

## 2016 Reptile and Amphibian Team - November 20th, 2015



Chytrid fungus, specifically *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, is the one of the worst diseases in history. Chytrid fungus is a deadly skin disease that caused the population in many countries, such as Australia, South America, North America, Central America, New Zealand, Europe, and Africa, to decline. While many Amphibians are killed by chytrid fungus, some have been known to be resistant to chytrid fungus such as the American bullfrog. The goal of the Reptile and Amphibian team is to understand why the disease, chytrid fungus, is wiping

out the population. Max Gamblin and Allison Herdje are proud members of the 2016 Reptile and Amphibian team. Allison wanted to join this team because when she was younger, she had a frog, and wants to know why a lot of them are dying so she can save them. Max wanted to join the team because ever since he was little he always liked reptiles and he hopes he can learn more about them and how he can save them from chytrid fungus. Sometimes it is hard to know if an animal has this horrible disease, so Max and Allison will be conducting laboratory testing to see if the animal has it. A chytrid fungus infection is spread through the transmission of a fungus called zoospore. Chytrid fungus is very important because it is capable of infecting most of the 6,000 species of amphibians of the world. The way an amphibian dies from chytrid fungus is when its skin is infected by the fungus, it's skin hardens. This does not allow the amphibians to drink because they drink through their skin along with important salts into their bodies. This change in electrolyte levels in the animal causes the animal's heart to stop and cause it to die. Please check back and help us save amphibians and reptiles!



## New Equipment - February 12th, 2016

We are excited to be leaving for the tropical Rainforest in 15 days! Some new equipment arrived for us to use this year. Check it out! Pesola scale: used to weigh amphibians and reptiles. Snake poles: used to catch snakes which are then measured in grams as well magnifying glasses!

[reps-and-amps](#)