



2025-2026 STAFF BIOS

HEARTLAND KZ



COORDINATOR: ROXANNE MAREMA

“I’m Roxanne Marema! This is my first year with Kids’ Zone, and I’m the Site Coordinator at Heartland Elementary. After 30 years in technical sales and raising two amazing adults, both of whom were in afterschool programs and college athletes, I’m finally fulfilling my passion for working creatively with children.

I truly enjoy being an advocate for their little voices and seeing the excitement in their eyes with every new experience. Arts and crafts are a big passion of mine. I even make my own jewelry!”

ASST. COORDINATOR: KATY HARVEY

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My name is Katy Harvey, and I’m the Assistant Coordinator at Heartland’s Kids’ Zone. This is my fourth year working with the program. I’m currently a sophomore in college, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. What I enjoy most about Kids’ Zone is connecting with families and making lasting memories with the kids. A fun fact about me is that I love to travel and have been to over 17 states!

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LEADER: AJ YOUNG

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I'm AJ Young, and I'm part of the Kids' Zone staff. I've been with Kids' Zone since March 2024. I'm currently a senior at Geneva High School, and I've had a few different jobs, including lifeguarding. My favorite part of Kids' Zone is getting to meet new people. In my free time, I love golfing and snowboarding!

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LEADER: ABIGAIL SHINOFIELD

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My name is Abbie, and I'm a Kids' Zone Leader. This is my first year, and I work primarily at Heartland and Western Ave. I'm a sophomore in college studying psychology. So far, I've really enjoyed working at Kids' Zone. I love coloring and making crafts with the kids.

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LEADER: AMIRA MENDOZA

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Hi! My name is Amira Mendoza, and I'm a Kids' Zone Leader. This is my first year with the program. I'm a senior at Batavia High School and have been playing softball for 12 years. I enjoy being in an environment where every kid strives to be the best version of themselves.

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LEADER: KAYLA CUNNINGHAM

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My name is Kayla Cunningham, and this is my first year at Kids' Zone. Over the summer, I also had the awesome opportunity to be a camp leader!

A fun fact about me: I love to fish and spend time outdoors!

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LEADER: LEAH FRIEDE

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I'm Leah Friede, a junior at Geneva High School. I'm part of the track and field team and have a big passion for sports. I work at Heartland Elementary as a Kids' Zone Leader, and one of my favorite parts of the job is getting to know the kids throughout the year. I love watching them try new things and step out of their comfort zones—it's so rewarding to see their growth!

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LEADER: LEIANNE STRAH

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My name is Leianne Strah, and I'm a Kids' Zone Leader. This is my first year with Kids' Zone! I have a background in theater, specifically building sets for plays and musicals.

What I enjoy most about working with kids is how they love to ramble about whatever's on their mind—it's always entertaining! A fun fact about me is that I have five older siblings, and we all went through Heartland.

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LEADER: LUKE KRUSE

“My name is Luke, and I’m a staff member at Kids’ Zone. This is my second year working with the program. I’m a senior in high school and have volunteered at my church multiple times in the past, which gave me valuable experience working with kids. I enjoy making the kids’ days by showing them we care, playing whatever it is with them, and just brightening their day. I actually went to Kids’ Zone at Heartland when I was younger and don’t remember liking it that much, so I hope to give these kids a different experience.”

LEADER: MEGHAN SHEEHAN

“My name is Meghan Sheehan, and I’m part of the Kids’ Zone staff. I’m a senior at Geneva High School, and I’m planning to graduate early this December. After that, I’ll be taking some online classes through Franciscan University, where I’ll be attending in the fall. I’m planning to study Criminology and Psychology!

I love working at Kids’ Zone because I get to build meaningful relationships with the students and connect with some truly amazing kids. One fun fact about me is that I do my own nails!”



LEADER: MILO SAMII

“My name is Milo Samii. This is my 2nd year working at Kids’ Zone. Currently, I am in my 2nd year at Waubensee Community College. My goal is to transfer to 4 year college after this school year. I’m currently studying Early Childhood Education, and I want to be Kindergarten teacher. My favorite part about Kids’ Zone is learning about what makes each kid unique. And a fun fact about me is I was born in Virginia!”





LEADER: NATE FRIDMAN

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Hi, I'm Nate Fridman, a Kids' Zone Leader for the past year. I'm currently a student at Geneva High School and have been babysitting kids in my neighborhood since middle school. I love spending time with the kids at Kids' Zone playing, interacting, and helping them have fun. A fun fact about me is that I used to attend the same school where I now work, and I also love playing soccer!

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LEADER: SARAH HECHT

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I'm Sarah Hecht! I'm a Kids' Zone leader, and this is my first year with the program. I'm currently a college sophomore studying to become a radiology tech. I worked at summer camp this past summer and loved it, so I decided to stick around and join Kids' Zone. What I enjoy most is seeing kids of different ages interact and get along.

Fun fact: I played basketball for 14 years!

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