

Meet the Jr GRUNT staff!



Karen “Rainbow” Chao

karen.chao@portlandoregon.gov

Cell: 503-278-0704

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Languages: Mien, English, un poquito de Español

Hello! I am very excited to be working with Jr GRUNT again this fall. I worked with Jr GRUNT last summer and fall and have worked with Portland Parks and Recreation for over six years in the Nature Day camp and Nature preschool programs along with various internships. I received my B.S. in Environmental Science at Portland State University and hope to use my background and knowledge in teaching Portland’s youth about the natural world. I enjoy being in the outdoors, laughing, traveling, and trying different food. I am passionate about the health of the environment and want to spread that passion to our youth for a healthier and brighter future.



Jules “Honey Badger” Nemish

jules.nemish@portlandoregon.gov

Cell: 503-823-6461

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

I am so excited about Jr Grunt this fall. This is my 2nd fall with Jr. GRUNT. I am especially passionate about working with teens. I am excited to share my knowledge about nature through science based activities and stewardship. In 2015, I graduated from Portland State University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. Being the first one in the family to graduate from college, I am very proud of this accomplishment. Giving kids work experience skills is one of the most important tools they can have going into adulthood. I bring 3 years’ experience in environmental education at Portland Parks and Recreation and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. I am certified in Mental Health First Aid, foster parenting and have experience working with children that have experienced extreme loss and neglect. For fun, I love fishing, good food, making art, and hanging out with my baby nephews and dog named Stella.



Jonathan “Turtle” Perez

jonathan.perez@portlandoregon.gov

Pronouns: He/him/his

Languages: Spanish and English

I am extremely excited to be joining the Jr GRUNT team this fall for the very first time. I have been with Portland Parks & Recreation since 2014 when I did GRUNT. Since then I have gained experience as an environmental educator with the Teen Naturalist Team and by participating in various internships. This last summer I participated in the No Ivy League as a crew leader where I developed invasive plant removal skills as well as learning more about Portland’s native plants. I am currently in my second year of college at Portland Community College and plan on majoring in Civil engineering. When I am not in school or working I enjoy playing with my dog Snoopy and being outdoors relaxing.