

GEOGIRLS SCIENTISTS & INSTRUCTORS



Kate Allstadt

Kate is a National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Researcher located at the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory. Kate's interested in unusual and multidisciplinary applications of seismology in the exciting and very geologically active Pacific Northwest. Most of her research involves at least one of the following: landslides, volcanoes, glaciers, and of course earthquakes. Kate also developed the concept of GeoGirls based on her passion for geology, the mentors that made a difference in her life, and the hope to mentor and inspire the next generation of women researchers! Read more about Kate: <http://www.kateallstadt.com/Welcome.html>



Dr. Brittany D Brand

Dr. Brand is an Assistant Professor and volcanologist at Boise State University. She primarily st

udies explosive eruption dynamics and volcanic hazards. Dr. Brand has been working at Mt St Helens for the past five years. She is excited to share some of her findings with the GeoGirls in August! Read more about Dr. Brand here: <http://earth.boisestate.edu/brittanybrand/>



Jennifer (Jenny) DiGiulio

Jenny is a Master's Geology student at Oregon State University with a research interest in the geochemistry and volcanology of Mount Jefferson, Oregon. Her background studying Mount Jefferson has provided endless adventures exploring the striking terrain of the central Cascades and led to a broader interest in geohazard assessment and mitigation. She is passionate about exciting girls to pursue opportunities in field-based science and jumped immediately at the chance to participate in GeoGirls. She is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys mountain activities of all sorts, particularly climbing, mountain biking, and hiking. Read more about Jenny here:

girlmeetsrock.wordpress.com



Kate Norton

Kate Norton works in the sediment laboratory at the Cascades Volcano Observatory. In the lab, she handles computer programming, analytical method development, and research on optical particle size analysis. She also has a long term interest in service learning, inquiry based science education, and how to get girls more interested in pursuing science careers. Read more about Kate here: <https://profile.usgs.gov/knorton>



Taryn Black

Taryn is a PhD student in volcanology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on the physics of volcanic eruptions and how that relates to volcanic hazards. She is originally from Seattle, WA and found her love for volcanoes learning about and hiking around volcanoes in the Cascades. Taryn enjoys teaching both geology and outdoors skills and is excited to explore Mount St. Helens with GeoGirls!



Mélissa J Drignon

Mélissa is a PhD student in Volcanology and Petrology at Oregon State University. She is doing a lot of experiments to try to understand the magmatic processes leading to the formation of the oceanic crust. She is coming from France where she did her bachelor's degree and her master's degree in geology at the University of Orléans. She had the chance to go on different volcanoes, Montagne Pelée, Piton de la Fournaise, Santorini and, she can't wait to discover Mount St Helens with the GeoGirls!

GEOGIRLS MOUNT ST. HELENS INSTITUTE STAFF



Sonja Melander, Science Educator

Sonja loves volcanoes! Before her recent move to the Pacific Northwest to work as a Science Educator with the Mount St. Helens Institute, Sonja worked as an educator at Montserrat Volcano Observatory in the Caribbean and as a Geological Society of America intern at Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho. Sonja earned her Masters of Science in Geology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her research focused on caldera volcanism in Italy. Sonja has also poked around volcanoes, old and new, in New Mexico, Nevada, Michigan, Mexico, and the Canary Islands. Sonja enjoys walking on soft moss, listening to the sounds of moving water, kissing rocks, doodling, taking photographs, kayaking, and finding new places to explore and adventure! Sonja loves being outside, whether it's for geologic fieldwork, rockhounding, or just meandering. She also really hopes that one day volcanology will discover that volcanoes are powered by dragons, but sadly realizes that's probably not going to happen.



Abi Groskopf, Science Education Director

As the Science Educator Director for the Mount St. Helens Institute, Abi manages the behind-the-scenes for all education programs on the volcano. She has a passion for native plants, rivers and education and outreach and has grown to love volcanoes too! She's been an educator for over 10 years, and worked with a variety of non-profit organizations, both in Olympia, WA and northeastern NM. She has collected stream condition data, taught youth about bison and grassland ecology, developed a greenhouse education program for an elementary school, led native plant salvages and restoration projects and assisted with the City of Olympia's stormwater public outreach programs. When Abi is not working, her hands and feet are dirty in the garden, she's hiking and botanizing, or she's enjoying the company of friends and family. Contact Abi at agroskopf@mshinstitute.org or (360) 891-5067 regarding GeoGirls registration, staffing and donations.



Amy (Newt) Renfranz, Science and Learning Center Manager

Amy is new to Mount St. Helens and we welcome her energy and enthusiasm as the Science and Learning Center Manager! Most recently, Amy worked as a resident instructor/naturalist at the Yellowstone Association Institute. Before moving to the Yellowstone area she worked five years as a National Park Service interpretive ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway. She also worked as the Environmental Education Coordinator at YMCA Camp Harrison in North Carolina's beautiful Brushy Mountains. She has earned certificates from the state of North Carolina as a "Certified Environmental Educator" and the National Association for Interpretation as a "Certified Interpretive Guide." In 2014, Amy received her Master's Degree in Park, Recreation, and Tourism Management. Her published work includes a syndicated column, "Dear Naturalist." She loves history, wildlife, and all things geology! Amy is also a Wilderness First Responder and will take excellent care for the GeoGirls at the Science and Learning Center.