**Nicole Jackson, moderator for The Bird Nerds of Collinwood**

**Wednesday, May 6th at 7:30 PM on Zoom**

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|  | **Nicole Jackson** is an alumna of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences of The Ohio State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation in 2011 and has worked in different capacities throughout the past decade as an environmental educator, facilitator and freelance consultant for various non-profit organizations across Ohio. |

A nature enthusiast, park advocate and birder, Nicole has always had a strong bond with nature and it's beauty since she was a young girl. Her interest in environmental education was sparked by her being selected as a TogetherGreen Youth Fellow with the National Audubon Society in 2011 and interned as a summer camp counselor with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. In June of 2020, Nicole along with a small group of Black STEM professionals and students co-organized Black Birders Week. The event was a week-long series of online events that highlighted Black nature enthusiasts and increased the visibility of Black birders, who face unique challenges and dangers when engaging in outdoor activities. The event was created as a response to the Central Park bird watching incident and police brutality against Black Americans.

In 2018 she joined the Next Generation Advisory Council of the National Parks Conservation Association. This Council of diverse leaders and advocates explore effective methods of engaging younger generations in national park advocacy and protection. From this opportunity, Nicole created the first Black in National Parks Week (August 2020) to celebrate Black excellence, history and legacy in national parks. Learn about 2021 Black in National Parks @blackinnpsweek on Instagram & Twitter or Email: [blackinnationalparks@gmail.com](mailto:blackinnationalparks@gmail.com).

Nicole has become more confident in sharing her story of not only how national parks and public lands have impacted her teaching, but also the need for more BIPOC voices and representation in the great outdoors.