

Columbus Tribe

Bridget Smith, 30. (Los Angeles, CA)
Entrepreneur.



"Hell yeah, I'm gonna use my sex appeal to win! People tell me I look like tons of different black celebrities. Well, I'm fugly compared to them, but they aren't around, are they? I'll flirt with the guys...and the girls, if I have to" smiles Bridget, who is definitely excited to be playing Survivor after applying multiple times. The daughter of South African immigrants who fled racial strife under Apartheid, Bridget definitely saw the need to represent her community well and is starting up her own line of hair extensions and weaves designed for the "modern woman". "I've watched the last couple seasons and it's hard for pretty girls with brains to win. We have to endure constant sexism from the guys as well as jealousy from the other ladies. I think I have the worst shot out of anybody, but life is about taking risks, right?"

Eldon West, 49. (Savannah, GA)
High School Football Coach.



Eldon doesn't plan on taking any sh*t from anybody (his words). Originally, playing football for Louisiana State University for four years, he's been used to sweat and toil in order to move forward.

"I describe myself as a principled man who won't take the easy way or any shortcuts. My refusal to take performance-enhancing drugs during my professional years kept me from advancing in the NFL, and that's fine. The best way to be is natural. What I'm extremely proud about is the intense tenacity in my team winning the last 3 state championships. My boys have committed themselves to winning and I hope they take their personal progress off the field. When it comes to Survivor, a lot of people would think it to be a piece of cake, but they'll come to learn it takes more than just knowing how to chop coconuts, catch fish, or make fires. It takes an inner effort."

Ian Green, 47. (Corvallis, OR)
Psychiatrist.



As a child, Ian struggled managing obesity, having been sent to fat camp by his parents. "I was the shame of the family. Everyone looked decent, except for me. Seriously, I considered that maybe I was adopted, or something. I was a hog, no, a whale. For the longest time, I was passed around from diet to diet, without much success." After the breakdown of his marriage and subsequent divorce, Ian decided he won't be sent to an early grave and first had liposuction, then a engaged on a rigorous fitness routine to shed the remaining pounds. "I plan on being the quirky older guy who will fall under the radar until the time is right to get into the game," announces Ian. "I'm a hardcore liberal, because I was an underdog myself. However, I see myself aligning with conservatives and taking them to the finals. Everybody hates them, so they will have to vote for me in the end."

Kristi Hanover, 27. (Utica, NY)
Accountant.



"What can I say? My life is so damn boring. I came from a good home with good parents. I'm just basking in the single life while I still can before having to grow up. I do the typical 8-5 job and I get a nice cocktail with the girlfriends during the weekend. To me, I've been trapped here in Utica for too long. Time for the big city, and maybe this show can help." Kristi sees herself as a fun-loving party girl who got picked for Survivor because one of the casting agents is her ex-boyfriend. However, she does say that she has watched every season with her friends in order to better understand the show she admits to not even watching before. "Look, I'm fortunate to not be one of those superfans who tend to ruin this kind of show and get under everyone's nerves. I'll just play and not concern myself about how it would work out in the end."

Mariana Peres, 39. (Miami, FL)
Bartender.



Mariana has had her share of bad luck. Living in the streets for two years, she had learned the importance of finding one's own strength. "I came from an abusive home, where my mom was an alcoholic, and my dad was either not there or was being inappropriately sexual with me. It was a nightmare, but I can't have any regrets, because they work against me when I truly am looking ahead to the future. She feels that as long as she doesn't get sick, she can find a way to be useful to her tribe. "I've never left America in my life, and I've not left Florida in 15 years! Yet, I plan on not being the weakest one. I can hustle if I have to. I didn't spend time being homeless not taking away at least *one* lesson."

Ned McKernan, 53. (Henderson, NV)
Chemist



"I was the nerd all throughout middle school and high school. In fact, I was a nerd *before* it was cool. Which is fine, I've always skewed my efforts toward the intellectual side of things. While other kids were getting wasted in parties after parties, I set up a home chemistry lab using common household items. I'm sure my mom didn't appreciate it!"
 With his wife, Barbara, Ned raised one daughter, Maisie in Vegas as he works as both a chemist and a professor in UNLV. Ned knows that he's up against fierce competition.
 "I don't need the money as my debts for the house, car, and Maisie's university education are all paid for, so this is more of a leisure opportunity for me."
 His strategy is to not let his ego get in the way and let other guys be the Alpha Males, because that way, they'll be the targets.
 "I'm going to do my part to make the world a lot kinder."

Shelby Stark, 32. (Kansas City, MO.)

Paralegal



Shelby, who was a former child actress in various ad campaigns & bit parts in various TV shows well as the representative of the state in the National Spelling Bee, knows how to put out a good show.

"Being in a reality show is just right for me. I'm used to having the attention around me anyway, so why not have the cameras on me watching my every move? [giggles]"

Shelby wants to make pigtails cool again and plans on wearing them everyday she stays on Survivor.

"People will think I'm some ditz, but they will rue the day they dismiss me. Nobody is going to want to face me in the finals. I can work a jury with my rhetorical skills and my smile. I may be in my early 30's, but in many ways, I'm still just a dorky girl. In my free time, I do origami and take Hip-hop dance classes. Why be mature when you don't have to be?"

Zac Sukarno, 21. (Austin, TX.)

Student



Zac, born in Indonesia, moved to America at 12 years old where he admitted he had trouble fitting in.

"I didn't know English that well, but I caught up rather modestly, and I'm confident of where I am in life as of right now."

However, he fought hard to get into the University of Texas for the Biology Program.

"No, I'm not one of those super smart Asians, but I can hold my own. I'm currently preparing to be a geneticist. What better way to make an impact in the world than to improve the human race? I think that's a noble endeavour." he comments.

Zac outlines his strategy coming into the game as a low-key, but still maintaining a presence.

"The worst move I could possibly make is to try to be a mastermind and fail at the end."