

Erica Wirth

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Professional Summary

Highly motivated recent graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Psychology from Eckerd College. Dedicated to bettering the environment and social climate through research, management, and education. Uniquely positioned to apply an international liberal arts perspective to the environmental research and educational process.

Education

Bachelors in Environmental Studies and Psychology
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL
January 2018

Work Experience

Director of Education and Passenger Experience, Secret Harbor Charter, January 2020 – Present

- Development of educational programming
- Training new naturalists and deckhands
- Managing reservations and providing exceptional customer service
- Manage employees and scheduling

Naturalist, Sanctuary Cruises, January 2020 – Present

- Educate guests about local wildlife, geography, and culture of the Monterey Bay
- Assist as a deck hand docking, fueling, and maintaining various boats
- Photograph wildlife for social media and marketing

Baker and Server, Luna's Café, September 2019 – December 2020

- Baked scones, pastries, cookies and bread
- Waited tables and provided excellent customer service

Naturalist and Kayak Guide, Outer Island Excursions, May 2019 – October 2019

- Lead kayak excursions around Orcas and Sucia Island
- Educate guests about local wildlife, geography, and culture in the area
- Assist as a deck hand docking, fueling, and maintaining various boats

Pet Care Taker, Wag, October 2018 – May 2019

- Provide dog walking, sitting, and boarding services in a safe and compassionate environment

Sales Associate, Lush, October-December 2017 & 2018

- Provided customers with exceptional care and attention
- Educated customers about product quality, ingredients, and store values
- Maintained and organized product to ensure the store fit the Lush standard
- Stocked product and made sure products were fresh

Shoe Sales Associate, Nordstrom, Summer 2017

- Prepared merchandise for sales floor.
- Provided new and repeat customers with exceptional care and attention.
- Regularly ranked in the top 15th percentile of sales associates
- Fostered a positive work environment by consistently treating all employees and customers

Barista, Starbucks, January 2016 – January 2018

- Memorized recipes for dozens of specialty coffee beverages and seasonal offerings
- Maintained and operated espresso machines, blenders, commercial coffee brewers, coffee pots and other equipment

Environmental Educator, Columbus Zoo, Summer 2016

- Educated guests on a variety of species and their environmental stressors through educational presentations and talks

Hospitality Associate, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, May 2015 – October 2015

- Conduct tours of aquarium sharing history and highlights of resident animals
- Educate public on animal facts and local conservation activities through interactive poolside presentations

Camp Counselor, Carrollwood Day School, Summer 2014

- Summer day camp counselor for children ages 3-13, responsible for safety and supervision
- Lead and created activities for children including arts, crafts, athletics, and games
- Supervised field trips, ensuring safety during transportation and at venues

Guest Relations Associate, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Summer 2013

- Greeted customers and processed tickets based on membership privileges

- Assisted visitors with locating exhibits and zoo experiences

Research Experience

Natural Resource Management, and Trails Intern, Saguaro National Park, June 2018- December 2018

- Collected and entered data on various plant and animal species in the park
- Established areas to place camera traps for jackrabbit study
- Mentored and trained students on scientific protocol and data collection
- Experience with brushing, wet stone masonry, dry stone masonry, laying new ADA certified trails

Research Intern, Mote Marine Laboratory, February 2018- May 2018

- Collect and analyze data evaluating the bottlenose dolphin behavior and population through focal follows and field surveys
- Visually identify dolphins through photo analysis
- Organize and store decades' worth of previous data in Finbase computer software
- Trained new seasonal interns on protocol, research practices, and daily tasks

Research Volunteer, Eckerd College Dolphin Project, May 2017-December 2018

- Collected auditory, behavioral, and photographic data to identify and study resident bottle nose dolphin population in St. Petersburg, Florida
- Analyzed auditory data through Raven software program
- Analyzed photographic data through Darwin software program to identify individuals

Research Intern, Busch Gardens, March 2017-August 2017

- Design and test enrichment for the purpose of improving dental health of Lesser Bush Babies
- Designed, implemented research, and observe Bush Baby behavior

Research Student, School for Field Studies, August 2016 – December 2016

- Directed Research Project: Determinants of foraging rates in Olive Baboons *Papio Anubis* in the Lake Manyara Region
- Gained skills in experiment design, hypothesis testing, data gathering and analysis, and presenting results to diverse audiences
- Completed course work in Wildlife Management, Wildlife Policy, Wildlife Ecology and Swahili

Research Intern, Eckerd College Asian & the Environment Initiative, Summer 2016

- Collected, processed, analyzed and presented mangrove forest restoration data
- Sampled measurements of abundance and growth from mangrove seedlings planted in fish ponds outside of Semarang, Central Java
- Measured species diversity and growth from field samples in restored mangrove forest next to Tiwoho Village, North Sulawesi and natural forest sites around Bangka Island
- Collaborated with Eckerd students, Assistant Professor of Marine Science & Biology Dr. Jeannine Lessmann, UNIKA Soegijapranata and local NGO's Prenjak, Blue Forest and the Suara Pulau Foundation in the English and Indonesian language

Internships and Practicums

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Volunteer Intern, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, January 2017

- Sorted and distributed food and medication to resident and rescue sea turtles
- Maintained a clean and sanitary environment for turtles in our care

Peer Mentor, Eckerd College-Academic Affairs, August 2015 – May 2016

- Selected by faculty to mentor incoming freshmen and aid their transition to college life
- Conduct one-on-one coaching and lead group workshops in topics including registration & time management

Advanced Animal Training Workshop, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, October 2015

- Explored training methodologies and basis, focused on positive techniques
- Techniques included bridging, variability, relationship building using gating, stationing, whistle & clicker mechanisms

Education Intern, Tampa Bay Watch, August 2015-December 2015

- Teach classroom & interactive workshops on marine species & environmental awareness to student's grades K-12
- Instruct on topics including plankton, kayaking, seining, and trolling, fully interactive on boats with equipment

Leadership & Self Discovery, Eckerd College, January 2015

- Leadership & communications studies in group setting including personality interaction comparison & dynamics through class activities and environmental service project

Leadership and Service

Podcast Host, Breaching Extinction, August 2019 – Present

- Developed a podcast focused on understanding the complexities surrounding the decline of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Interview guests weekly and produce episodes
- Developed educational website with sources and educational materials accessible to the public

Volunteer, Eckerd College and Association Salvemos Las Tortugas De Parismina, March 2017

- Volunteered on an Eckerd College service learning spring break trip to support conservation of leatherback sea turtles
- Walked the beach for several hours nightly to harvest sea turtle eggs and move them in an effort to protect them from poachers.
- Helped with community projects such as painting and working with children

Interviewer, Live Like Ally Foundation, January 2017 – December 2017

- Conducted initial interviews for Live Like Ally Grant recipients
- Determined if candidate's goals aligned with the LLA foundations mission

Activities Chair, Eckerd College Pet Life, August 2015- May 2017

- Created interactive events for pets and students on campus
- Lead monthly pet checks on campus to ensure safety of pets and owners
- Helped lead Pet Life meetings
- Contributed to the selection process of new Pet Life Member

Member, Rotorac Club Eckerd College, August 2015 – May 2017

- Worked on the ground floor of the club to establish projects in the St. Petersburg Community
- Specialize in working with local high schools, engaging students in various service learning projects

AdvoCat, Big Cat Rescue, Tampa, FL Summer 2014

- Assisted with tour operations to insure guest and animal safety
- Completed training on big cat behaviors and facility management procedures
- Operated gift shop point of sale for credit and cash transactions; dispersed inventory

Arctic Ambassador, Columbus Zoo and Polar Bears International, 2012-2013

- Selected as sole volunteer out of 300 to represent Zoo and Polar Bears International as advocate
- Gave presentations on conservation and polar bears in community events and school activities
- Educated on polar bears and conservation at Polar Bear Capital in Manitoba

Skills

- Team leadership
- Self-motivated
- Strong verbal communication
- Conflict resolution
- Research Reporting
- Questionnaire development
- Peer Mentoring
- Data collection and analysis

Certifications

- SDI Open Water Scuba
- CPR

