

2022-2023 Ava Tomkins

Ava is a rising Junior at UNCA majoring in Environmental Management Policy, minoring in Astronomy, and is a Lookout Observatory Docent. Ava has always had a fascination with the moon and stars since she was a young child but a true passion came in high school when she watched the movie Interstellar. Ava says, “In essence, it completely changed my life and sparked a revolution in my brain that made me question everything, leading me to further my education sought after those questions.” At UNCA Ava has excelled in her astronomy classes saying, “Learning about this universe feels like the most valuable thing I can do in my life and I am so grateful to have an opportunity to do it. There are some things I still can’t fully comprehend, but I think that is the best part about astronomy.”

Ava’s long-term career goals involve contributing to the fight to protect the Earth against climate change – “I hope to take what I’ve learned from my education and work to leave the planet better than I found it.”