

## MEDIA RELEASE

# USF ENGINEER SELECTED TO EXPLORE THE OCEAN ABOARD FAMED EXPLORER DR. ROBERT BALLARD'S EXPLORATION VESSEL NAUTILUS

University of South Florida alum joins expedition team in a groundbreaking STEAM initiative exploring deep-sea biology and geology in the Western Pacific.

[Click here to see the accompanying imagery assets.](#)

**(St. Petersburg, FL – October 25, 2024)** — Jaden Crute, alum and current engineer from the University of South Florida's Center for Ocean Mapping and Innovative Technologies, has been selected as a 2024 ROV Engineering Intern in the Science & Engineering Internship Program and will sail aboard Ocean Exploration Trust's Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* during its 2024 expedition season. Jaden, originally from Pembroke Pines, FL, was selected as one of 16 interns from hundreds of applicants and will join the team aboard E/V *Nautilus* in October and November alongside the Palau International Coral Reef Center, NOAA Ocean Exploration, and other Palauan and U.S. collaborators to conduct an expedition to [explore deep-sea habitats within Palau National Marine Sanctuary](#).



"The opportunity to sail on such a prestigious research vessel with experts in the field of oceanography is so exciting. It's a privilege to have the chance to observe their work firsthand and to directly learn from them about what goes into the research that they do," **says Crute.**

Ocean Exploration Trust, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Robert Ballard, operates with a mission to explore the unknown parts of the ocean, seeking out new discoveries across the fields of geology, biology, and hydrography while pushing the boundaries of STEAM education and technological innovation using remotely operated vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and seafloor mapping technologies. The team has traveled around the world helping understand the deep ocean and sharing discoveries live with the world through [NautilusLive.org](#).

People worldwide can engage with Jaden and the explorers onboard via [NautilusLive.org](#), a 24-hour live-streaming web portal bringing expeditions from the field to explorers on shore via telepresence

technology and social media. Local schools, summer programs, and community groups are encouraged to schedule [free, live one-on-one Q&A sessions with explorers](#) on the ship available daily.

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### About the Ocean Exploration Trust

The Ocean Exploration Trust was founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard to explore the ocean, seeking out new discoveries in the fields of geology, biology, maritime history, and archaeology while pushing the boundaries of STEAM education and technological innovation. Our international program is launched from aboard the Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*, offering live exploration to participants on shore and the public via live video, audio, and data feeds. [Learn more about Ocean Exploration Trust.](#)

The 2024 E/V *Nautilus* expeditions are sponsored by NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Ocean Networks Canada. OET education program sponsors and partners for 2024 include the Office of Naval Research, National Geographic Society, NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, CITGO, QPS, and the Phil Stephenson Foundation.

Our ongoing Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute partners include the University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Southern Mississippi. [Learn more about our partners and sponsors.](#)

### Follow the Expeditions

- Website: [www.NautilusLive.org](http://www.NautilusLive.org)
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