

Rachel Ball
Forensic Specialist
Wyoming State Crime Laboratory
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Biography: Rachel grew up in a small town in Maine, where her high school graduating class was around 90 students. For college, she knew she wanted to go somewhere out of state. She went to school at West Virginia University, where she studied both Forensic & Investigative Science and Biology for her Bachelor's degree. As graduation drew nearer, Rachel decided to continue her education, and stuck around to study Forensic & Investigative Science for her Master's degree.

Rachel started with the crime lab in December 2020 in the biology unit. She performed serology casework, identifying body fluids and is currently in DNA training. She also works as a member of their crime scene response team.



Johannah Mayhew
Forensic Analyst
Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Biography: Johannah grew up in North Dakota and was introduced to the STEM field through Science Olympiad, which became a huge influence on her education and career. Because of this experience, she was able to start an internship with the USDA right after high school. She conducted research on quantification of caffeine in artificial saliva by GC/MS and graduated from Minot State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. Johannah worked as a sequencing technician at GeneSeek, Lincoln, Nebraska before beginning her career with the State of Wyoming in 2017. She worked for the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Lab doing quantitative analysis and method writing for four years. In 2021 she joined the Wyoming State Crime Lab, where she works as a forensic chemist identifying suspected controlled substances. Johannah became interested in forensics through her mentors in Science Olympiad, and is always excited for the opportunity to mentor the next generation of young chemists.



Workshop: *Solving Crimes* - Students will discover the different methods that are used for collecting evidence and identifying unknown items of evidence. They will explore the different equipment and techniques used both in the field and in the laboratory. Students will test and identify different types of evidence and see how fields such as chemistry and biology merge with forensic science and play an important role in the justice system.