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**TAARUN**  
GEMS and JSHS

## WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM?

GEMS first got me interested in this field. It gave me an early opportunity to explore STEM and helped me discover what I was passionate about from a young age.

## WHAT'S SOMETHING THAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT THE AEOP PROGRAM?

What surprised me about the AEOP program was how much my scientific interests were shaped by the lessons I learned—it helped me realize that STEM learning needs to start early.

## TELL ME ABOUT YOUR AEOP EXPERIENCE...

As a young kid, I was always interested in science, particularly virology, and I owe it to the GEMS program for exposing me to that world. Learning about the various biomedical sciences, chemistry, and biology labs at GEMS sparked my curiosity and helped me identify the fields I was most interested in. It was amazing to see how one day of summer camp influenced my entire perspective on science, and I am thankful to GEMS for the opportunity to get that early exposure.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE HOPES AND DREAMS?

Inspired by biomedical science, I aspire to a career in virology and bioinformatics, with a focus on advancing vaccine development for emerging pathogens.

## WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT AND WHY?

Outside of science, I'm passionate about music, particularly Indian classical music, which I have been learning for several years.