

# SAM WYNNS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BIOLOGIST/SCIENCE EDUCATOR  
SAN DIEGO, CA

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Hi! My name's Sam Wynns, and I am an explorer by heart. I grew up with the ultimate backyard - Yellowstone National Park where I spent my summers exploring its majesty and wildness. Out in nature, I felt simultaneously at peace and awestruck by what I observed; infinitely small and connected to everything at the same time. When I would witness a grizzly bear and her cub, or an Osprey diving into the water to catch a fish, I knew that I had to share these experiences with everyone. I knew I wanted to study the stunning diversity of life on this planet. As I aged, my awareness of how humans affect life on this planet grew. I remember sitting on the carpet in front of my t.v. and crying at images of birds covered in oil from the Exxon Valdez disaster. I began to recognize that that cherished diversity of life was at risk. I knew that I needed to protect it. As a biologist, I both study and learn about nature and then communicate what I've learned with others. I'm so fortunate to be able to share my passion for the preservation of the wild and to inspire others to join me in my quest.

## BIOGRAPHY

Biologist Samantha Wynns has always been a nature geek. Growing up on the outskirts of Yellowstone National Park, she spent her summers hiking mountains, rafting rivers, and observing the wild. Sam knew from an early age that she wanted to study and protect these beautiful places and the creatures that live in them. She is a conservation biologist that both does science and communicates science. Sam now proudly works with the National Park Service at Cabrillo National Monument where she wears many hats: gathering data as a field biologist, educating youth and the public as a science educator, and bringing the Parks-to-the-People with community outreach. During any given day she can be found wrangling snakes (gently and respectfully, of course), leading a STEM summer camp for underserved girls, or giving scientific lectures out in the community. In every role, Sam's goal is to illuminate and inspire a passion for STEM and a commitment to environmental stewardship. She, her husband, two rescue cats, and a very friendly parrot live in beautiful San Diego, California.

## SEGMENT PITCHES

The world is changing at an alarming rate – the newest research estimates that approximately 1/8 of all species are at risk of extinction right now.

Many STEM professionals around the world are trying to solve this significant problem, but the battle will be won or lost by future generations. How do we get kids interested in doing this? With comics, of course!

Conservation + Comics is an innovative STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, and Math) workshop that both educates and entertains. At the beautiful Cabrillo National Monument, park scientists lead a hands-on nature walk where students explore and learn about conservation topics such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Students then communicate the science just learned by crafting their own nature comic!

Research shows that integrating art into difficult topics like STEM enhances learning. So take a trip to San Diego's only national park to see for yourself!

Location: Cabrillo National Monument

Ever heard of STEAM power? No, not super-heated water vapor – the acronym STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, and Math.

Art can be an incredible tool to communicate, not only intellectual information, but also emotional information – art connects with both the head AND the heart. In fact, research shows that integrating art into difficult topics like STEM enhances learning, so park educators at Cabrillo National Monument are doing just that.

Whether through the innovative program of Conservation + Comics - where students explore and learn about conservation topics such as biodiversity loss and climate change through creating their own nature comic - or art projects during EcoLogik - the free STEAM summer camp for girls - Cabrillo National Monument educates and inspires with art.

Come join one of their programs, and see the power of STEAM for yourself!

Location: Cabrillo National Monument