

Welcome to Emma Vasicek, our New Education and Outreach Director

Brad Andres. March 29, 2021 :

Welcome to Emma Vasicek, Evergreen Audubon's new Education and Outreach Director. Besides operating the Evergreen Nature Center, Emma will work to expand our nature education programming to schools and community groups. Thanks to the selection panel who diligently worked with me to go through the application review and interview process: Ann Dodson, Ed Furlong, Heather Johnson, Melissa Leasia, Kathy Madison, Donald Randall, and Dwight Souder.



Emma Vasicek, Evergreen Audubon's Education and Outreach Director, and friends.

Here is what Emma says about joining Evergreen Audubon:

"Beginning at a very young age, I have carried a deep passion for the outdoors, and I find immense joy in fostering a connection to nature in others. I distinctly remember telling my third grade teacher that I wanted to be a farmer when I grew up, because I wanted to be outside as much as possible. As I pursued schooling, my interest in the outdoors became more focused, and I obtained my B.S. in Environmental Biology from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Following graduation, I started work as a seasonal Interpretive Naturalist at P. J. Hoffmaster State Park in Muskegon, Michigan, and fell in love with environmental education. I saw first-hand the impact that even a small nature center can have on the community it serves and knew this was the career path I wanted to pursue. At the end of my seasonal employment, I was asked to serve as a board member for the Gillette Nature Association — a volunteer board that supported the Visitor Center at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. I served on the board for two years before being asked to step into the role of Board President. During my term as president, I restructured term limits, successfully launched new fundraising events, and enabled the installation of a new interpretive exhibit at the park visitor center.

In fall of 2015, I accepted the role of Exhibits Coordinator with the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In less than a year, I was promoted to Exhibits & Public Events Coordinator, and two years later received another promotion to Public Events Director. As the Public Events Director, I cultivated unprecedented growth in the Public Programs department. Within the first two years in my role,

I increased our annual program attendance by 67%, our program offerings by 20%, and our partnership engagement by 80%.

When I am not working, you will still find me outdoors. I love camping, hiking, backpacking, and the overall exploration of nature. I have been downhill skiing since I was two years old and joined the National Ski Patrol in 2008 as a certified Outdoor Emergency Care Technician. My husband and I enjoy trying new restaurants, exploring new places, and expanding our board game collection. When I am indoors. I am often curled up with my three cats, a cup of tea, and a good book.

I could not be more excited to move to Colorado and am very thankful for the opportunity to join Evergreen Audubon as the Education and Outreach Director. This position is a blend of so many things that I am passionate about, and I cannot wait to serve the communities in and around Evergreen.”

Welcome aboard, Emma!