

# 2026 Environmental Educators Symposium Speakers



## **Lupine Reifler - ANSEP**

I am 16 years old from Denali, Alaska, where I still spend my summers. I take classes at UAA through the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program and am involved with the Denali Citizens Council and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action. I work as an interpretive ranger in Denali National Park and Preserve, my favorite place in the world, where sharing it with others has taught me the value of outdoor education. I plan to work in environmental law or outdoor education. The environment is central to my identity, and I love hiking, backpacking, skiing, and swimming in near-frozen lakes. I'm excited to connect with other outdoor educators at this year's ANROE symposium.



## **Izzy Brown - ANSEP**

Hello my name is Izzy Brown a senior from ANSEP (Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program) and Alaska Youth For Environmental Action member. Whether it be to play in or to educate about I love all things outdoors! Growing up in Denali and being surrounded by such pure wilderness has inspired my conservation advocacy journey!



## **Leila Pyle, AYEА**

Leila Pyle is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in Kodiak and now lives on Lower Tanana Dene lands in Fairbanks. She has worked in environmental and outdoor education for over 10 years, working with everyone from preschoolers to adults. Leila is currently the Program Manager for Alaskan Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA), where she teaches about climate justice and civic engagement, and helps teens from across Alaska gain the skills and tools to advocate for issues that matter to their communities.



### **Kamryn You Mak, AYEA**

Kamryn You Mak is a recent arrival to Dena'ina Etnena in Anchorage as an Environmental Education and Youth Leadership Fellow with the Alaska Center through the Alaska Fellows Program. She seeks to connect people with their local environments and communities through environmental education and youth advocacy. Kamryn has worked in various states from California to Vermont and within federal and state government, as well as non-profit programs.



### **Robin Mayo**

Robin Mayo is the Executive Director of WISE (Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment) and a life-long Alaskan who believes that outdoor learning and adventures build a life-long foundation of stewardship along with teamwork, self-reliance, and awareness of the world. Robin also serves on the Board of Directors for ANROE, Kenny Lake Public Library, and Copper Country Alliance. She is a spinner, felter, quilter, reader and cross-country skier.



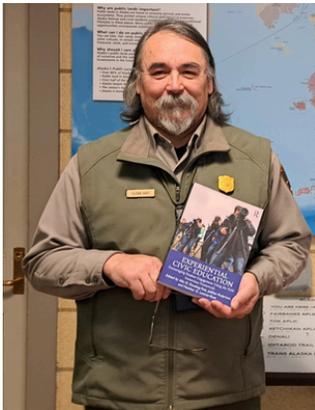
### **Emily Becker - Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District,**

Emily is District Manager for the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District, supervising the Invasive Species, Native Plants, and Urban Agriculture programs. She previously worked for RurAL CAP in the GROW program, supporting food security projects across Alaska. She taught in Alaska public schools for 20 years, earned a Permaculture Design Certificate, and is currently enrolled in the UAF Ethnobotany program. She serves as the newsletter editor of the Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage chapter, on the Board of Boyer's Orchard, and is a member of the Alaska Native Plant Society.



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

Kate began environmental education in 2014 at the Campbell Creek Science Center and 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 earned her master's in science education from the University of Northern Colorado, studying child development and age-appropriate curriculum. Kate values interdisciplinary learning and inclusion to help everyone connect to the outdoors. A passionate cyclist, she biked 2,000 miles from the headwaters of the Colorado River to the sea as a National Geographic Explorer, teaching water ecology along the way.



### **Glenn Hart - National Park Servicer**

Born in Anchorage in 1962 and raised in the Mat-Su Valley, I began my National Park Service career in 1988 at Sitka National Historical Park. I worked seasonally at Kenai Fjords National Park from 1990–1999, then served as the first full-time Education Specialist at Gates of the Arctic (1999–2001) and Wrangell–St. Elias (2001–2017). I am currently the Education Specialist for the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.



### **Tracy Wirak-Cassidy - Takshanuk Watershed Council**

Tracy lives in Deishú (Haines), Alaska and is the Education Coordinator for the Takshanuk Watershed Council. She provides environmental and outdoor education in Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan through programs in gardening, composting, watershed studies, snow science, and marine debris education. She is an ANROE board member and a Polar STEAM educator fellow on the Follow the Water project.



### **Molly Gillespie - Project Learning Tree**

Molly Gillespie is the Alaska Project Learning Tree Coordinator, a naturalist, and certified environmental educator who uses public lands as outdoor classrooms. She lives on Ahtna lands near Yedatene Na' (Native Village of Cantwell) and values learning from the land. Through her partnership with REAP, AK PLT connects educators to local issues and solutions using trees and forests as a lens for learning.



### **Colleen Fisk - REAP**

Colleen Fisk has been the Education Director at Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) since 2016, overseeing REAP's statewide K-12 outreach, curriculum development, teacher trainings, and adult education on energy efficiency and renewable energy. A life-long Alaskan, Colleen lives near Benteh Nuutah (Wasilla) with her family and animals. Colleen and Molly have been collaborating since 2021 when Colleen attended one of Molly's workshops in Denali National Park.



### **Paul Asicksik and Mari Hansell- Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC)**

The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) is the only living cultural center in Alaska creating meaningful engagements to help the public learn about Alaska Native cultures. As the only statewide entity focused on Alaska Native traditions, languages, arts, and cultural practices, ANHC serves as a global resource. Its Indigenous Awareness Workshops are based on the belief that everyone must learn to live and work together and can be tailored to meet specific needs.



### **Matthew Jones - Divergent Outdoors**

Matthew Jones (he/him) is a neurodivergent affirming outdoor educator with over 12 years of experience in the field. Having worked for Outward Bound, Mass Audubon, Naturalist At Large, alongside the UN before coming to Alaska. Since moving to Alaska he has become one of the head coaches at the Alaska Rock Gym and runs his executive function coaching and consulting business Divergent Outdoors. Soon he will be returning to university to acquire his Masters in Social Work.



**Lilly Goodman-Allwright - STReaM Academy**

Lilly Goodman-Allwright has spent the past eight years at Anchorage STReaM Academy leading project-based, outdoor learning and STEM across the curriculum. She has trained over 800 educators across Alaska, revised and written curricula, and developed workshops in a wide range of science topics. In 2014, she was recognized as an International Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Honoree.



**Emily Wesley - STReaM Academy**

Emily Wesley has spent eight years in the Anchorage School District and works at Anchorage STReaM Academy focusing on project-based, outdoor, and place-based learning. She has taught multiple subjects and is passionate about inspiring a love of learning and the outdoors. Her students have been recognized for honoring Indigenous peoples and for winning an ASTE Micronarrative Film Contest. She also coaches middle school cross country and skiing and enjoys time with her Siberian Husky, Maya Goose.