



# CAMPUS OUTDOOR AMBASSADORS

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2016 - 2017 Profiles

powered by





**Reth Duir**

*Alaska Geographic/University of Alaska Anchorage*

In 1994, Reth Duir's parents emigrated from South Sudan to the United States. Reth is now is now a senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage majoring in elementary education. Because the University of Alaska Anchorage does not have an outdoor program, Reth is working with Alaska Geographic, Chugach National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and others to help connect youth with the outdoors and inspire them to become stewards of their public lands. Reth has gone on a kayaking expedition, worked with Forest Service rangers on stewardship projects, participated on an SCA trail crew, gone backpacking with NOLS and enjoyed a packrafting trip. As an Ambassador, his goal is to increase outdoor engagement by taking more college students outdoors and connecting students of diverse backgrounds to their national parks.

**f** Reth Duir 837    **i** rkduir1    **t** @rkduir



**Forrest Christopher Chong**

*Arizona State University*

Conventional wisdom of a college student describes classrooms, lecture halls and libraries as ways to become an scholar, but Forrest' Chong's road to academic enlightenment was a 20-mile backpacking trip at Bryce Canyon National Park, followed up by an online calculus exam taken in a National Park Service visitor center. Back at Arizona State University (ASU), Forrest majors in marketing and is the sponsorship director of the Outdoors Club. Working with local climbing gyms, KIND snacks, Leave No Trace, ENO hammocks and others, he creates lasting relationships with organizations that share a common theme with the club: a love for the outdoors. As an Ambassador his ambition is to inspire the ASU community to seek out the outdoors.

Personal: **i** forrest\_chong

ASU Outdoors Club: **f** ASU Outdoors Club    **i** asuoutdoorsclub



**Justin DiRuscio**

*California State University, Chico*

Justin DiRuscio is majoring in marketing and sales at California State University, Chico. Justin grew up fully immersed in the outdoors in Northern California and traveled to various national parks with family and friends. When Justin turned 17, he turned his passion for the outdoors into a job, becoming a commercial white water rafting and kayaking guide on the American River in Coloma, California. He was also hired to work at Adventure Outings at Chico State and began leading outdoor outings during his freshman year. He loves the outdoors and can't wait to continue sharing his passion with others.

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**Pearce Jensen**

*College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University*

Growing up in rural Minnesota taught Pearce Jensen a valuable lesson: the importance of working hard, no matter the task. Pearce attends St. John's University where he is pursuing a degree in environmental studies. One of Pearce's passions is to encourage healthy risk taking to prompt an individual's personal growth through outdoor activities, which usually include group challenge courses and wilderness trips. Pearce's other passions include: backpacking, rock and tree climbing, Chaco wearing and playing guitar. He is most excited about educating individuals about the great opportunities within the national parks and reignite the fire of adventure within students and community members through this great program.

**f** pearce.jensen

St. John's Outdoor University: **f** saintjohnsoutdooru  stjohnsoutdooru  @stjohnsoutdooru



## Dennis Rupp

*Drexel University*

Dennis Rupp is a senior at Drexel University, majoring in mechanical engineering. Some of his favorite outdoor activities include backpacking, hiking, running, slacklining, sport shooting and fishing. On campus, he is an advising board member on Drexel's outdoors program, Weekend Warriors, and he runs outdoor trips for the student body. Dennis has been connected to Weekend Warriors as a trip leader for three years. He not only increases participation among the student body, he also engages outside vendors and companies that believe in what the group does. Dennis thinks that the best part about the college club is providing an opportunity for trip leaders to express their passions for the outdoors and pass that on to participants. He hopes that students will be inspired to explore new places, try new things and show nature the respect that it deserves.

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Drexel Weekend Warriors: **f** drexelweekendwarriors **u** drexelweekendwarriors



## Liz Fuentes

*Florida International University*

Born in Cuba, most of Liz Fuentes' childhood experiences were in big cities. Although she had lived in different countries and experienced different cultures, she had very little experience with nature. The catalyst for Liz's passion for the outdoors came about when, as a freshman, she took a class that explored local flora and fauna and traveled to state and national parks. These field trips helped her see nature in a new light, and she has since become involved in organizations that promote healthier, greener lifestyles. Liz is ecstatic to be an Ambassador, and her goal is to inspire others to pursue an outdoorsy lifestyle within the big city.

**f** Liz Fuentes **u** Turquantica

Florida International University Organic Farmers Market: **f** FIU Farmers Market



**Malik Holmes**

*James Madison University*

Malik Holmes is a rising junior double majoring in international affairs and Spanish at James Madison University. Malik comes from a large family and hails from in Glen Allen, Virginia. He did not find interest in outdoor activities until, as a sophomore last year, he started participating in trips through the ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador program. Now he works for the UREC Adventure Program and is excited and honored to be an Ambassador for 2016-2017 year. With this opportunity, Malik hopes to get other outdoor novices involved in outdoor activities.



**Ronald Vernon Edward Griswell**

*North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University*

Ronald Vernon Edward Griswell is a non-traditional student attending North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. Ronald just returned to school after leaving university to take what was supposed to be a short gap year in the outdoor industry. That "gap year" turned into the best three years of his life, working with both Wilderness Inquiry and Environmental Traveling Companions where he canoed, sea-kayaked, dog-sledded, backpacked and whitewater rafted all over the country. He also got the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life. Ronald developed a passion to create outdoor enthusiasts and environmental stewards out of people that looked just like him by creating inclusive adventure outings that would open hearts and minds.

**f** Ronald V. E. Griswell   **u** RonGriswell   **s** rongriswell



**Carissa Small**  
*Spelman College*

Carissa Small is a sophomore majoring in psychology at Spelman College. While she is driven and focused when it comes to schoolwork, she is also passionate about the great outdoors. In fact, Carissa is the new president of the SparkHouse Outdoors Club, an organization dedicated to exposing college students from Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University, as well as inner-city youth of the Atlanta Metro region, to the natural wonders of the great outdoors. Carissa has learned that by introducing students to a world beyond skyscrapers and concrete, they are able to not only appreciate their time on earth, but also stretch to step outside of the boxes they felt were home. Being chosen as an ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador is motivation to continue to launch the club to even greater heights. The excitement about the club is already spreading through campus!

SparkHouse Outdoors Club  [\\_outdoorsclub](#)



**Daniel Ray Cantu**  
*Texas Woman's University*

Daniel Cantu is pursuing a marketing degree, along with an outdoor leadership certificate, at Texas Woman's University (TWU). Daniel grew up loving photography, videography and the outdoors. He has had the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while documenting it. During the past three years, Daniel has served as the marketing coordinator at the TWU Fit and Rec. He has learned that his hobbies are not only enjoyable but also work as great marketing tools. When it comes to social media, there's no better way to inspire students to enjoy outdoor adventures than to post great photos and videos about them. While Daniel believes that the outdoors are rad, and his challenge as an Ambassador is to show that to the rest of Texas Woman's University.

Texas Woman's University Fitness and Recreation:  TWU Fitness and Recreation  [twufitandrec](#)  
 [@TWU\\_FitandRec](#)  [TWUfitnessandrec](#)

Texas Woman's University Outdoor Adventure:  TWU Outdoor Adventure  [TWUoutdooradventure](#)



**Margaret Sheesley**  
*The University of Iowa*

Maggie Sheesley is a senior at The University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. She is double majoring in recreational therapy and ceramics. Maggie has been working for the school's climbing wall, outdoor rental center and lifetime leisure skills classes for more than two years. She has also been the manager of the climbing wall for the last year and will continue the position during this academic year. She loves nearly all outdoor activities—hiking, canoeing, whitewater rafting, road biking, skiing and slacklining—but climbing is her specialty. She has been to more than ten national parks and monuments in the last two years, her favorites being Canyonlands and Zion. Maggie looks forward to getting more people, including international students, outside and more aware of America's national parks!

**f** msheesley   **i** shaggsmeesley   **t** @mageesley



**Wenbo Zahng**  
*The University of Iowa*

Wenbo Zahng, originally from China, is currently a senior at The University of Iowa. Wenbo took his first outdoor class during his sophomore year and liked it so much that he proceeded to take eight more outdoor classes. He loves all kinds of outdoor activities, especially backpacking! Last semester, Wenbo and his friends created a student organization called International Student Outdoor Recreation Association, which aims to connect international students with outdoor activities and American culture. Through this organization, people with the same passion became friends and different cultures blend together while enjoying the beauty of nature. Wenbo is thrilled to be an ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador, spread the outdoor spirit and bring new people into the outdoor family.



International Student Outdoor Recreation Association: **f** UIISORA   **l** [orgsync.com/129994/chapter](https://orgsync.com/129994/chapter)

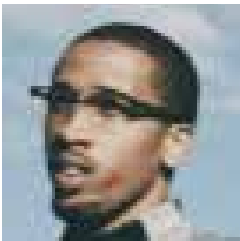


### Addy Falgoust

*The University of Southern Mississippi*

Addy Falgoust is a junior majoring in geography at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is from southern Louisiana, but did not become passionate about the outdoors until she traveled to Wyoming and visited Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks at age 14. This trip inspired her love for national parks, photography and hiking. During her first year of college, she began considering a career as a park ranger, which led her to major in geography and become involved in the university environmental center. She discovered her university's Outdoor Adventure Center during her sophomore year and participated in several trips before being offered a position as a trip leader. This spring, she studied abroad in Swansea, Wales for the semester. Most of her campus community has never been to a national park, which is why she is so excited to introduce her peers to one!

 [upandaddy](#)    [Addy Falgoust](#)    [theaddyventure.blogspot.co.uk](#)



### Jordan Chatman

*Tuskegee University*

Jordan Chatman is the 2016-2017 Outdoor Nation Campus Ambassador for Tuskegee University. Hailing from the windy city of Chicago, Jordan graduated from Tuskegee University in the summer of 2015 with a degree in political science. Following graduation, he interned with the National Park Service, Department of Interior and conservation and service non-profits. Through these experiences, he went on amazing adventures and was always excited to share his experience with friends, while also encouraging them to join him on the next adventure. He looks forward to getting more students excited about enjoying life outdoors!

 [jordan.chatman.50](#)    [J.Chatman](#)    [@IceMfMike](#)    [Jordan Chatman](#)    [JayChat](#)





**Madison Gutekunst**  
*University of Delaware*

Madison Gutekunst grew up in Merrimack, New Hampshire and is now a senior studying environmental engineering University of Delaware. Madison co-founded HAC, the Honors Adventure Club, which takes students on a variety of trips, including to national and state parks. HAC trips range from beach clean-ups to hikes and backpacking trips. Madison loves to hike, camp, trail run, fish, swim, rock climb and explore. So far, she has visited 20 parks, and even worked in Mesa Verde National Park during the summer. She can't wait to get started as an ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador!

**f** [madi.gutekunst](#) **i** [madigute](#)



**Kevin Buchanan**  
*University of Maryland, College Park*

Kevin Buchanan is a senior at the University of Maryland (UMD) studying biology. He works at the UMD University Recreation and Wellness Adventure Program as an adventure trip leader and challenge course facilitator where he likes to get people outside, active and learning. Whether he's in a kayak or canoe or on a paddleboard, Kevin loves being out on the water, just going with the flow. As an ambassador, he's excited to show people all that the outdoors have to offer.

**f** [kevin.buchanan.716](#) **i** [kbuc16](#) **t** [@kw\\_buchanan](#)

UMD University Recreation and Wellness Adventure Program: **f** [umdadventure](#); [UMDRecWell](#)  
**i** [umdadventure](#); [umdrecwell](#) **t** [@UMDRecWell](#)



**Liana Aguirre-Echevarria**

*University of Maryland, College Park*

Liana Aguirre-Echevarria is a senior at University of Maryland majoring in kinesiology and minoring in LGBT studies. Liana is very active in the University Recreation and Wellness Department, where she is an adventure trip leader, weight/fitness supervisor, climbing wall staff, challenge course facilitator and a member of the Active Terp Outreach Team. The wilderness is her home, and her love for the outdoors is contagious. One of her passions is the intersection of social justice and the environment. In fact, she recently facilitated a week-long backpacking trip that focused on conversations of diversity and social justice. She hopes to get others outside and instill in them the same love for the outdoors that she has developed.

**f** liana.aguirre.9   **i** lianaaguirre15   **t** @LianaAguirre

UMD University Recreation and Wellness Adventure Program: **f** umdadventure; UMDRecWell  
**i** umdadventure; umdrecwell   **t** @UMDRecWell



**Victoria Yee**

*University of Maryland, College Park*

Victoria Yee is a senior at University of Maryland majoring in environmental science and technology. Through a global ecology program in high school, Victoria discovered her love of the environment. She has expanded on this love to include outdoor recreation through her job on campus as an adventure trip leader. She believes that there is nothing quite like climbing up a sheer rock face or jumping on river rocks to realize how wonderful it is to be alive. The outdoors are Victoria's greatest teacher, and she hopes to never stop learning and growing.

**f** vicky.waffle   **i** vicjee

UMD University Recreation and Wellness Adventure Program: **f** umdadventure; UMDRecWell  
**i** umdadventure; umdrecwell   **t** @UMDRecWell



**Lauren Shell**

*University of North Carolina at Asheville*

Boy does Lauren Shell love nature! She is a junior at University of North Carolina at Asheville where she studies public health promotion. Lauren grew up on the outskirts of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and could not be prouder to call western North Carolina her home. Growing up in North Carolina, outdoor conservation and recreation played a major role in her life. Now she finds great joy in hiking, backpacking, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, kayaking and fly fishing. Above all of these things, she finds nothing more rewarding than sharing her passion for the outdoors and bringing as many folks as possible into the great outdoors. Lauren is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as an Outdoor Nation Campus Outdoor Ambassador and cannot wait to spread her love of the outdoors.

**f** lauren.shell.g   **in** lauren-shell-8b589a10g



**Lauren M. Bullock**

*University of North Carolina at Charlotte*


Lauren Bullock is a senior at University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she is majoring in exercise science and minoring in Africana studies. Lauren holds leadership positions on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte through Venture Outdoor Leadership, Student Government Association, Black Student Union, Student Alumni Ambassadors and Dean of Students Office. She is beyond excited to get her campus and community involved with Outdoor Nation this year as well as serving as an Outdoor Nation Campus Outdoor Ambassador. Her favorite outdoor activities are outdoor yoga and rock climbing. She looks forward to getting a diverse population interested in the outdoors. She is ready to get started and plans to do all she can to turn screen space into green space!




**f** Lauren Bullock   **ig** theblvckdove   **tw** @theblvckdove   **sn** blvck\_dove



**Elizabeth Nicole Adams**  
*University of North Florida*

Nikki Adams is a self-proclaimed “nature nerd” and a native of Jacksonville, Florida. Nikki attends the University of North Florida (UNF) and studies ecology and evolutionary biology. She hopes to be able to fully appreciate ecosystems and find ways to preserve the natural world for future generations. In addition, she wants to help people find their own joy in the outdoors, which has become increasingly difficult to do. She thinks that being UNF’s ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador is the perfect opportunity for her to reach out to her community and get her fellow Ospreys excited about Mother Nature in new ways, on campus and off campus.

**f** nikki.adams.311    pizza\_handle

UNF Environmental Center: **f** Environmental Center Student Coalition; unfecenter    unfecenter  
 @UMDRecWell    UNF Environmental Center



**Hannah Piatok**  
*University of Washington*

Hannah Piatok lives in Seattle, Washington is extremely excited to be an ON Campus Ambassador. She loves hiking and camping and is the co-founder and president of Hiking Club at University of Washington. She started the club last year and is pleased that it is one of the fastest growing clubs on campus. Campus is in the middle of a busy city, and it is easy to get caught up in the daily stress of college and city life, but it is also in close proximity to mountains, lakes and oceans. Hannah wants to experience them all with her peers. She is passionate about the outdoors because she has seen what it can do for the human spirit. Hannah is excited to share her love for the great outdoors with others!

**f** hannah.piatok    hannahp\_

UW Hiking Club: **f** Hiking Club at UW    hikingclubuw



## Ulemj Enkbold

*Washington and Lee University*

Ulemj spent the first half of his life in Mongolia where he developed a spiritual passion for nature as a shamanist. Currently a senior at Washington and Lee University, Ulemj has worked for the university's outing club for four years. He studies German, computer science, and philosophy, but also likes to spend time getting lost in nature. Ulemj's loves just about any activity that involves getting into the outdoors and recently started slacklining, something about just finding balance draws a certain appeal. He is excited to be an ON Campus Outdoor Ambassador because the outdoors have done so much for his own personal development as a human.

**f** julemjenkbold   **ig** eboldmatters   **tw** @ulemjenkbold (professional); @eboldmatters (personal)

**in** ulemjenkbold