



## Teton Science Schools AmeriCorps Service Members Summer 2019



### **Jessica Andersen**

Early Childhood Education, Illinois State University  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

During college, Jessica was an Adventure Specialist and a Trip Leader. She spent her summers as a camp counselor for a camp in the woods and as the manager of an athletic camp. Jessica chose to participate in AmeriCorps because she has a passion for getting students to learn and to try new experiences in the outdoors. She is interested in incorporating STEM into learning and is excited to build relationships with students. In her free time she enjoys being outside with friends and family, working out, rock climbing, hiking, skiing, baking and cooking.



### **Tessa Bennett**

B.S. Sustainable Development with a concentration in Environmental Studies, Appalachian State  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Tessa was born and raised on the coast of North Carolina. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Sustainable Development. Tessa's passion for environmental justice struck at a young age and only grew stronger while living in Western North Carolina. During her time at college, she studied Sustainable Technology in Peru, where she helped design a stand-alone photo-voltaic system in a remote community. The experience gave her the opportunity to share with others the importance and reward of sustainable practices. Tessa enjoys gardening, making jewelry, practicing yoga and learning more about our natural world. She is a strong believer in the power outdoor education has on the younger generations and can't wait to become involved with place-based education at TSS!



### **Mia Clementi**

B.S. Conservation and minor in Biology, University of Wisconsin-River Falls  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Since childhood, Mia has expressed a passion of the outdoors spending most of her time in the backyard searching for any type of critter to bring back to show her parents. In high school she experienced the benefits of a hands on based curriculum and has expressed a desire to share this learning style with others throughout the years. Her passion for the outdoors skyrocketed in college at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. It is in River Falls amongst the vast outdoor opportunities living next to a Class 1 Trout stream and numerous state parks where she spends a majority of her free time hiking, rock climbing, and fishing. Mia chose to be an AmeriCorps member at TSS to exploit her passion of hand on teaching and the outdoors with hopes to being a positive addition to the TSS team.



**Esperansa Gomez**, she/her/hers

B.A. in Social Work, Boise State University

*Teton Literacy Center AmeriCorps Member*

Esperansa was raised in Boise, Idaho and graduated from Boise State University with a degree in Social Work. While in school, she developed a passion for serving marginalized folx, particularly youth, in educational settings. She developed passions and interests through being a part of programs like TRIO and multicultural organizations herself, along with taking multiple sociology and social work based classes during college. Esperansa's work and volunteer experiences have enabled her to developed skills for implementing diversity, inclusion, and equity for those she serves. She chose to become an AmeriCorps member because of her interest in education and serving youth and their families. Esperansa is passionate about serving communities and using her privilege to empower and enable others to advocate for themselves. In her free time, she loves listening to music, dancing for fun, and simply spending time with loved ones. She also has a dachshund named, Pedro!



**Eli Katzman**

B.S. Environmental Science and Technology with a concentration in Natural Resources Management, minor in Geographical Information Systems  
University of Maryland

*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Eli is a passionate youth educator who has spent his past several summers working at his summer camp in rural Maryland, teaching and leading campers for several weeks at a time. His love for the outdoors has blossomed in the past several years as he has found himself on more and more climbing and backpacking trips. He is excited to combine his education background with his environmental science degree while being an AmeriCorps member at TSS. He is from Silver Spring, MD, and can't wait to finally enjoy living out west!



**Bailey McCoy**

B.S. Elementary Education emphasis in Special Education, Missouri State University

*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Bailey McCoy is from Kirkwood, Missouri a suburb of St. Louis. Bailey is attending Missouri State University in the Ozark Mountains. She is in the final year of her elementary education with an emphasis in special education. Bailey has had a love for the outdoors from a young age. She has been camping in the Missouri State Parks with her family since the age of eight. Bailey is excited to combine her love for nature and teaching by incorporating place based education in her lesson plans and in her future classroom. Bailey is also excited to join the TSS AmeriCorp program to work with her brother and be the sixth person in her family to stay on the Jackson Campus.



**Julia Olson**

B.S. Environmental GeoScience  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

When I arrive at TSS, I will be a new graduate of Boston College with a BS in Environmental Geoscience. In the past, I've loved teaching people about whales and marine ecosystem science aboard the Miss Cape Ann, a whale watch boat in Gloucester, Massachusetts. I chose to be an AmeriCorps member at TSS because I truly enjoy learning and teaching environmental science in the field, and I know there will be plenty to learn and teach in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem! In my free time, I like to run, hike, play lacrosse, read, and bake.



**Liesel Robbins**

B.S. Geology and Geography, Middlebury College  
*Teton Science School AmeriCorps Member*

Growing up exploring in the small state of New Hampshire, Liesel is excited to continue to share a love of the outdoors in the big horizons of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With a joint degree in Geology and Geography from Middlebury College, she's eager to support place based education with TSS as a means of growing community & stewardship. She's found that she learns best when she can interact directly with the landscape around her, so she's grateful for the opportunity with AmeriCorps to inspire others with experiential, hands-on learning as well. In college when she wasn't studying rocks or maps, she could be found guiding wilderness trips, EMTing or making granola for the school. Most recently she was working with the education team at the children's science museum she grew up going to— forever looking to answer the big, wonderful questions posed by curious youth. She loves spontaneous adventure of all sorts, particularly by bike or running shoes, and especially with good company.



**Sophie Ryan**

Physical Geography, University of Vermont  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Sophie graduated from the University of Vermont in 2018 with a degree in Physical Geography. During her time in college she lead trips through the UVM Outing Club and participated in various stream water quality research projects. Through these experiences and others abroad, Sophie developed a passion for the outdoors and experiential education. Sophie spent the last year traveling around the US and abroad and is very excited to spend the summer as an AmeriCorps member fostering STEM literacy and exploring the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In her free time Sophie loves to run, hike, cook and explore new places.



**Samantha (Sam) Silverman**

B.A. Comparative Literature and Linguistics  
*Field Education AmeriCorps Member*

Originally from Baltimore, MD, Sam recently graduated from Colorado College, where she studied Comparative Literature and Linguistics, and was Editor-in-Chief of her college's newspaper. After spending four years participating in and leading for Outdoor Education, she spent her last year coordinating the college's New Student Orientation outdoor service trips. She cannot wait to continue working with students in the outdoors and become involved in the Jackson community. When she's not outside, you can find Sam cooking a meal with friends, writing, and gardening.

**Members that are Continuing to Serve Our Community**



**Michael Kasper**

B.S. Biology, Case Western Reserve University  
*Teton Literacy Center AmeriCorps Member*

I graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a degree in Biology. While in school, I developed an interest in place-based education through taking biology courses at a University in the Galapagos Islands. I chose to become an AmeriCorps member because of my interest in specifically STEM education and the ability to give back to a community through the position. In my free time I like to play ultimate Frisbee and hike.



**Sarah Pruden**

B.S. Environmental Science and Policy, Minor in Sociology and Anthropology,  
Southern Oregon University  
*Teton Raptor Center AmeriCorps Member*

Hailing from Alaska, and spending the last 15 years in Oregon, Sarah has grown up with a love for wild places. An avid outdoor enthusiast with a passion for environmental stewardship and wildlife conservation, Sarah obtained her degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Southern Oregon University, with a minor in Sociology and Anthropology. While creating an educational outreach program for a local wildlife rehabilitation center, and working with children in the classroom, Sarah recognized the importance of learning through doing, and place based environmental experiences, and made it a priority to get involved. This led her to find the Teton Science School field education programs, where they do just that, teaching through experiences! As part of the TSS team Sarah hopes to learn valuable skills from fellow experienced field instructors, as well as having an awesome summer giving kids unforgettable experiences in the beautiful Teton range and surrounding areas!



**Hannah Neve**

B.S. Human Development and Family Sciences/Minor in Sociology, Oregon State University

*Teton Youth and Family Services AmeriCorps Member*

Hannah was raised in a small town in Washington. She made her way to Oregon where she graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Human Development and Family Sciences. She focused her studies on Human Services, and since graduating, has discovered her passion for working with youth. She has worked with youth and teens in different capacities, ranging from an agriculturally based alternative high school classroom to a residential treatment center. Hannah hopes to combine working with youth with her interest in experiential learning and her love for the outdoors. In her free time, you could find her adventuring outside, dancing, rock climbing, eating tasty food and spending time with friends.