

## Congaree National Park (SC)



Kellie Weidinger grew up on a small farm in Northern Wisconsin. It was in her quaint hometown of Bayfield where she first became intrigued by the outdoors. Inspired by the south shores of Lake Superior, she went on to attain her Bachelor's of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a major in Environmental Geography and a certificate in Women's Studies. The highlight of Kellie's educational career at UW-Eau Claire was her travel abroad experiences in Ecuador and Scotland. Both the Ecuadorian Cultural Immersion Program and the Scotland Travel Seminar lit a spark in her heart for experiencing new places and meeting people from different backgrounds. Kellie's career in the National Park Service began back on the south shores of Lake Superior as a seasonal Administrative

Assistant/Dispatch for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. She returned to the Apostle Islands the following season as a Visitor Use Assistant. Her career then led her to the heartland of Illinois where she was a Park Guide at the Lincoln Home. Her favorite part about working for the National Park Service has been the opportunity to inspire others to care for our country's natural and historic sites; just as she was inspired when she was growing up. She is currently the Community Volunteer Ambassador for Congaree National Park and she is very excited to learn the wonders of the floodplain forest and to inspire others to do the same.