

Ginamaría Román Echevarría, MSc

Certified Interpretive Guide – Environmental Educator

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)

Master's in science – Entomology

Relevant courses: Entomology Outreach Practicum; Professional Development

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

Bachelor's in science – Integrative Biology

Relevant courses: *Biogeografía de Islas*, *Planificación Legal de los Recursos Naturales*

SKILLS

Costumer service

Teamwork

Curatorial knowledge of insect taxa

Proficient use of *iOS*, *Office 365*, and *Canva*

Public engagement

Community outreach

Leadership

Grant writing

English (professional level)

Spanish (native speaker)

Italian (basic level)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Para la Naturaleza: Environmental Interpreter

January 2022 – Present

Full time, permanent appointment: 40 hrs/week

- Guide an average of 60 visitors a week through a Natural Protected Area providing an educational experience regarding the nature and history of the site.
- Develop, improve and provide workshop offerings for the public.
- Prepare and give presentations for elementary and middle school students on diverse topics including climate change and reforestation.
- Collaborate in upgrading the main tour offered at Hacienda Buena Vista with the newest available information.
- Process reservations for tours and volunteer events at the store and via phone calls.
- Develop an outline and risk assessment for three volunteer events offered in different Natural Protected Areas.
- Mentor five volunteers in a citizen science project aimed at collecting environmental data of a Natural Reserve once a month.
- Prepare materials for project proposals that include purpose of the project, budget, expected volunteer and community engagement, training, and organizational importance.

Penn State: Extension Communications Specialist

May 2021 – December 2024

Part time, remote, temporary appointment: 5 hrs/week

- Directed email communications within the 100 members of LatinX Agricultural Network.
- Coordinated LAN's bi-monthly General and Executive Committee Meetings.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Biological Scientist I

May 2021 – January 2022

Full time, permanent appointment: 40 hrs/week

- Maintained the reference and regulatory collections of thrips, springtails, and booklice.
- Updated the database of three insect orders daily.

Extension: Marketing and Communications Specialist

March 2021 – May 2021

Part time, remote, temporary appointment: 15 hrs/week

- Wrote, edited, and translated extension documents addressed to farmers and the public.

Penn State University: Graduate Research Assistant August 2018 – December 2020

Part time, student appointment: 20 hrs/week

- Reported experimental results during lab meetings, thesis defense and thesis publication.
- Developed two grant proposals with a budget and project timeline attached.
- Managed one awarded grant; completed the project within the timeline submitted and used the budget as proposed in the grant. Completed and published final report to the public.
- Prepared and collaborated in the development of outreach events for the public at Penn State events (Haunted U, Great Insect Fair, ENVISION: STEM Career Day supporting women, Lancaster Extension Annual Meeting)

University of Puerto Rico: Introduction to research

August 2015 – June 2018

Part time, student appointment: 10 hrs/week

- Guided and assisted in two zoology museum collection tours and arthropod educational workshops offered each semester to undergraduate, K-12, and homeschooled students.
- Trained and evaluated two new students on museum protocols for specimen and data management during two semesters.

CERTIFICATIONS, TRAININGS AND COURSES

Interpreting Stories of Harm and Resistance

May 2025

- Course Certificate of Completion by the National Association of Interpretation (NAI) Interpreters Learning Center

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid

May 2024

Certified Interpretive Guide

March 2023

- Certified by the National Association of Interpretation after completing a 4-day training experience and maintaining continuous education.

VOLUNTERISM

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

January 2025 – Present

- Graphic design. Preparations of certificates, invitations, programs, and flyers as required by chapter number 1242 of Yauco, Puerto Rico.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant

September 2019

- Proposal funded: "Assessing the effects of neonicotinoid treatments on pumpkin on bee visitation and pathogen transmission."