

Mountains to Main Street Ambassador Bios

*Grand Teton National Park
January 10-16th, 2016*





Alan Edwards is the director of Education at Groundwork Cincinnati-Mill Creek.



Alexander Rhodes was born in Anchorage, Alaska, though his family moved to join his mother's side of the family in St. Paul Minnesota at a young age. Nature has been a big influence within his life. He spent much of his earlier years exploring Minnesota's parks by attending YMCA camps and going on trips with the Boy Scouts. This upbringing has contributed to his aspirations to continue exploring more of what our nation's public lands have to offer. So after high school he went to study in Tampa Bay, Florida at Eckerd College to receive a Liberal Arts education. Majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in coastal management, he has

become passionate about protecting our most vital resources so that nature can impact others as much as it has for him. Most recently, upon graduation he moved to Portland Oregon to work as the Youth Project Coordinator for Groundwork Portland full time in the effort to develop Environmental Justice as well as his professional skills.



Ashley Gomillion has worked with SCA for about 5 years now, working in the great outdoors promoting conservation with high school aged children.



Ashley Perez grew up in Yonkers, NY, and her first job as a Green Team member of Groundwork Hudson Valley sparked a great interest in the outdoors. After hating her first outing, the mountains captivated her soul and she soon grew fond of hiking and camping. She hopes the patience, safety, and a sense of togetherness is something she can offer her own community, just like her first day in the mountains. After finishing her environmental studies degree, she hopes to pursue Urban Ecology to go into the world of academia and use her research to help expose the next generation of stewards to their public lands.



Breona Green is 18 years-old and going into her Sophomore year at Flagler College as a Coastal Environmental and Criminology major with a minor in Anthropology. Her main goal is to work on research for NOAA or to become a Forensic Anthropologist. She has been with Groundwork Jacksonville for less than a year as a Green Team member, but hopes to be able to stay with the organization for as long as she can in the hopes of improving not just her community, but the country as a whole when it comes to environmental conservation and healthy living.



Carlton Burns is a senior at Salisbury University studying Human Communications. He has been involved in SCA's NPS Academy as well as CDIP and SCA internships. He has also been a part of Yellowstone National Park's YCC Program as a Recreational Ranger for a few seasons. He is from the Washington DC metropolitan area.



Cheria Caldwell is a native of Indianapolis. She attended Indiana State University and obtained her Bachelors in criminology. With the goal of working with communities to create positive changes in blighted neighborhoods, Cheria enrolled in graduate school at Ball State University to study urban and regional planning. Throughout her course studies, Cheria had the opportunity to gain extensive experience working with residents, community stakeholders, local government, non-profits and grassroots organizations. Cheria is a bicycling advocate and led the local launch of Red Bike Green, a cycling organization that focuses on bicycle advocacy within the African American community. As

the program manager for Love to Ride Indy, Cheria coordinates a three week bike challenge sponsored by the Knozone initiative. Cheria's desire to evoke positive change through redevelopment and revitalization within communities has led her to Groundwork Indy! She's excited about working alongside youth, residents and stakeholders in the Northwest Area.



Daniel Agudelo is currently studying at the University of Michigan. He is one of those annoying visitors who asks where he can get his NPS passport stamped because he loves the National Parks so much. He wants to share his passion with audiences that don't have the privilege to experience what he's experienced and offer them the opportunities to recreate, and make memories.



Dele Johnson is from Denver, CO and works for Groundwork Denver. Since a young age he's loved spending time outdoors whether it's playing sports, hiking, cycling, or just hanging out. He's a huge soccer fan and goes to at least 2 or 3 concerts a month because he likes to dance and listen to live music.



Dominique Skinner is the Program Coordinator for Groundwork Anacostia River DC in Washington, DC. She currently has a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and is pursuing a doctorate degree. She enjoys traveling and participating in physical activities. She spends most of her leisure time giving back to the community and helping young people succeed.

NOT PICTURED

Earl Bennett is 20 years of age and he loves working with kids.

NOT PICTURED

Eddie Van is from CityKids Wilderness Project in the DC area.



Emily Nadal was born and raised in New York City, NY and loves everything about it. She is currently attending Colorado Technical University majoring in Criminal Justice. Still unsure about her future career, she takes each new experience as a learning opportunity to broaden her horizons and see what this world has to offer. Whatever she ends up doing, she aims to be engaged with the public somehow, helping them,

teaching them, whatever it may be, she never wants to be cooped up in an office.



Fabiola Delgado grew up in a small boarder town near Yuma, Arizona, and recently graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology. Currently, she works for Saguaro National Park as the new AmeriCorps DOI/VISTA service intern. Her favorite hobbies are learning about archaeology and experiencing the outdoors. She is looking forward to traveling to Wyoming and visiting Grand Teton National Park!



Freddy Gutierrez Fernandez currently works at Saguaro National Park as an interpretive ranger (intern) for The Next Generation Ranger Corps. Initially, he wanted to become a law enforcement ranger, but recently has chosen a different path. Due to the fact that he volunteered for a little over a year at the visitor center at Saguaro East District, he got to see firsthand what being interpretive ranger is all about and loves it! He loves interacting with people from all over the world and talking about the park's resources and answering or trying to answer their questions about this fascinating place. This passion comes naturally because of the special

connection he has with the Sonoran Desert, where he was raised. Because of that, he would really like to become an interpretative ranger for the National Park Service.



Jeremiah Roy is 18 years old and just finished his first semester in College! He is a member of Groundwork New Orleans.



Jessica Macer is a 2015 Hood College alumna with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a minor in coastal studies. She completed her first SCA program as a national crew member in 2010 while still in high school and has been pursuing a career in conservation ever since. Her pursuits have led her to work with several bureaus within the Department of Interior including the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Her favorite part of being an ecologist is travelling and learning about the ecosystems she lives in—"being a jack-of-all-ecosystems." As a Baltimore native she is interested in connecting urban communities with the nature around

them. Growing up within the Chesapeake Bay watershed has also influenced her to attend graduate school to study freshwater ecology.



Julia Sosin is an environmental science grad from Metro Detroit, MI. She loves music, gardening, meeting other people, and bicycling.



Junze Gao is excited to meet everyone! He is 20 years old, a college student, originally from China, but as all the other Chinese does, he has chosen "Kevin" as his English name, because no one can pronounce his name correctly. His friends call him KK, so Kevin, Junze or KK would work. He just got here last year, and has been helping Groundwork Richmond (Richmond, California) for a couple months. He speaks limited/broken English, so excuse his pronunciation.



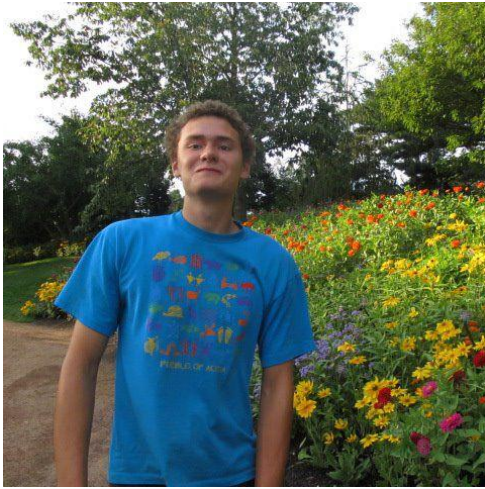
Karen Reyes is a member of Groundwork Dallas.



Kevin Blanchette Jr is a life lover. The outdoors is his home. He loves challenging himself, and pushing his limits. He also loves hearing people's stories.



Marlen Paredes is 19 years old. She is a second year student at Kean University in Union, NJ studying Sustainability Science. She became a Green Team member for Groundwork Elizabeth 4 years ago and has loved it ever since. One of her life goals is to do something in every state in the United States. She also wants to fill up her National Park Passport with more stamps. Some of her favorite things to do include exploring new places, going to concerts and hiking. She is really excited to meet everyone!



Nick Montezon has a passion for partnering with people who bring enthusiasm, dedication and grit to the work they do and the communities they serve. He has a background as a farmer and a builder. He also has a history as an educator and youth leader.



Pamela Segura is the AmeriCorps/DOI Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) at Groundwork Hudson Valley in southwest Yonkers, New York. She was born in Hunts' Point and has lived off every train line in the Bronx. Her parents immigrated to New York City from the Dominican Republic in 1990. She graduated from Manhattan College with a degree in English and music. During her senior year, she completed a course on environmental literature that exposed her to ecofeminism and deep ecology — thus, integrating environmental justice into her personal and professional ethics. After Groundwork, she hopes to merge my interests in food justice, literature, hip hop, youth development, and

community-led activism by teaching and pursuing a degree in psychology. When not working, she enjoys playing guitar, hanging with friends, and embarking on long train rides.



Rolando Matos grew up in Providence, RI. He works for Groundwork Providence's landscaping company called GroundCorp and went through its environmental job training program. He likes hands-on work and keeping busy! His favorite parts of working with GroundCorp are planting trees and knowing that he is helping the environment. This is his first time travelling to Wyoming, and out of the East Coast so he is really excited!



the Green Team. She now works as the Director of Youth Program at Groundwork Hudson Valley

Sara Smith Sell was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, and moved to Yonkers eight years ago to attend Sarah Lawrence College and has been working in the Southwest Yonkers community since year one. Sara's work in garden education and food justice began with the Greyston Foundation's community gardens, and more specifically their Enviro-Earth Club. She spent two years as a garden educator with this group and one year serving as the chair of the organization. Sara also interned in the Seattle Tilth Children's Garden in 2012 as a garden educator. Sara began working at Groundwork as an intern under a USDA grant and was hired in June 2013 to lead



Tania Ahmed has worked with Groundwork Somerville for two years as part of the Green Team. After graduating from Somerville High School, she started at Wellesley College with a major in biological sciences and a minor in environmental studies, inspired by her work with Groundwork. This past summer she was one of the Green Team crew leaders and worked with ten high school students as part of the program. She is excited to continue her involvement with GW by going on the trip to Grand Teton!

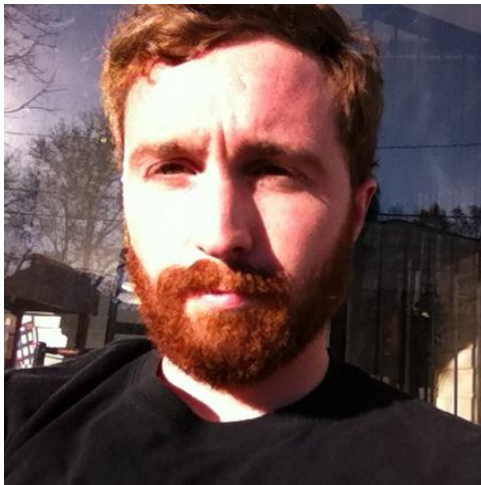


Tanner Burgdorf is 25 and still playing in the dirt. He works for Groundwork Bridgeport as the youth leader for the organization. He grew up in Maine until moving to Connecticut for college and is all about landscape design and growing veggies.



Tanner Yess grew up on the move with stops in the Caribbean and Kansas before settling in Kentucky. After earning his undergraduate degree in environmental science from Northern Kentucky University he worked on a fishing vessel in the Bering Sea. In 2011, Tanner began his Peace Corps assignment in southern Thailand. His work concentrated on natural resource management, environmental education and eco-tourism. During graduate school, Tanner helped start Greater Cincinnati's Tri-State Trails Coalition; he is also a board member of Outdoor Adventure Clubs of Greater Cincinnati which helps gets urban youth into nature. Tanner's interests include

everything outdoors and pizza.



Thomas Makled is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Studies and Urban and Regional Studies programs, with an interest in urban environmental issues, community engagement, and power structures in community change. He is also interested in ecological economics and eventually pursuing graduate studies in the field. He currently works as a sociology research assistant at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and as a landscaper/construction laborer for a small Dearborn business. On occasion, he escapes the jargon-y world of academia to clear his mind outside, meditate, or write.