

Outdoor Adventure

Michael Thew, an active outdoorsman, developed his passion for nature in his first years of high school. “The SGS Outdoor Club trips gave me great opportunities to learn and challenge myself in the outdoor arena.” After experiencing the University of Chicago’s Outdoor Adventure Club, he decided the club needed to become more popular and less of a cliquey, climbing group. Thew was selected as the club’s president his sophomore year and has since accomplished many of his original goals, including the addition of a pre-orientation outdoor program for incoming freshmen.

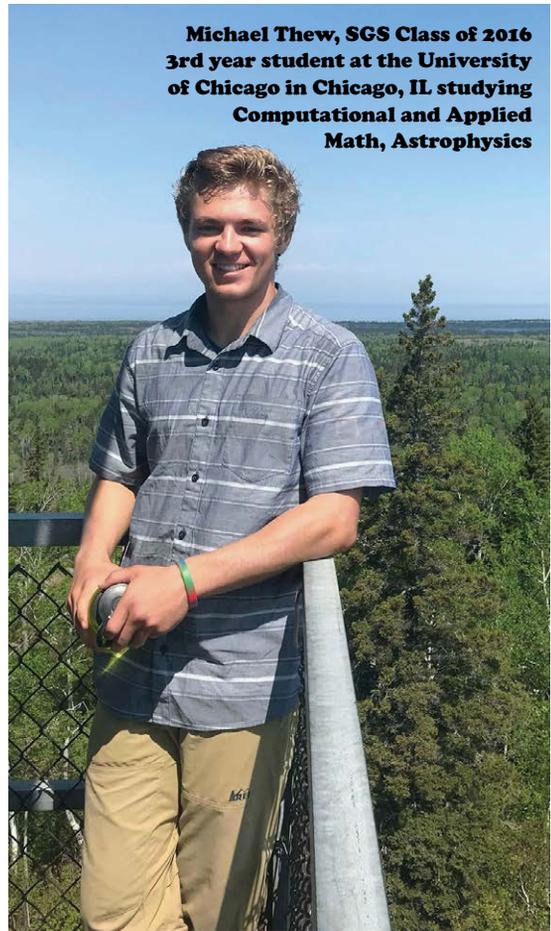
The Outdoor Adventure Club “strives to generate excitement about the outdoors” despite the urban campus and topographically limited Midwest

environment. The club runs weekend trips throughout the year. “We also host one-day events including bonfires at The Point (a lakeshore beach), slacklining and hammocking on the quad, and day trips to the Indiana Dunes.” The main focus is to include all students, whether they have a background in the outdoors or not. With this wider emphasis on participation, Thew has brought over 200 students into the club’s activities.

Thew’s greatest goal will be reached this upcoming summer under the title “Phoenix Outdoor Program,”

a pre-orientation trip for incoming freshman. When Thew was looking at different universities and colleges in high school, he noticed that many had this sort of option for incoming freshman while UC did not. Once he was president, the Dean expressed the University’s interest in expanding the school’s welcome to new students. With support from the University, Thew and the Outdoor Adventure Club will be hosting a National Outdoor Leadership School Wilderness First Aid course throughout the summer for trip leaders as preparation for a total of five pre-orientation trips to Phoenix, Arizona for incoming freshman.

Growing this urban yet outdoorsy club is only one of Thew’s goals. He also hopes to work in the aerospace



**Michael Thew, SGS Class of 2016
3rd year student at the University
of Chicago in Chicago, IL studying
Computational and Applied
Math, Astrophysics**

“I am passionate about sharing my knowledge and experience with others in hopes of sparking and expanding their appreciation for the outdoors.”

industry, “ideally as an astronaut,” while keeping his love of the outdoors alive.

“My lifetime goal is to complete the Seven Summits. Kind of a lofty goal, I know, but that’s how I motivate myself.”

industry before, especially at the corporate level, learning the vocabulary took a couple of weeks of studying a working list of terms and acronyms. One of her first challenges was “differentiating between cellular networks such as CAT-M, CAT-1, NB, and LTE, as well as understanding the way that each network operates and the use cases that it serves.”

By the end of the experience, it became evident to Martin that she would one day like to be the CEO of a “company engrained in the innovative technology ecosystem,” whether it is her own company or an existing one. Her passion for integrating technology with community is evident in her belief that “it is crucial to ensure that technology is utilized to strengthen, rather than detract from, our relationships with each other and our surroundings.”