

Westminster Woods School Programs Staff



Tessa 'Luna' Farbstein

Teacher Naturalist

Luna was born as Tessa Christine Farbstein and was raised in Belmont, California, just two hours south on the peninsula of the bay area. She attended the University of San Francisco for both undergraduate and graduate school and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Master of Arts in Teaching. Additionally, Tessa has her California Multiple-Subject Teaching Credentials. As an outdoor enthusiast, she has always strived to combine her love of education with the out-of-doors. She has worked several seasons as a crew leader for the Youth Conservation Corps in the amazing Yosemite National Park. Additionally, in earning her teaching credentials, Tessa has rich experience working in the classroom setting, particularly with 2nd and 5th grade students in the San Francisco Unified School district. During her summers, Tessa leads adolescent and young women on outdoor excursions with a program called Girl Ventures. She is a self-proclaimed "lady of the mountains" as she is always hearing the beck and call of Mother Nature's sacred mountains. She enjoys being

outside in any setting, but particularly loves backpacking in the High Sierras. In addition to being outside, Luna also loves food, and therefore loves cooking and going out to try new places with friends and families.

David 'Redwing' Salomon

Teacher Naturalist

Redwing hails from the Hardworking, Hardrocking, and Everloving Detroit City, Michigan. He studied Environmental Education together with Global Cultures and Ecosystems at the University of Michigan School Of Natural Resources in Ann Arbor. Redwing has been facilitating Outdoor and Environmental Education programs with folks of all ages for twenty-five years, while studying fungal and forest ecology - from the Jungles of Peru to the Rainforests of the Olympic Peninsula to his Home here in West County, California. He has a love of Music in (and of) our Living Earth and Great Outdoors ~ *Oh yes kids, the river IS singing!*



Corinne 'Cricket' Calhoun

Teacher Naturalist

Cricket was born and grown right next door in Forestville, California. She graduated from Pomona College with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science. After a few years of research internships covering anything from Dungeness crab in the San Francisco Bay to alpine meadows in Colorado, she wanted to do something more people-oriented. Cricket fell into environmental education after falling in love with the challenge course and Westminster Woods. In her free time, she enjoys reading, rock climbing, hanging out on the water, traveling, and connecting with amazing humans over the great outdoors.

Josh 'Turkey' Van Wallegem

Teacher Naturalist

Josh was born and raised in a tiny little corn patch in Topeka, Kansas. Turkey has a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the Kansas State University. He is one of our most seasoned Teacher Naturalists and has experience at many places, including Walker Creek Ranch over in Petaluma, California. Josh is a proud Eagle Scout and brings a rugged sense of adventure and radical self-reliance to our camp. He enjoys long walks on the beach, foraging for mushrooms and climbing trees.



Erik 'Witakae' Oberg

School Program Coordinator

Oberg, of Viking descent, was raised in the great city of Fairfield. Erik has led Westminster Woods in the adoption of cutting edge pedagogy and excellent character development programs. Erik has over fifteen years of experience in the Outdoor School industry and is a certified Leadership Trainer through Lawrence Hall of Science BEETLES program. His favorite activities include scouring the web for bombastic pundits, investigating the philosophical nature of reality and watching the Ultimate Fighting Championship.



'Ace'

Teacher Naturalist

Ace was born and raised on a farm in Graymont, Illinois. She attended Heartland Community College and graduated from University of Maine at Machias with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Concentration in Community Environmental Education. She is currently attending Hamline University, St. Paul Minnesota to receive her Master of Arts in Environmental Education and Natural Sciences. In the summer of 2009, Ace rode her bicycle across the United States. It was during that time that she learned more about herself and what she wanted to accomplish in life than she ever did in school. She discovered that she wanted to take people outside and help them understand the environment and challenge them to truly live. Ace has taught Outdoor Education in many places, including Downeast Salmon Federation in Columbia, Maine; Timber-lee Camp in East Troy, Wisconsin; and Alliance Redwoods in Occidental, California. In her free-time, Ace enjoys riding her



bicycle, walking her dog, hiking and discovering new places!

Rebekah 'Redwood' Jones

Teacher Naturalist

Rebekah was raised in Orangevale, California. She came to Westminster Woods in 6th grade for outdoor education and a few summers as a summer camper. She has worked on The Wood's Challenge Course multiple summers. After earning a B.A. in Liberal Studies (Education K-8) from Azusa Pacific University and a special education teaching credential from California State University, Sacramento, she taught middle-schoolers for a couple years in the Sacramento area before joining the Wood's year-round staff. She enjoys reading and outdoor activities like hiking and rock climbing.



Moose

Stephen 'Moose' McCloskey

Teacher Naturalist

Stephen was born in Danbury, Connecticut and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He has a Bachelor of Science at Georgia College and State University. Besides his experience as a Teacher Naturalist, Stephen has worked as an Environmental Field Technician, testing groundwater and methane emissions. His hobbies include basketball, the French Revolution, eating cake, staring contests, riding rollercoasters and using the Force.



Katie 'Yak-Attack' O'Brien

Teacher Naturalist

Katie was born and raised in Portland, Connecticut. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut. Katie was an Outdoor Education Guru in Cape Cod for many years and worked as a Teacher Naturalist in New York State. Her favorite activities include watching the UCONN huskies, learning the Ukulele and eating pizza.





David 'Sabertooth' Rose

Teacher Naturalist

David is from San Carlos, California. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from UC Santa Cruz. David came to Westminster Woods in 7th grade with Tierra Linda Middle School. He loved his experience at the Woods so much that he returned as a high school chaperone three times! David has two years of experience working at a school for disabled students and a lifetime of practice flipping over logs and looking for cool critters. His hobbies include playing banjo, hanging out with friends, mountain biking, rock climbing and intergalactic space travel.



Talia 'Kelp!' Bakker

Teacher Naturalist

Talia was born and raised in San Jose, California. She has a degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation from Humboldt State University. She loved her experience at Humboldt State. After graduating, Kelp! completed a year-long internship at Walker Creek Outdoor School where she gained plenty of hands on experience, gearing up to join Westminster Woods. Besides a love of all things outdoors, her hobbies include reading, writing and singing.



Amy 'Meadow' Shmania

Teacher Naturalist

Amy grew up in North Carolina and studied at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She earned an English major with a minor in Environmental Science and Policy. Amy has extensive outdoor education experience on the Chesapeake Bay and has worked summer camps in Maine, North Carolina, and California. Her favorite past-times are reading, rock climbing, hiking and making up puns. Meadow has been known to hoist a banjo and pick out tunes from time to time.



Ron 'Raven' Jimenez

Teacher Naturalist

Ron was born in Reedley, California. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University. Ron has been with the School Programs Department at Westminster Woods for over 17 years.

Prior to joining the team at Westminster Woods, Ron served as a docent for the Fairfield Osborn Preserve in Penngrove, California. His past-times include playing Ukulele and dancing Hula with his small hula troupe.



Teddy 'Bear' King

Teacher Naturalist

Teddy was born and raised at the very southern tip of the sunny state of Florida just north of the Keys. He is a proud Eagle Scout and natural born leader. Teddy has extensive experience as a Teacher Naturalist including Camp MacGruder in Rockaway Beach, Oregon and Cal Adventures in Berkeley, California. His hobbies include rock climbing, guitar playing, and hiking.



Jesse 'Echo' Posehn

Challenge Course Coordinator

Jesse was born and raised in Roseville, CA and graduated in spring of 2015 with a major in Business Marketing and a minor in Religion. He has worked on the Summer Staff of Westminster Woods for four years and volunteered before transitioning to being a part of the year round staff. Jesse also volunteered as a youth basketball coach while in high school. Some of his hobbies include playing the guitar and ukulele, playing basketball, and becoming absorbed in a good series/books/movies.



Robert 'Fishhead' Denton

Challenge Course

Rob Denton was born in Stockton, California. His educational background includes a Masters in Metaphysics and Pastoral Counseling. Rob served for eight years in the Air Force as a Rescue and Medic Specialist. His other jobs include working for 10 years as a U.P.S. driver and 3 years as a Hawaii Scuba Instructor. Rob has worked off and on with the challenge course at Westminster Woods since 2000. His hobbies include hiking, swimming and inner exploration.



Jeffrey Jon 'Whitebear' Domagalski

Campfire Maestro

Whitebear was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended kindergarten through 12th grade in Cleveland, which was then a thriving steel town and ranked in the top ten highest populated US cities. After a 4 1/2 year tour in the US Coast Guard as an airplane mechanic which brought him out west, he received an AA degree from Santa Rosa Junior College and a Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Education from Sonoma State University in 1990. He has previously worked as a Naturalist/Musician at Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center, Land Paths and Acorn Soupe. Whitebear loves playing music with friends and anyone ESPECIALLY outside on our beloved Earth. He also enjoys hiking, backpacking and otherwise adventuring to learn more about himself and our amazing planet which is his greatest teacher. Whitebear LOVES Life!