



## Teton Science Schools

### AmeriCorps Service Members Winter/Spring 2021



**Sam Allen, she/her**

*Serving with Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance & TSS Teacher Learning Center*

Sam grew up in Northern New Jersey and graduated from St. Lawrence University in 2020 with a B.S in Environmental Studies and Biology and a minor in Educational Studies. At St. Lawrence, Sam studied abroad in New Zealand, where she spent her semester exploring the country through many outdoor adventures. It was through her liberal arts experience that she developed a passion for education and is always finding ways to keep learning about ecology and conservation. Sam has always had a love for nature and is eager to build a meaningful career in the conservation field. She is excited to learn more about place-based education and to gain experience working with different non-profits through TSS. In her free time, Sam enjoys playing and coaching soccer, reading, leading fitness classes, hanging with friends, and enjoying the outdoors.



**Angela Cobas, she/her**

*Serving with Teton Raptor Center and Community Entry Services*

I grew up in rural Southern Michigan. I began studying birds and nature at a young age by reading field guides. I have various disabilities I have struggled with throughout my life, especially since I am on the Autism Spectrum. I have an incredible memory for anything in the natural world! I went to school at Michigan State University where I received a B.S. in Zoology as part of their Lyman Briggs ethics program. I had two Internships; one was a Raptor Center internship at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Pennsylvania. I then had an internship with National Audubon at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Then I spent Fall of 2006 as the Education Director at the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch, working for Hawkwatch International. Then I spent two seasons working on an Acadian Flycatcher and Northern Cardinal Research Project through Ohio State University, and then one season working on a Golden-winged Warbler Project through Michigan Technological University. I became a member of TSS's AmeriCorps team because I am trying to get back to work after a long period of life circumstances getting in my way... I am here to prove people with disabilities can make a positive impact in our world! In my free time, I like to read about birds and wildlife, participate in citizen science projects such as eBird and iNaturalist, and yes, I'm crazy about video games too!



**Alison Frame, she/her**

*Serving with Jackson Hole Children's Museum and Teton Valley Community Recycling*

Alison grew up in central Utah and graduated from Utah State University with a B.A. in mechanical engineering and minor in mathematics. After college, her passion for adventure took her on an unexpected and adventurous path volunteering in Lithuania and working in Alaska, Utah and Yosemite National Park. It was there in Yosemite Valley that she stumbled across the Sierra Nevada mountain range and it was love at first sight and has been there ever since. She chose to be an AmeriCorp member at TSS because she is eager to combine her love and passion for teaching with the outdoors. Other interests include staring at the Sierra whether it's from a far, backpacking or skiing, yoga in high places, identifying plants and birds, and avoiding large crowds.



**Zoe Gapayao, she/her**

*Serving with Wyoming Wilderness Association*

Zoe is a graduate of Middlebury Institute of International Studies with a master's degree in International Environmental Policy and of the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in Marine Science and Biology. As a former long-term intern for an environmental education nonprofit in Carmel Valley, CA, Zoe is passionate about zero waste systems and connecting children with the natural world. Zoe had an active role in administrative responsibilities as well as community stewardship and outreach for the organization. Zoe has also worked and volunteered in coastal resource management and conserving endangered marine species like whale sharks, sea otters, Hawaiian monk seals, and sea turtles. She is excited to be joining TSS as an AmeriCorps member because of its commitment to student engagement and promoting understanding of the surrounding world. Zoe hopes to someday establish an environmental

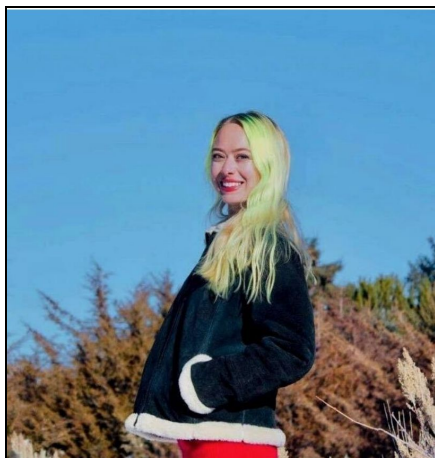
educational component at her family's eco resort in the Philippines that connects learning with communities, and she is excited to learn more about place-based education principles. She enjoys hiking, scuba diving, yoga, and working on her van build during her free time.



**Ellie Hodgson, she/her**

*Serving with Coombs Outdoors*

Ellie is originally from Madison, WI, but has spent the past five years learning, teaching, and exploring in the Rocky Mountains. A recent graduate of the University of Colorado, Ellie studied International Affairs and Spanish. During college, she led a club called Boulder Assets, which focused on tutoring kids at local elementary schools. For the past three summers, Ellie has worked at outdoor education-based summer camps, where she found her passion for teaching kids about their natural world. Ellie currently lives in Denver, CO, and she was drawn to TSS because she is excited about the opportunity to help students develop their love for the outdoors, as well as the opportunity to work with local non-profits. In her free time, you can find Ellie skiing, mountain biking, or playing with her puppy.



**Paulina Littlefield, she/her**

*Serving with Mountainside Institute & Wyoming Untrapped*

Paulina grew up in Idaho not far from the shadow of the Grand Teton Mountains. College then took her to Western Kentucky University to pursue a B.S. in karst geosciences, where along the way she became aware of the need for interdisciplinary knowledge among scientists, educators, and policy-makers. Wanting to bridge the knowledge for herself, she completed a M.S. in energy policy and climate studies through Johns Hopkins University. Paulina is excited to be an AmeriCorps member at TSS and participate in work that values the importance of the local community. Off duty, you can find her spending time with her horses, backpacking in the mountains, and finding new ways to live more sustainably.



**Naomi Major**, she/her

*Serving with Teton County Search And Rescue Foundation*

After growing up in Telluride, Colorado, Naomi went to Burlington, Vermont to attend Saint Michael's College. She graduated with a BA in Environmental Studies and minored in Political Science. She currently resides in Bend, Oregon where she has done work with Mt. Bachelor Ski Area, local startups and Hydro Flask. Naomi is excited to join TSS and AmeriCorps during the COVID-19 pandemic to promote and assist in wilderness education and community engagement. If she isn't working, you can find her rafting, skiing, biking or driving around the west looking for the next adventure.



**Matthew McLeod-Warrick**, he/him

*Serving with Jackson Hole Climate Action Collective & Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation*

I am from Massachusetts, and have a bachelors of arts degree from Principia College, where I majored in both Political Science and Global Studies and minored in Sustainability and Economics. I am passionate about sustainable development and combating climate change in the 21st century. I am excited to put this into practice by working with non-profit organizations in the Jackson Hole area. In my spare time I love to read novels, the occasional non-fiction, and fantasy series.



**Andrew Miller**, he/him

*Serving with Wyoming Wildlife Advocates*

Andrew is originally from Wheat Ridge, Colorado. He attended the University of Wyoming and received a B.S. in Environmental Geology and Geohydrology in 2020. As an undergraduate at UW, he spent time researching the hydrothermal pools in Yellowstone. Through this research he developed a passion for Yellowstone and hopes to continue his research there when he begins graduate school in the Fall. Andrew wanted to pursue an Americorps position at TSS to engage with the community living on the doorstep of Yellowstone and to help educate people of all ages about a place he is deeply passionate about. In his free time, Andrew enjoys hiking, kayaking, and playing board games with friends.





**Mary Sellars, she/her**  
*Serving with Teton Raptor Center*

Mary completed her undergraduate degree in Wildlife Biology and Geographic Information Systems from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Superior. While studying in Wisconsin's Northwoods she managed a research project examining the breeding habitat of the American Kestrel and prescribed fires as a source of ecological restoration for wildlife. She also spent a semester living in the bush and working on a wildlife field crew in the Okavango Delta of Botswana. Mary has been living in Phoenix, Arizona working on projects related to veterinary medicine and is currently in Bozeman, Montana enjoying the wilderness of the Northern Rockies. These experiences led her to pursue an Americorps position with TSS to serve at the intersections of wildlife science and community organization in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. In her free time Mary likes to hula hoop, trail run, paint with watercolors and bird.



**Kate Swisher, she/her**  
*Serving with Full Circle Education*

Kate is from Marin County, California and currently lives in San Francisco. She earned her degree in English from Whitman College last May. Though the humanities was Kate's initial calling, her curiosity in science and the environment gradually leaked into her creative projects. This past summer, when she was tutoring a student in writing, a poem about honey bees inspired her burgeoning passion for pollinators and California native plants. Since, she has been interning with Bonnie Bee & Company where she tends to honey bees and promotes pollinator gardens around the Bay Area. As an AmeriCorp member she hopes to explore creative approaches to environmental education. In her spare time, Kate writes essays and poems about mental and environmental health for her blog: [catandsprout.com](http://catandsprout.com)



**Marisa Wesker, she/her**  
*Serving with Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative*

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Marisa discovered a love for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem while leading summer wilderness trips for middle school students. She was fortunate enough to participate in a few naturalist hikes with TSS guides and knew she had to come back to such an amazing organization! After graduating from Tulane University with a degree in Political Science & French, Marisa moved to the foothills of the Colorado Rockies in search of bigger skies and less humidity. She worked for an educational ranch where her primary focuses were showing students the natural wonders of the nearby Rocky Mountain National Park and Roosevelt National Forest while encouraging them to reflect on their experiences and connect with their peers. One of Marisa's passions (...obsessions) is the intersection of place-based education and conservation policy, and her choice to pursue the TSS Americorps program stems from her desire to help others build meaningful relationships to the natural

world while recognizing that identity, politics, and socio-economics play a meaningful role in one's ability to participate in such opportunities. Marisa is currently living in Boulder, CO, and spends most of her free time skiing, hiking, petting every dog she sees, and attempting to play musical instruments.