

Kayla McDonald

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Education

Arizona State University: August 2022 - PRESENT

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography (Meteorology-Climatology)

- School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (Tempe, Az)

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Journalism, Broadcasting, & Mass Communication

- Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication (Phoenix, Az)

Geographic Information Science (G.I.S.) & Atmospheric Sciences Certificates

- School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (Tempe, Az)

Experience

WeatheRate INC: April 2023 - PRESENT

Weather Investigator/Analyst

- Record weather forecasts from broadcast stations and input them into WeatheRate's system
- Analyze/investigate weather across the United States and input data into WeatheRate's system and report out of place broadcast forecasts or oddities

Arizona State Climate Office: August 2024 - PRESENT

Student Worker

- Create GIS story maps and social media graphics to effectively communicate weather and climate information to the public
- Assist with the monthly webinar and research climate data
- Provide presentations to Arizona schools about weather and climate

National Weather Service: May 2024 - August 2024

Student Volunteer

- Daily operations:
 - Answered public and spotter phone calls, ran the social media accounts, and launched weather balloons at 0z
 - Logged storm reports into the LSR spreadsheet
 - Watched RAC training videos and shadowed the meteorologists
- Projects:
 - Redesigned the Storm Spotter Newsletter, organized the stormspotter database, and created numerous graphics for NWS messaging
 - Created a GIS map of web cameras with a constantly refreshing radar layer to help the office search for storm reports and dust visibility

Salt River Project: June 2025 - September 2025

Weather Balloon Launcher

- Launch 12z weather balloons and ensure all data is properly recorded

ASU Tempe NWS COOP Weather Observation Station: August 2022 - PRESENT

Station Manager Assistant

- Manage schedule, train volunteers, and maintain/repair/replace weather instruments
- Record and report data/readings from various weather instruments to the station manager

Arizona State University: August 2023 - PRESENT

Teaching Assistant

- Grade student assignments, host review sessions, and help the professor with any tasks
- Answer students' questions during class lectures and hold office hours outside lecture time

Additional Activities

- President of the AMS Student Chapter - Weather and Climate Club at ASU:
Aug 2025-Present
- Member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS): Jan 2024-Present
- Member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Geography Honors Society: Feb 2025-Present
- National Weather Service SKYWARN Storm Spotter: Nov 2020-Present
- Science Mission Director for the NASA Space Grant ASU ASCEND Team: Aug 2023-Dec 2024
- Sun Devil Marching Band (SDMB): May 2022 - Dec 2022

Awards

- Dean's List at the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences: Jan 2023- Present
- Dean's List at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication:
May 2023-Present
- New American University Dean's Award scholarship: May 2022 - Jan 2025

References

Dr. Erinanne Saffell

Arizona State Climatologist
Director, Arizona State Climate Office
Teaching Associate Professor
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Dr. Randall Cervený

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