

## Lauren McCafferty

### Bachelors of Science in Biology 2013 Concentration in Organismal Biology and Ecology

Lauren works for the Toledo Area Metroparks as a Program Production Specialist. The main responsibility of her position is to educate park visitors on the nature and ecology of the Metroparks. She is also the co-head of the Toledo Area Metroparks' new Outdoor Skills Division through which she exposes and teaches people about various outdoor activities including canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, and archery.

Working at the parks has allowed Lauren to expand her knowledge on the individual species that she teaches visitors about.

It is her time with the Department of Environmental Sciences (DES) that she cites as allowing her to take this knowledge further when explaining the importance of the parks to visitors. Lauren says that her "education from the DES gives me the 'big picture' knowledge, of ecosystems and natural processes, and how all these individual species come together."



She also credits the DES with teaching her to be self-motivated in her work, which has helped her to succeed in her life post-graduation.

Her advice to current students is to get involved with other students and organizations outside of the classroom setting. She served as the president of the Society for Environmental Education, and while this position led to some late nights, it resulted in memorable experiences and networking opportunities with professors and other organizations. When applying for jobs in the environmental field she advises students and recent grads to be patient and persistent as there are a lot of qualified people out there, so you need to be willing to put in the work and time to find a job that you will enjoy.