

## **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (CA)**

Denise Foerster grew up along the coastal cities in south Florida. She is currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Science in Los Angeles, CA. There she has worked with the organization "Gear Up 4 LA," to coordinate and demonstrate a hands-on STEM Bootcamp to increase success for low income, first-generation and minority high school students. Denise started out as an intern with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. There she has developed service learning projects to bring in younger students from diverse communities to assist in current restoration. As well as, teaching programs on how fire effects the rare Mediterranean vegetation and the life cycles of fire and vegetation. She has always held a curiosity and wonder about the world and enjoys sharing her love of nature with others. She hopes to inspire others to use the outdoors as a space for recreation, education, and inspiration.

