

CREATE ACADEMY STAFF

2026



Macey Walter - Camp Director

Macey has an Outdoor Studies degree and has worked at PNA the last 7 years. This is her 4th summer as camp director. Macey attended overnight Girl Scout camp growing up and loved being outside and singing camp songs.

Wyatt Slater - Assistant Camp Director

Wyatt has a bachelor's degree in History and minor in Political Science. Wyatt has worked 10 summers at other camps. When he was younger he attended Boy Scout camp and traveled to San Diego for a camp with his troop.



Veronica Shilanski - Front Desk

This is Veronica's 1st season at Create Academy! She was a lifeguard and swim instructor for 10 years. She never went to a summer camp as a kid but was a very active participant in the summer reading program.

Sydney Noland - Social Media & Communication

Sydney has a degree in Social Work and this will be her 3rd year at Create Academy. She just completed her 1st year working as a behavior technician at a school in Fairbanks. Sydney's favorite summer activities are crafts or anything outside in the sun. Her favorite summer camp was zoo camp where she got to work alongside the zookeepers and zoo staff.





Valbona Nuhiji - Camp Instructor

Valbona is excited for her 3rd season at Create Academy. She has a bachelors in Business/ Economy and is working on a psychology certificate. Her favorite summer activities are spending time outdoors biking, hiking and camping. She did not attend summer camp, but would have loved a creative camp focused on art, games, and outdoor adventures.

Michelle Greer - Camp Instructor

This is Michelle's 7th year with Create Academy. She has a BS in Biology, Masters of Arts in Teaching, and has taught for 16 years! Michelle loves being outdoors! Running, biking and hiking are some of her favorites. At summer camp, Michelle loved making new friends and hiking in the woods.



Valerie Thao - Camp Instructor

This will be Valerie's 3rd season working with Create Academy. She holds a Master's Degree in Education and has 5 years of experience in teaching. One of Valerie's favorite summer activity is going hiking. She did not attend any summer camp when she was a kid, but would have loved a hands on and adventurous summer camp.

Mark Glasionov - Camp Instructor

This will be Mark's 1st season with the Create Academy. Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Masters in Elementary Education and has worked in the Anchorage School District for 9 years! One of his favorite summer activities is going fishing, camping, and exploring Alaska with friends and family. His favorite summer camp memory was going to a public-speaking and debate camp in Chicago, where he learned how to think critically and prepare arguments.





Suzanne Snyder - Kindergarten Camp Instructor

This is Suzanne's 2nd year with Create Academy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Masters of Education in Special Education. Suzanne has been teaching preschool special education the last 3 years. She went to many local AK camps as a kid and loved making lifelong friends.

Amelia McCormack - Creative Arts Instructor

This will be Amelia's 1st season! She is currently working towards a bachelors degree of social work with a minor in art. She has experience working as a Resident Advisor at UAA and a college intern with the Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska! In the summer Amelia likes visiting the beach and looking for cool things. Her favorite camp activity was getting to visit the zoo and see the animals being fed.



Jon Harvill - Camp Instructor

Jon has 7 years of teaching experience in Anchorage schools and holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Masters in Education.

Jaymee Wheeler - Camp Instructor/Assistant

This will be Jaymee's 2nd year at Create Academy! Jaymee holds a Bachelors of Arts in English with an emphasis in education. She has worked at various summer camps held around Anchorage including, Kincaid Park, Russian Jack Springs Park, the Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Dome. In the summer, Jaymee likes to go to the gym and learn new games in a group setting.





Lea Rueter - Camp Instructor

This will be Lea's 4th summer at Create Academy! She has a BA in Education and 11 years of experience teaching, most recently as PNA's 3rd grade teacher. One of her favorite summer activity is fishing. Lea's favorite camp memory is going on a bike ride to the park with everyone.

Betsy Hans - Camp Instructor

This is Betsy's 1st year working for Create Academy. She has a master's degree in administration and supervision and has taught multiple grades over 7 years. In the summer Betsy enjoys hiking around the Anchorage area and being outside. When Betsy was a kid she attended Girl Scout camp. She enjoyed sitting around the campfire singing songs together while eating s'mores!



Jonathan Ryan - Camp Instructor

This is Jonathan's 1st year at Create Academy! He holds a degree in East Asian Studies and is starting a Masters in Teaching this summer. Jonathan's favorite summer activity is biking around the neighborhood, running through sprinklers, swimming at Jewel Lake, playing baseball, and family vacation. While growing up Jonathan went to Boy Scout Camp in the summers.

Melissa Yanchak - Camp Instructor

Melissa has a Bachelors in Organizational Leadership and Minors in Arts Management and Nonprofit Administration. Melissa was the music director for K-12 grade for 20 years! Her favorite camp activity growing up was going hiking, watching sunsets and storytelling.





Heather Davis - Camp Instructor

This is Heather's 3rd season with Create Academy and she has been a PNA teacher for the last 2 years. She has a Bachelors in Early Childhood and Master of Education in Teaching and Learning.

Nathan Peterson - Camp Instructor/Assistant

Nathan is attending college for a Bachelors in Journalism and Public Communication and working towards his teaching certification. He has taught swimming lessons, homeschool classes and been a sub with ASD. Growing up Nathan participated in boy scouts and loved to collect bugs and learn about them.



Zoe Durner-Feiler - Front Desk

This is Zoe's first season with Create Academy! Zoe has a Masters of Education as well as a Bachelor's and Master's in East Asian Studies. She lived in China for three years and has spent more than a decade teaching Japanese. Growing up she enjoyed acting camp every summer—if her instructors could pull her away from her book!

Keely Holt - Camp Sub

Keely has Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is a preschool teacher with PNA! Growing up, Keely's favorite summer camps were Solid Rock Horse Camp and Trailside camps. She loved swimming in lakes at camp.





Hans Holkesvik - Outdoor ED Instructor

This will be Hans' 1st summer working with Create Academy! Hans holds a bachelor's degrees in Physical Education, Health, and Music and has been a teacher in Alaska for 8 years now. He spends a lot of his free time fishing or playing disc golf during the summer months. Growing up Hans participated in several summer wrestling camps and enjoyed team-building activities!



Katie Hakala - Camp Assistant

This will be Katie's 1st season! Katie has worked as a preschool assistant and teacher, and is currently studying Social Work. In the summer she loves camping, hiking, fishing, jumping in lakes, and picking blueberries. Katie never went to summer camp but would have loved a camp that kept her moving, using her hands, and always trying something new.

Robert Shane - Camp Assistant

This is Robert's 1st season with the Create Academy! Robert recently graduated with an English Teaching degree from MSU, and has been working at a writing camp in Montana. He LOVES to sit outside and read during the summer! As a kid Robert did not go to camp but would have loved going to an overnight nature camp that takes you camping in the mountains!



Jordan Randolph - Camp Assistant

This will be Jordan's first season at Create Academy! She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in social work. One of Jordan's favorite summer activities is hiking, especially when it's followed by a trip to the ice cream shop. Jordan enjoys being creative and trying new things and would have loved to attend a creative arts or culinary camp as a kid.