK	TYPE	RESULT	RAINDROPS	STATUS
PAPER-100 What my street does when it rains hard	Report	Escalated to advisory group	+500	WITH AN ADVISOR
ANALYSIS-100 Ten-photograph drainage evidence story	Analysis	Awaiting your captions	—	IN PROGRESS

Illustrative view. Quizzes, puzzles, interactive games and field tools are released throughout the year – the platform keeps building new ones as the cohort moves.

THE SIX LEVELS

Read it like a rain gauge. Every level is deeper water.

Levels aren't handed out for time served. Each one is a different kind of thinking – and the assignment codes tell you exactly what unlocks the next one.

5
mm

Level 1

Scout

Discovers basic concepts and scientific vocabulary. This is where every researcher starts – day one, no application, no audition.

RHYTHM

Log in 2–3 times a week, 5–10 minutes a visit.

RESEARCH LOGGED

15–30 minutes each week.

CLEAR

All Scout quizzes

15
mm

Level 2

Explorer

Observes, asks questions, and completes guided activities. The first level where you produce writing that someone else will read closely.

RHYTHM

3–5 visits a week, 10–20 minutes each.

RESEARCH LOGGED

1 hour each week.

CLEAR

LEARN-100 ×2–3

EXPERIMENT-100 ×2–3

ANALYSIS-100 ×2–3

PAPER-100 ×2

QUIZ-100

40
mm

Level 3

Researcher I

Analyzes data, identifies patterns, and explains findings. You stop reporting what you saw and start saying what it means.

RHYTHM

3–5 visits a week, 10–20 minutes each.

RESEARCH LOGGED

2–4 hours each week.

CLEAR

LEARN-200 ×2–3

EXPERIMENT-200 ×2–3

ANALYSIS-200 ×2–3

QUIZ-200

80
mm

Level 4

Researcher II

Designs investigations and works with greater independence. Your coordinator approves the plan – but the plan is yours.

RHYTHM

3–5 visits a week, 10–20 minutes each.

RESEARCH LOGGED

4–8 hours each week.

CLEAR

LEARN-300 ×2–3

EXPERIMENT-300 ×2–3

ANALYSIS-300 ×2–3

QUIZ-300

150
mm

Level 5

Scholar

Produces rigorous analysis, evaluates limitations, and connects evidence across studies. From here on, you're not only doing research – you're helping run the project.

RHYTHM

3–5 visits a week, plus a Rainflower internship at 4–8 hours weekly.

CLEAR

400 series

500 series

ALSO

Learning, experiment, analysis and quiz requirements carry forward at every level.

300
mm

Level 6

Fellow

Demonstrates original thinking, research leadership, and consistently excellent work. The top of the gauge. Very few people get here in one year – and that's the point.

COMMITMENT

Rainflower internship at 20 hours weekly.

CLEAR

600 series

THEN FACE THE ROOM

Interviewed on Zoom by at least two advisors, and approved by at least two.

Two things to know before you start counting.

Assignments are released in waves. If a tagged assignment for your level hasn't been published yet, that level stays open until it is – you're never penalized for the calendar, and nothing gets skipped.

Administrators can adjust what each level requires as the cohort grows. Your assessment page always shows the current requirements and exactly how far you are from the next one.

RAINDROPS

Points that fall on real work.

Every quiz you take, puzzle you solve, game you clear and assignment you file pays raindrops into your record. They sit next to your score and your reviewer's comments, visible to you, your coordinator and your advisors – a running measure of how much you've actually done, not how long you've been enrolled.

🟡 Quiz cleared +120

🟡 Rainfall log filed +340

🟡 Report escalated +500

THE INVITATION

Begin where you live. Ask one clear question.

The 2026 cohort is 100 student researchers. You don't need a lab, a grant, or permission from a distant institution. You need a question about water that you can actually go and investigate this week.

01

Join the platform and meet your coordinator.

02

Clear your Scout quizzes and build the weekly habit.

03

File your first LEARN, EXPERIMENT and ANALYSIS work.

04

Read your feedback, fix what it found, and take the next LEAP.

Start at rainflower.world

"When it rains, the flower blooms."