



### **ROBIN MAYO, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



Robin Mayo is the Executive Director for Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) in the Copper River Basin. She grew up in Fairbanks and draws on a lifetime of experience in spending time in nature. Before joining the nonprofit sector she owned a fiber arts business, worked as a guide, as a sheep shearer, and in hospitality. WISE is a bridge-building organization that works with a wide variety of agencies, tribal organizations, and nonprofits to bring quality science and environmental education programs to youth and adults in the Copper River Basin. Robin is the Alaska Conservation Foundation's awardee for the 2024 Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education.

### **Dr. Joanna Young - Inspiring Girls\* Expeditions Alaska**



Dr. Joanna Young is a UAF Research Associate and Program Director of Inspiring Girls\* Expeditions Alaska. She is the daughter of public school teachers, and grew up spending summers roaming the lakes and mixed forest of southern Ontario, Canada, at her family's off-road cabin. She moved to Alaska in 2010 to spend what she thought would be two years completing a Masters degree, but fell in love with the boreal forest and has stayed ever since. Joanna's work lies at the intersection of glaciology, Earth sciences, environmental education, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. She can usually be found outside with her family including two young children, testing the limits of how dirty or snowy people can get.

### **Lacey Hemming - Apple Blossoms Forest School**



Lacey was a children's librarian for 5 years prior to starting her own in-home day care, to be home with her newborn son. After 3 years running a traditional daycare, she decided to close and completely transform her school with the guidance of some amazing mentors. Apple Blossoms Forest School started in summer of 2021 and has expanded to a sister school Little Bees Forest School owned by colleague Bri Ramsey.



### **Annie Runde - BLM| Campbell Creek Science Center**

Annie Runde is the Education Specialist at The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) in Anchorage, Alaska. She started at CCSC in spring, 2022, after 10 years working for the National Park Service around the Western US as an Education Specialist. During her free time, you can find her with her husband and twin sons backpacking, camping, ice skating, and cross-country skiing.



### **Meredith**

Meredith grew up in southern Washington State and slowly and continually moved farther North over her adult life. After receiving a BA from University of Washington Seattle in Technical Theater, Meredith started snowboarding and working as a white-water rafting guide. After graduation she started looking outside for a new career and found Environmental Education. Meredith received a MA in Environmental Education from Lesley University's Audubon Expedition Institute. Learning about community, the outdoors, and new ways of teaching in an experiential format, inspired her to want to share the outdoors with others. Meredith came to Alaska in 2011 for a summer job and never looked back. She has spent the past five years as the Youth Engagement Manager for the Anchorage Park Foundation, where she works to support teachers in getting kids outside. Meredith believes the outdoors is for everyone and if we don't intentionally create time and space for youth to have positive experiences outside, they may not care about that space in the future.



### **Kate Trudeau - Prince William Sound Science Center**

Kate got her start in environmental education in 2014 at the Campbell Creek Science Center. Since then, she has taught for the Chugach School District, Walking Mountain Science Center, and Eagle County Schools. She is now an environmental educator at the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova Alaska. She received her master's degree in science education from the University of Northern Colorado where she dove into child development and age-appropriate curriculum. Kate values interdisciplinary learning and inclusion in education to help everyone connect to the outdoors. In addition to exploring the outdoors with children, Kate is passionate about bicycles. Before arriving in Cordova, she biked 2000 miles from the headwaters of the Colorado River to the sea as a National Geographic Explorer and taught water ecology in schools along the way.



### **Matthew Jones - Alaska Rock Gym, Uncruise**

Matthew Jones is an experiential educator with over 11 years of experience working in various capacities in the industry around the country. Growing up in Baltimore as a neurodivergent youth he always found a sense of peace when out in nature so now as an adult he decided to dedicate his life to helping others connect with nature. After gaining his masters in Environmental Management from Western Colorado University he has worked for organizations such as the UN Mountain Partnership as a curriculum consultant, Naturalist at Large in California, Coldharbour Institute in Colorado, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, and currently works during the school year for the Alaska Rock Gym while in the summer working as a Naturalist for Uncruise Adventures. He will soon be launching his own neurodivergent Outdoor business soon here in Anchorage.





**Travis Marchard and Arlo Adamson - Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**

Travis Marchard and Arlo Adamson have worked in the field of Outdoor Education since 2014 and 2017 respectively. They have facilitated team building programs with hundreds of people of all walks of life at camps, schools, and challenge courses in several states across the east coast. Currently they both live in Girdwood, AK and work at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, AK



**Gretchen Weiss-Brooks - Alaska Park Foundation**

Arriving in Alaska at only a few months old, Gretchen cannot say that she was ‘born and raised’ in Alaska, however, she is a lifelong Alaskan with a love for hunting, fishing, and being out in the wilds. Raised with two siblings that are blind, Gretchen has a passion for accessibility. Gretchen has over two decades of experience as a multi-media storyteller producing award-winning communications and designs for the Anchorage Museum, the Alaska State Troopers, the Alaska Commission for Postsecondary Education, plus media including newspapers, magazines, and television. She is also fond of dabbling in creative visual arts and writing pursuits. Gretchen enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and can often be found roaming Far North Bicentennial Park.





### **Glenn Hart - National Park Service**

I am Inupiat/English-Irish by birth and Aleut by culture. Born in Anchorage in 1962 and grew up in the Mat-Su Valley. After high school school, I entered and served 4 years with the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis Washington, received the Good Conduct, Expedition Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. I entered college in 1987, and took advantage of a permanent job opening with Kenai Fjords NP in 1994. I am currently the Education Specialist for the Alaska Public Lands Information Center, I have worked at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (first permanent full time Education Specialist), Gates of the Arctic NP/P (first full time Education Specialist) from 1999-2001, Kenai Fjords National Park (Interpretation then first full time Education Specialist) from 1990-1999 and started out at Sitka National Historical Park (seasonal Interpretation Ranger) for two summer seasons. I have also worked part time at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage (during the winter of 94) and have done numerous other details for other various National Parks in Alaska.

I have taught for Elderhostel, the National Wildlife Federation, The Alaska Natural History Symposium (keynote and class session), Boy Scouts of America (keynote), and numerous other audiences on Alaska Native Culture and History. I have performed at the Kennedy Hall in Washington D.C. for the President's Day Concerts (poem and song). I have also been a guest trainer for NPS Fundamentals II and V training classes for the National Park Service.



### **Emily Leak Michie- Director, Alaska Voter Hub**

Emily has been a staple and leader in Alaska's nonprofit and political education community for over a decade. She took over leadership of the Alaska Voter Hub in 2021, where she is working to ensure more community organizations and nonprofits collaborate to support statewide voter education and access. With a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Alaska Anchorage, Emily began her career in political and community organizing in 2015. Her background in direct voter outreach, campaign management, education, and strategic use of data collection and analysis has made her a valuable asset to the Alaska nonprofit community where she has led many successful campaigns in pursuit of environmental justice, social equity, and increased statewide voter turnout. Anchorage's vibrant and diverse communities and landscapes inspire Emily. As the mother of two, she is driven to help build a positive future for her family and Alaska's communities.