



Teacher Information Guide

written and compiled

by

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Cyndy Leard received her B.S. degree in Marine Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi. After graduation she became a professional scientist working as an ecology lab technician, environmental chemist, and health inspector. Drawing from her scientific experience, she became interested in working with children to develop their interests in marine science. She volunteered at the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center in Biloxi, Mississippi where she taught marine education programs to K-12 students. She returned to school and became a teacher certified in elementary education and secondary biology. After becoming a classroom teacher, Cyndy helped teachers in her school district coordinate and implement improved science programs. She was also responsible for coordinating the school science fairs.

Cyndy received her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Biology while continuing to teach in the classroom and in summer marine science education programs.

After moving to Florida Cyndy became a facilitator at Pathfinder Outdoor Education, a nonprofit organization that teaches teambuilding through content courses in an outdoor setting. She continued on to become their program director. At Pathfinder, Cyndy had the opportunity to further her experience in developing, writing, and implementing curriculum for alternative education disciplines. While at Pathfinder, she served as a facilitator working with both large and small groups of learners of all ages. She also headed their training department conducting workshops for both new and returning staff members. Cyndy has continued to broaden her education by completing a ninety-hour Youth Development Certification course.

At Project Oceanography, Cyndy's primary responsibility is the production of the supporting educational materials. She enjoys working closely with the scientists and the Project Oceanography staff.