

# Create Academy 2025 Staff

**Macey Walter**  
Camp Director



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Outdoor Studies degree and have worked at PNA the last 6 years.  
***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Overnight Girl Scout camp and I loved being outside and singing camp songs.  
***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Cat

**Wyatt Slater**  
Assistant Camp Director



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's degree in History and minor in Political Science. Working 10 summers at other camps.  
***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Attending Boy Scout camp and traveling to San Diego for a camp with my troop.  
***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Peregrine Falcon

**Suzanne Snyder**  
Front Desk Administrator/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Masters of Education in Special Education. Teaching preschool special education the last 3 years.  
***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Many local AK camps as a kid and loved making lifelong friends.  
***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Capybara

### Megan Widdle

Camp Instructor/2nd season



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** Bachelor's degree in Education and 8 years of teaching experience. Past PNA teacher back for some of summer.

**Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?** Yes, I loved making friends and doing crafts.

**If you were an animal, what would you be?** Fox

### Lea Rueter

Camp Instructor/PNA Teacher/3rd Season



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and 11 years teaching experience.

**Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?** Yes, I went to a camp where we got to bike to a park and I loved that.

**If you were an animal, what would you be?** Bird

### Meghan McGarvey

Camp Instructor/PNA Teacher



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** Masters in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. 10 years teaching experience.

**Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?** Yes, I loved learning new skills, doing all the different activities and making friends.

**If you were an animal, what would you be?** Dog

**Marcella Hitchcock**  
PNA Teacher/4th Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Minor in Language Arts. Over 15 years teaching experience.

**Michelle Greer**  
Camp Instructor/5th Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's degree in Biology and Masters in Education. 15 years of teaching experience.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, Sleepaway camp and learning to horseback ride were my favorite.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Townsend Big Eared Bat

**Melissa Yanchak**  
Creative Arts Instructor/3rd Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelors in Organizational Leadership - Minors in Arts Management and Nonprofit Administration. M.F.A. Candidate in Theatre Arts. 20 years music director K-12 grade.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, going hiking, watching sunsets and storytelling at camp were my favorite.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Bald Eagle



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### Sharon Savage

Camp Instructor/PNA Teacher



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts & Master's in Teaching.

**Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?** No, but participated in many library summer reading challenges...and earned many mini pizzas.

**If you were an animal, what would you be?** Octopus

### Jon Harvil

Robotics Instructor/3rd Season



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** 6 years of teaching experience in Anchorage schools. Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Masters in Education.

### Valbona Nuhuju

Camp Instructor/2nd Season



**What degree and/or experience do you have?** Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Business. Working in the Anchorage school district for 10 years.

**Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?** I would have loved and would still love to attend a biking camp.

**If you were an animal, what would you be?** Wolf

### **Rose Mathias**

Creative Arts Instructor/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Associates degree in Music. Teaching private music and dance lessons for 3 years.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, I loved all the outdoor activities in the Alaska weather!

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Golden Retriever

### **Jaymee Wheeler**

Camp Instructor/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's Degree in English and Bachelors in English Education. Has worked in childcare settings, schools and camps the last 15 years.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Lion or Tiger

### **Sydney Noland**

Camp Instructor and Assistant/2nd Season/Camp Leadership Team



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Been working as a school social worker intern.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, I loved animal camp at the zoo!

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Puffin



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### **Mckenzie Fazio**

Outdoor Education Instructor/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration and Minor Sports Psychology.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** No, but would have loved to attend an outdoor adventure camp of some sort!

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Polar Bear

### **Emily Crosswhite**

Outdoor Education Instructor/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Currently studying Health and Physical Education at Liberty University with a goal to become a teacher.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** No, but would have loved something adventures or sports related.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Golden Retriever

### **Keely Holt**

PNA Preschool Assistant/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, I loved Solid Rock Horse Camp and Trailside camps as a kid. Loved swimming in lakes at camp.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Raven or Pangolin



### **Lauren Santillie**

Camp Assistant/2nd Season

***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Working on a Bachelors in English Literature and have been a counselor at another camp.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, I loved learning card games from the camp counselors.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Bear

### **Nathan Peterson**

Camp Assistant/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Attending college for a bachelors in Journalism and Public Communication and working towards my teaching certification. Has taught swimming lessons, homeschool classes and subbing with ASD.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** No, but participated in boy scouts and loved to collect bugs and learn about them.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Leopard Gecko

### **Kesha Kraly**

Camp Assistant/1st Season



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Currently studying Chemical Engineering and have worked at a preschool camp.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, attending theatre camp and playing Chip the teacup from Beauty and the Beast.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Hamster



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## Michael Njoku

Camp Assistant/3rd Season/Camp Leadership Team



***What degree and/or experience do you have?*** Just graduated High School and will attend Princeton in the fall.

***Did you attend summer camp as a kid? Favorite memory or camp you would have loved to attend?*** Yes, making smores at camp and doing crafts and activities.

***If you were an animal, what would you be?*** Eagle