

Kayleigh Warren (she/her) is Tewa and Tiwa from the Pueblos of Santa Clara and Isleta. She was raised in the traditional Pueblo agricultural lifeway in her Tewa home village in northern New Mexico. From her land-based upbringing as well as through community and professional mentorship, she became an advocate for ancestral lands protection and the preservation of Pueblo land-based lifeways, especially farming and ethnobotanical traditions. Kayleigh was a founding member of several grassroots youth organizing efforts and tribal policy coalitions focused on engaging Southwest Indigenous communities in the ongoing movement to protect ancestral sites and cultural resources in New Mexico, and is currently a member of the board of Honoring our Pueblo Existence (H.O.P.E).

Her undergraduate studies are focused on botany and ecology, with an emphasis on conservation. Since 2016, she has been engaged in the study and practice of native plants preservation, monitoring and cultivating threatened and endangered plant species in both Oregon and New Mexico. Outside of her work tending stories and connections as NAFSA's Communications Coordinator, Kayleigh dedicates her time to seedkeeping, cultivating her family's fields and gardens in Santa Clara Pueblo, and continually learning about and protecting the diverse flora of her homelands.