

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE (FL)



Lauren Boehnke was born and raised in the Buffalo, New York area, not far from the roaring waters of mighty Niagara Falls. She graduated from the University at Buffalo with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. She then began a Ph.D. in Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology, also at the University at Buffalo. Lauren recently had the opportunity to spend three weeks driving from Los Angeles, CA back home to Buffalo, where she visited several state parks and eleven National Park Service sites along the way. She began at Joshua Tree National Park and meandered across the country via Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Saguaro National Park, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, Petroglyph National Monument, White Sands National Monument, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Gulf Islands National Seashore and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, before heading north for home. It was on this epic trek that Lauren felt an intense calling to the National Park

Service and the amazing beauty of America. She vowed to find a way to directly contribute to the conservation mission of the National Park Service and soon thereafter left the Ph.D. program to accept the CVA appointment serving Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve in South Florida. It is her hope that everyone has the chance to visit a National Park Service site and get to see just how powerful the experience can be, so that future generations will share the same desire to protect these incredible resources.