

## **Erika Putman**

Director of Education and Outreach  
National Marine Mammal Foundation  
Navy Marine Mammal Program

Erika Putman serves as the Director of Education and Outreach for the National Marine Mammal Foundation. The Foundation supports undergraduate Animal Care and Training Interns, Veterinary Externs, Midshipmen from the Naval Academy, as well as Sea Cadets as part of the education program.

Erika obtained her degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona. After completing dolphin cognition research internships with the University of Hawaii and The Living Seas at Walt Disney World, she accepted a position working with the research program at Disney. Erika spent eight years with that program, working on projects involving artificial language, problem solving, echolocation, and tool use with bottlenose dolphins. She also ran a research internship for college students during her time there. In 2002 she became Coordinator of Volunteer Opportunities at the Navy's Marine Mammal Program, and has been with the Foundation since it's beginning.

Apart from running the internship programs, Erika is working on expanding the education and outreach opportunities for the Foundation to create world-class educational opportunities for both students and members of the public.

