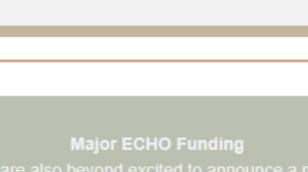




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## Wilderness Louisville Receives Renewed Louisville ECHO Support and a Major New Award

Despite COVID-19, we continue to work to support the [Louisville ECHO](#) initiative and support Natural Areas staff and partners as they find creative ways to connect youth to nature. And so we are very appreciative of the local foundations that continue to support this work. This includes Brown-Forman, Inc. and the Dawn Foods Foundation who recently provided renewed funding in the amount of \$5,000 and \$7,500, respectively. Please join us in thanking them!



### Major ECHO Funding

We are also beyond excited to announce a major grant to support [Louisville ECHO](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Skylight Woods Fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville has graciously awarded Wilderness Louisville \$203,000. This funding will provide hundreds of youth with dozens of outdoor education, recreation and stewardship opportunities this fall and during the spring of 2021. Activities provided are implemented in adherence with applicable COVID-19 safety restrictions in place at the time of programming. Equally important, the impact of this funding will be felt beyond the pandemic as it will support purchase of recreational supplies that will help activate new outdoor spaces created as part of the [West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative](#). These include bikes and multi-person voyageur canoes to support programming associated with the nearly completed Ohio River boat ramp and the bicycle pump track adjacent to the Louisville Loop trailhead, both of which are located in Shawnee Park. To stay abreast of Louisville ECHO happening, please be sure to follow [@louisvilleecho](#) on Facebook!

### Board Members

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- Bennett Knox  
Executive Director
- Dana Kasler  
Ex-Officio

### Public Programming

We're ramping up our JMF public programming again with special COVID guidelines and we hope you'll be able to join us! To register call 502-368-5404! Each program costs \$10 per person. If you are still feeling sad about the Wilderness Louisville Forest Adventure being cancelled (we know we are) we hope you'll check out [this video](#) where our staff takes you on a virtual Forest Adventure!



Trees and seeds environmental education with Backside Learning Center at Beechmont Community Center

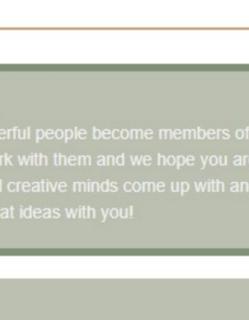


Biking at Shawnee Park with Southwick Community Center

### 11/14- Map & Compass Skills: 9am-Noon

Map and landscape reading are skills every outdoor person should possess. Equip yourself with the knowledge necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations while using a compass.

### 11/14- Chickasaw Park Seed Planting

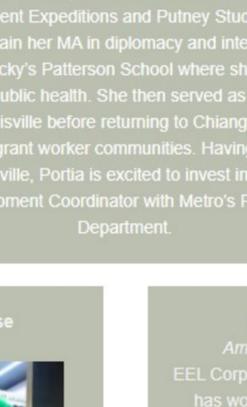


### Introducing....

In the last few months we have had some wonderful people become members of our team! We've been so excited to meet and work with them and we hope you are too. We can't wait to see what these qualified and creative minds come up with and we can't wait to share all their great ideas with you!

### Portia

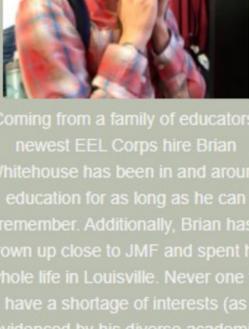
*Development Coordinator*



Up graduating from Georgetown College with a BA in English and Cultural Studies in 2012, Portia moved to northeastern Thailand to pursue a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Since then, Portia has lived on and off in various areas of Thailand, serving as an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor, Project Coordinator for the Human Rights and Development Foundation, and an expedition leader for National Geographic Student Expeditions and Putney Student Travel. In 2014, Portia returned to the US to obtain her MA in diplomacy and international commerce from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School where she focused on economic development and global public health. She then served as a caseworker at Kentucky Refugee Ministries in Louisville before returning to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to work on labor rights issues in migrant worker communities. Having recently landed back in her home town of Louisville, Portia is excited to invest in her community through serving as a Development Coordinator with Metro's Parks and Recreation Department.

### Brian Whitehouse

*EEL Corps*



Coming from a family of educators, newest EEL Corps hire Brian Whitehouse has as long and around education for as long as he can remember. Additionally, Brian has grown up close to JMF and spent his whole life in Louisville. Never one to have a shortage of interests (as evidenced by his diverse academic profile: BA in Philosophy with minors in German and Chemistry), he applied for the position of environmental educator with the ECHO program for its appealing marriage of two of those interests. When he's not out walking and learning about trees, you can find him hiking, biking, kayaking, playing guitar, or falling down some new rabbit hole of information.

### Fiona Palensky

*Americorps EEL Corps*

EEL Corps member Fiona Palensky has worked as an educator for nearly 4 years, teaching in the music education field to students of all ages. She is now gaining experience in environmental education through her work with ECHO and with the public programs she puts on through JMF. Her interests include foraging, promoting social change; learning about fungi; writing, listening to, and playing music; and taking solo nature walks through the forest.



### KrisTina Anderson

*Jefferson Memorial Forest Volunteer Coordinator VISTA*



Kristina Anderson is the 2020-2021 Volunteer Coordinator Americorps VISTA. She graduated in 2019 from Berea College graduate with a BA in Communication. Originally from Owensboro, KY her travels have taken her across the globe where she spent a considerable amount of time in the Himalayan Mountains in Bhutan specifically. In her free time she enjoys socially distanced activities including making homemade bagels.

### Bailey Campagna

*Jefferson Memorial Forest Development & Community Outreach Capacity Building VISTA*

Bailey is originally from Scott County, KY and graduated from the University of Louisville this May with a degree in Diversity and Inclusion in Communications and a film production minor. Her favorite part of the job so far has been making NTI videos for 3rd and 4th graders teaching them about plants and animals.

In her free time she loves spending time with her two dogs and two cats and taking care of her dozens of plants.



### Volunteering is Back!

With proper safety practices we're getting back to our regular volunteering schedule. We've missed all your help and we hope you'll consider signing up as a new volunteer or coming back to continue your work in the Forest! We are so thankful to all our volunteers and we couldn't maintain such a big forest and strive towards such a grand mission of equality if it wasn't for your help! Whether you want to plant a tree or help a child learn about nature there is an opportunity for you.

### Volunteer Events

**Tree planting:** Nov. 7, 11, 12, 13 & 18th (9am-Noon)  
Visit our volunteer website to sign up to plant some trees and help the environment [here!](#)  
**Middle Fork Bear Creek Cleanup:** Nov. 7th (8:30am-Noon)  
We are keeping our waterways clean in partnership with Louisville MSD! Picking up the litter along our waterways is a small but important task and we hope you'll help us make a cleaner Louisville possible. For more info visit [here](#). To keep groups under 10 please register for a specific location [here](#).

### Become A Member

If you would like to support the programs like the Echo Summer Adventure and Wilderness Louisville's mission to continue providing equitable access to nature, conserving land, and educating youth please consider becoming a Wilderness Louisville member!



### Enthusiast Membership: \$25

- Includes:
- A t-shirt OR a hat
- A bumper sticker
- Our monthly e-newsletter
- An invitation to our annual member appreciation event

### Ranger Membership: \$50

- Includes
- A t-shirt AND a hat
- A bumper sticker
- Our monthly e-newsletter
- An invitation to our annual member appreciation event

### Traiblazer Membership: \$100

- Includes
- Invitation to exclusive trailblazer member events
- A t-shirt AND a hat
- A bumper sticker
- Our monthly e-newsletter
- An invitation to our annual member appreciation event

[Become A Member](#)

