



Museum Experts

These are the spokespersons from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science for “Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits.” The curators and educators provide professional expertise from their respective fields of study to enhance the content and experience in the temporary exhibitions hosted by the Museum.

Tim Blesse is a professional educator and has been a teacher programs coordinator for the Museum for the past five years in the Experiences and Partnerships Division. Blesse has 31 years of experience as a classroom science educator in both private and public schools, teaching students from grades 3 – 12. He holds a bachelor of science from Illinois College, with a double major in biology and chemistry. Blesse has a deep passion for the outdoors, social justice, and international travel.

Neha Sandvig has been an onsite programs specialist at the Museum since 2015. She is the staff educator for the permanent exhibition “Expedition Health,” in addition to many other projects. Sandvig is a graduate of Iowa State University where she studied elementary education and Spanish language and culture. She also received a master’s in curriculum and instruction in the sciences from the University of Colorado Denver. Previously, Sandvig was the school programs coordinator at the Marine Mammal Center, a nonprofit marine mammal hospital in Sausalito, California. “Extreme Sports” is the fourth temporary exhibition for which she has served as Museum educator.

Garth Spellman, PhD, is curator of ornithology. He joined the Museum staff in 2015. He earned his PhD from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Birds are his muse, but evolutionary biology is his passion. His studies primarily use genetics and genomics to explore the evolutionary history of birds and how birds have responded to past environmental changes and are responding to current climate change. In his free time, Dr. Spellman is a climber and spent several months trekking the Himalayas and has hiked the length of the British Isles. He was also the Museum curatorial advisor for the exhibition “Nature’s Amazing Machines.”

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