

More Antarctic Adventures with Pink Palace's Alex Eilers

February 9, 2012

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Pink Palace manager of education Alex Eilers is currently on a six week expedition to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, where she's studying Weddell seals in their natural habitat. Chosen by [PolarTREC](#) from a pool of thousands of candidates, Eilers left in early January to join the team of scientists and educators at the largest permanent community on the frozen continent. [MemphisConnect is keeping up with her journey](#). Follow her latest adventures by checking out her [journal](#).



How Do I Measure Up?

Pink Palace Museum Education Manager and PolarTREC teacher, Alex Eilers, compares her height (5'1") to the length of one of 20 Weddell seals that she and a team of research scientists are tagging with ID and communication devices. The scientists weigh and measure each of the seals as well as take samples of fur, whiskers, blood and blubber to assess the animal's overall health condition. The communication tags allow scientists to collect data about the temperature and salinity of the water in which the seals live as well as track the animals feeding dives.



Just a Few More Minutes and We'll Be Done.

Alex Eilers calms a Weddell seal undergoing a health screening as part of a scientific research project taking place near McMurdo Station in Antarctica. A two-inch thick layer of blubber insulates these marine mammals against Antarctic frigid temperatures. Their ability to swim underwater for 20 minutes or longer ranks them among the region's most successful predators.