

# Emily ORTZOW

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Castro Valley High School 2012 - 2016

Humboldt State University 2016 - 2021

## B.S. Environmental Science and Management;

*With an emphasis in Environmental Education and Interpretation*

**& Formal Interests in:** Recreation, Environmental and Natural Resources Planning, & Environmental Policy

National Association for Interpretation (NAI) – Certified Interpretive Guide 3/10/2020

Awarded **2024 Outstanding New Interpreter** in the Sierra Pacific Region of NAI

Emily is an experienced local environmentalist in search of long-term employment. I grew up with Regional Parkland in my backyard, and this easy access to green space raised me into the passionate and motivated environmentalist I am today. It has been a privilege to do this work in my home of the San Francisco Bay Area, and I have made it my mission to empower the people in my community to build a relationship with our public lands. I hope to continue my work through high quality wildlife and natural resource communication that creates kind stewards of our shared lands.

## Experience in Environmental Education and Interpretation:

### East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) - Oakland, Ca

April, 2025 - CURRENT — **Recreation Lead IV**

- Lead youth and public recreation programs: Fishing, Kayaking, Overnight Camping, Teen/Youth Camps
- Maintain program equipment and record participant information for reporting
- Drive district vehicle to/from program locations
- Direct program work of Recreation Leads I, II, III, & Teen Volunteers

### San Francisco Bay Area Delta Region California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) -

(remote/hybrid)

May, 2023 - May 2025 — **Interpreter I; Interpretive Services Special Projects Coordinator**

- Coordinate for the Classroom Aquarium Education Program (CAEP) and the Fishing in the City (FIC) Program in the Bay Delta Region.
- Create and deliver professional development trainings about thematic interpretation and program best practices for CDFW interpreters at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and at Woodbridge Ecological Reserve
- Oversee maintenance and upkeep of program materials (fishing poles, tackle, etc.), and update inventory
- Meet and communicate with internal committees, colleagues, and external community partners to upkeep relationships and provide program support that will best serve the public in the SF Bay Area and Delta Region
- Determine need for new special projects, create proposals, and present to upper management to create interpretive programming and facility updates that align with department goals and initiatives

- Examples: (1) Created an Interpretive Project Plan to direct \$2.5mil of Park Updates at Yolo Basin Wildlife Area. This plan is guiding consultation with Acorn Group, which will work in collaboration with CDFW to complete visitor center and park updates, as well as create a mobile visitor center. (2) Voted Committee Lead for CDFW's Brown Bag Series. This is a professional development video series for CDFW staff to tune into, to learn about the department and ways to improve their workflow. I created the program guide and was subsequently voted lead. (3) Founded a growing partnership between a High School Fishing Club out of Oakland and CDFW Interpretive Services. This club provides volunteer assistance to Fishing in the City events, and the team's goal is to be able to expand this club to other High Schools in the region. I created the idea, outline for the partnership, its expansion, and self sustenance.

**Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center; Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District - Hayward, Ca**  
**February, 2023 - March, 2024 — Naturalist and Summer Camp Director**

- Develop and deliver dynamic, thematic activities and experiences that communicate wetland ecology for weekly early childhood programs, k-12 fieldtrip programming, and guided hikes for the public; maintain records.
- Planned 8 weeks of thematic HSIC Summer Camp and led/trained/mentored all staff (Summer 2023)
- Design program visual aids and assist with the design of exhibits, including upcoming new interpretive panels

**National Association for Interpretation; Sierra Pacific Region 9 - (remote; in San Francisco on February 22, 2024)**

**June 2023 - March 1st, 2024— Planning Committee for NEW Community Training Workshop**

- Assisted in planning and selection of presenters for the Workshop hosted by the California Academy of Sciences
- Planned and led the Community Building activity and a tribute to a retiring CDFW NAI Member
- Created a social media plan for NAI Region 9 that is being implemented

**WildCare - San Rafael, Ca**

**February, 2022 - December, 2022 — Nature Education and Camp Manager**

- Drove the Nature Van to schools in the SF Bay Area, to educate thousands of K-6 students about native wildlife, positive wildlife interactions, the wildland urban interface, and environmental challenges locally
- Tabling at community outreach events and festivals – public relations, coordinating with event coordinators
- Wrote for the Seasonal Newsletter and Submitted Social Media posts, and collaborated with Social Media Coordinator to create a rotational plan for creating and posting content
- Hire, train, and coach camp staff and teen volunteers for WildCare's Summer Nature Camp
- Use FileMaker Pro software to track attendance & basic demographics at educational programs

**Paid Internship Experience:**

**The Humboldt State University Natural History Museum - Arcata, Ca (remote)**

**August 2020 - May 2021 — Virtual Field Trip and After School Program Developer Intern**

- Transformed existing in-person field trip and after school museum programs for children K-12 to fit an online platform to allow for virtual field trips aligning with NGSS during onset of Covid-19
- Developed and presented new virtual field trip programming about the Carbon Cycle
- Created educational materials used in activity packets for a virtual bird-themed after school program, sent out to students that are practicing virtual distance learning. Created and presented virtual bird programs using google slides and zoom, to children K-6th grade

## Volunteer Experience:

### **National Association for Interpretation, Sierra Pacific Region 9**

*June 2022 - March 2023 — Co-Chair of the Programming Committee & Speaker - (remote; Aptos, Ca)*

- Coordinated with workshop presenters, and assisted in building the 3 day bulletin/agenda
- Collaborated with the Logistics Committee to plan unique events and mixers; first Interp NAI Film Fest

*January 2021 - March 2021 — Tech Team Committee Member for the First Virtual Workshop (remote)*

- Coordinated with speakers and moderators to rehearse sessions for the Virtual Workshop
- Learned new virtual conference software (WHOVA), and developed training to teach workshop presenters and moderators how to use and navigate the virtual workshop platform.
- Offered technical support before and during the workshop

### **Humboldt State University Youth Educational Services House for Environmental Education - (remote)**

*January 2021 - May 2021 — Volunteer for "Write A Naturalist Program"*

- Developed "Junior Ranger" style packets for sixth-graders at Scotia Elementary during covid-19
- Wrote engaging digital nature-based penpal letters for 6th graders to enjoy, including: guided nature meditation and outdoor exploration videos.

### **The Oakland Zoo - Oakland, Ca**

*August 2012 - August 2013 — Teen Wild Guide (TWG) Volunteer*

- Interacted with hundreds of visitors daily and an extremely diverse audience within the children's zoo, most often interpreting and encouraging appropriate visitor behavior at the "Bug House," "Reptile and Amphibian House," Malayan Flying Fox, and petting zoo (goats, sheep, and pigs)

## Past Employment:

### **The Reptile Room - Hayward, Ca**

*June 4, 2018 - August 12, 2018 — Temp. Manager and Cashier*

*June 6, 2017 - August 6, 2017 — Cashier and Animal Caretaker*

- Cash handling/Point of Sales register experience
- Provided customers with an educated opinion on exotic pets and accompanying products.
- Cleaned animal cages, fed and watered animals. Handled and worked with snakes (10ft+), monitor lizards (5ft+), feeder insects/rodents, and insects/arachnids/arthropods
- (2018) Scheduled employees, covered shifts, daily opening/closing duties

### **Jungle James Animal Adventures - Walnut Creek, Ca**

*March 2015 - August 2016 — Presenter Aide*

- Traveled to schools, libraries, and private events to deliver educational animal programs
- Interacted with people of all ages and backgrounds about reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates,
- Handled large exotic animals, and facilitated safe animal handling with children and the public
- Prepped presentation materials. [Un]loaded animals from commercial vehicle
- Aided in group management and audience engagement

### **Boulevard Pet Hospital - Castro Valley, CA**

*March 2014 - April 2015 — Veterinary Technician Assistant*

- Skilled animal handling: assisted with handling/restraining animals in distress in order to treat them
- Experience with parrots/wild birds, domestic animals (i.e. dogs and cats, and including small livestock), reptiles, amphibians, fish, wildlife (mostly raccoons, squirrels, opossums, & baby deer)

## Helpful & Unique Skills:

- Enthusiastic and passionate presenter - comfortable public speaker (performing arts background)
- Flexibility – making appropriate changes on a moment's notice, due to emergencies/inconveniences
- Organized, motivated, cooperative, collaborative, leader and team-player with acute attention to detail and strong critical thinking and problem solving
- Highly collaborative and open to critique, to create the best possible programming
- Efficient, professional, and direct communication both oral and written
- Safe Animal Handling: experienced with, and comfortable handling parrots/birds, wildlife, livestock, reptiles (snakes 10ft+), feeder insects/rodents, amphibians, tarantulas, and other arthropods.
- Proficiency in Graphic Design using Adobe Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premier Pro), and in Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Google Suite (calendars, docs, sheets, etc.), Zoom (leading meetings/virtual interpretive programs), Whova (event/conference software),
- Excellent observational skills/note taking/written reporting
- Completed Spanish 1-4 in High School and have maintained conversational skills
- **Membership:** National Association for Interpretation

### **Certificates:**

**National Association for Interpretation** - Certified Interpretive Guide 3/10/2020

**Project Wet** - Professional Development 08/27/2020

**Indiana University Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands**

1. Foundations of Interpretation 08/31/2020

2. How to Prepare an Interpretive Program Webcast 08/31/2020

**National American Association for Environmental Education** - Professional Development 12/03/2019

**Humboldt State University** - Defensive Driving

**Cintas First Aid & Safety** - Heartsaver First Aid CPR and AED - 2/24/2022

<b>Relevant Courses (semester units awarded at HSU)</b>	
Environmental Education and Interpretation (11)	Zoology (3), Botany (3)
Interpretive Graphic Design (9)	Natural Resource Conservation/Management (6)
Natural Resources and Recreation (3)	Environmental Impact Assessments (3)
Physical Geography (3), Soil Science (3)	Environmental Law and Regulation (3)
Geology, Geomorphology, Field Methods (9)	Environmental Conflict Resolution (3)
Earthquakes (faulting, and risk management) (3)	Geospatial Concepts/GIS (ArcGIS Software) (3)