

# Kendra Caskey, MS

Master's Student, Geological Sciences,  
Brigham Young University

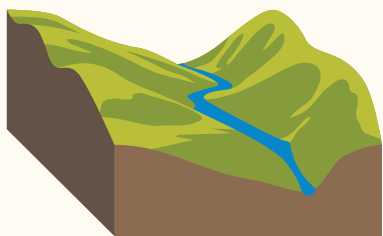
## **Why did you become a scientist?**

I became a scientist because I was always curious about the world around me. My love for science began in high school when I took physics classes, and I was amazed to learn about the mechanisms that control our world. When someone suggested I take geology, I became more fascinated with environmental issues and how we can better help our world around us.



## **What do you study for DUST<sup>2</sup>? Why is this important?**

I study dissolved and particulate trace metals in the Provo River, which is a snow melt dominated stream in Utah. This is important as metals in water can affect the water quality for drinking.



## **What do you do day-to-day in your work?**

I drive to the mountains and take water samples of the river in specific locations. In the lab, I acidify these samples and filter some, and I use different machines to analyze for trace metals, isotopes, and anions. I also do data analysis to find trends in our data and come up with a story that this data is telling us.

## **What is your favorite part of what you do and why?**

My favorite part is the field work I get to do. I love being able to go outside and have a hands on experience with the project that I am working on and enjoying the beautiful aspects of nature.

## **What advice do you have for students interested in science?**

Communicate with professors and other scientists as much as you can; they can be your biggest help. I would also learn to love what you are doing and to practice writing as much as you can.

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