

# Caleb Carlton

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*nonprofit leader and fundraiser, innovative educator and story creator, community steward*

## **Education**

### **Mississippi State University**

M.S. - Environmental Geoscience, 2021

Thesis research: The roles of personal identity and self-efficacy in increasing awareness, personal behavior, and interest in environmental attitudes, actions and career pathways.

### **Boston University**

Professional Fundraising Certificate, 2019

### **Michigan State University**

B.S. - Environmental Studies and Applications, 2008

Program focus: Community Resources and Education

### **University of Tennessee**

Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program, 2012

## **Professional Experience**

### **Civic & Environmental Education-Change Fellow** (June 2021-present)

- Selected to the North American Association for Environmental Education and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Civic & Environmental Education-Change Fellowship Program](#) (Inaugural Cohort), an international 2-year program for leaders working at the intersection of environmental and civic education, and community development.

### **Executive Director** (February 2021-present)

#### **Young Voices for the Planet**

- Responsible for executive administration, legal compliance, financial oversight, strategic planning, education program development, fundraising, marketing, community outreach and engagement, and partnership development as they relate to environmental education programming, community action planning, youth storytelling, educator professional development, and civic engagement and leadership development.
- Overseeing the production of films, podcasts, remote learning modules, and other initiatives that elevate young leaders, their stories, and their communities in order to inspire and motivate others to become engaged in environmental and civic action and change in their communities.
- Managing and developing the organization's annual budget.
- Coordinating with a variety of partners and collaborators, including North American Association for Environmental Education's CEE-Change Fellowship, the EPA, iCivics, POP, National Geographic, PBS, CELF, among others.

### **Development Director (2019-21)**

#### **Tremont Institute – Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

- Directed development efforts for the organization including grant seeking and management, foundation and individual donor cultivation and management, event planning and execution (\$200,000+), and business sponsorship relations.
- Co-led development and management of the organization’s \$2 million+ budget
- Designed new education programs and partnerships and secured funding, such as “The Great American Camp-In,” a virtual weekend-long environmental action experience for families across the U.S. during the pandemic lockdown, engaging over 1,000 participants.
- Increased individual giving, grant awards, event revenue, and number of annual donors to record levels.

### **Manager for Educational Innovation and Assessment (2014-19)**

#### **Tremont Institute - Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

- Created the [SmokiesC.O.O.L.](#) (*Creative Opportunities for Outdoor Learning*) initiative, an educational music video youth production program created in collaboration with partner schools across the Southeast and Midwest U.S.
- Designed, secured funding for, and implemented the [Environmental and Community Leaders Fellowship](#), a 2-year program model for youth leadership development in community and environmental action.
- Collaborated with community partners and school systems to design pathways of student and community learning opportunities in nature.

### **Director, Smokies to Schoolyards AmeriCorps VISTA Program, (2016-19)**

#### **Tremont Institute – Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

- Wrote, secured, and managed 4-year AmeriCorps VISTA federal project grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service, valued at \$300,000+.
- Created, directed, and managed *Smokies to Schoolyards*, an education initiative designed to increase the capacity of urban underserved communities and educators of East Tennessee to gain access to nature and immersive experiential learning in schoolyards and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### **Lead Teacher/Naturalist (2010-14)**

#### **Tremont Institute - Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

- Led residential environmental education programs for 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade school groups from 13 states, college consortiums, families and adult learners
- Designed and led classroom educator trainings in environmental education delivery, design, student management and collaborative innovation.

### **Residential Educator (2008-10)**

#### **Orange County Department of Education – San Bernardino National Forest, CA**

- Provided residential environmental education school programs for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Supervised and mentored students. Conducted community outreach programs.

## **Awards, Achievements and Certifications**

- Selected to the NAAEE/EPA Civic & Environmental Education-Change Fellowship Program (2021 Cohort), an international 2-year program for leaders working at the intersection of environmental and civic education
- Selected to present at the 2022 Children and Nature Network's International Inside Out Conference
- Top-10 Finalist in North America, UL Innovative Education Award (2019)
- Official Selection, 2015 Colorado Environmental Film Festival, for *All the Salamanders* educational music video
- Awarded \$360,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to implement a 4-year AmeriCorps VISTA program (2015)
- Presenter, Geological Society of America Annual Conference (2018)
- Presenter, North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference (2015)

## References

- **Harriet Shugarman**, *Board Chair*  
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- **Dorna Schroeter**, *Board Executive Committee*  
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