



# MEET THE PARKLANDS EDUCATION TEAM



## **CURTIS CARMAN** Director of Education & Programming

Curtis oversees The Parklands Outdoor Classroom as well as all public programming in The Parklands. The Outdoor Classroom promotes STEAM-based education through engaging, hands-on learning both outdoors and inside the classroom. Each year, his team of Education Specialists, Interpretive Rangers and Camp Counselors guide nearly 20,000 participants of all ages through school field trips, camps, Parklands Explorer, Junior Explorer, Parklands Member programs, and Wednesday Wonders. Prior to his promotion to Director of Education and Programming in July 2020, Curtis first joined The Parklands team as an Interpretive Ranger and then led the department as Education Coordinator and Director of Education for six years. A native of Louisville and a graduate of Ballard High School, Curtis returned to his hometown in 2014 after having worked as an environmental educator in Maine and Colorado at Acadia and Rocky Mountain National Parks. Curtis also served as Membership Manager at the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Curtis enjoys hiking, biking, camping, golf, and kayaking.



## **ERIN KINNETZ** Education Specialist

Erin joined The Parklands as a camp counselor in the summer of 2017 and transitioned to the role of Interpretive Ranger. In February 2018, Erin was promoted to Education Specialist where she oversees Wednesday Wonders, in-school outreach and field trips. She is also in charge of developing curricula for these programs and making sure they meet current Kentucky science standards, while also encouraging stewardship of natural places. Erin has an undergraduate degree in Scientific Illustration and a Master of Science in Biology with a special emphasis on Ecology. Before The Parklands, Erin spent a number of years in community mental health care on a crisis stabilization unit, helping kids work through difficult times. She has loved working with children ever since. In her free time, she teaches yoga and experiments with arts and materials.



## **OLIVIA WAGNER** Interpretive Ranger

Olivia joined The Parklands as an Interpretive Ranger in 2018, supporting development and delivery of Outdoor Classroom programs. She has a degree in outdoor recreation and environmental studies from Central Michigan University where she played field hockey for four years. She worked for an outdoor therapy company in Wisconsin before returning home to Louisville to begin her position at The Parklands. Her favorite things about her job are helping kids explore the creek and getting to experience the joy and wonder of the kids when they get comfortable with nature.



## **JAMES GARNER** Interpretive Ranger

James was promoted to Interpretive Ranger in the summer of 2021. As a former Parklands Summer Camp Counselor, James uses his love for The Parklands and science education to teach school field trips, outreach programs, family programs, and adult classes.

For more information about The Parklands Outdoor Classroom, The Parklands Virtual Classroom, The Forest Learning Lab, and other educational programs, please visit [THEPARKLANDS.ORG/LEARN](https://theparklands.org/learn).