


Virtual and Outdoor STEAM Opportunities for K-12 Educators in the Skagit Watershed

The following local organizations are offering programs for virtual K-12 classrooms and/or parents who are homeschooling during the COVID-19 outbreak. Some programs are in our 2019 STEAM Educator Resource Guide ([PDF](#) available at skagitwatershed.org/resources). [#] indicates the page number for more information

- **Friend of the Anacortes Community Forest Land (ACFL)** is offering 1) curriculum that engages children off the screen and focuses their attention on nature with activities, videos, projects, and trail outing prompts, 2) physically distanced outdoor lessons to small groups in Anacortes, and 3) teacher-trainings.
- **Glacier Peak Institute (GPI)** is offering trivia about local species and in-person activities for small groups in the upper Skagit and Sauk rivers that follow proper COVID protocols. These include guided hikes, trail building, art projects, fish management lessons and more.
- **Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA)** is offering free [PDFs](#) of lesson plans and an [Art Box Lending Library](#) of art supplies that teachers and homeschooling parents can borrow for free for up to three weeks at a time.
- **North Cascades Institute (NCI)** is regularly posting videos of home-based Mountain School [16] lesson on their web page: <https://ncascades.org/signup/schools/mountain-school/mountain-school-at-home>.
- **Pacific Mammal Research (PacMam)** is offering virtual presentations about marine mammals in the Salish Sea, including their role in the ecosystem and the threats they face [17]. Presentations can be tailored to meet the specific needs of individual teachers.
- **Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve** is creating a series of videos for teachers and would love to put together interactive online programs for individual classes. Sign up for their teacher e-news [here](#).
- **Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve** is adapting their Kids on the Beach program [44] for grades 5-8. This will include live online presentations, videos, handouts for offline students, and at-home student investigations of the topics of invasive marine snails and forage fish.

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- **The Salish Sea School** is offering free [Bird ID Guides](#) and virtual presentations on marine birds that can be found in this area. The presentations are high-school level and adaptable for individual classes. It covers how to identify birds, current trends and how students can contribute to our scientific understanding of birds through [Cornell's eBird](#). They can also customize outdoor birding lessons for small groups.
- **SeaDoc Society** continues to offer free standards-aligned curriculum for grades 4-8 based on their book, *Explore the Salish Sea A Nature Guide for Kids*. They also maintain a webmap of marine experts eager to work with K-12 students and have other resources for educators at [JuniorSeaDoctors.com](#) [24]
- **Skagit Audubon Society** is offering kits for young birders that include a bird guide, binoculars, activities, and children's books. They can be checked out for up to two weeks at a time.
- **Skagit Conservation District** is offering 1) virtual stormwater presentations [36], with the possibility of a video of the presentation being developed, 2) stewardship poster contest [33] with a deadline extended to November this year, 3) the Environthon (grades 9-12) [34], as an on-line state-level competition, and 4) videos and worksheets about the Skagit Watershed for a range of grade levels. They are brainstorming on the possibility of a virtual Skagit Youth Conservation Tour [35].
- **Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)** is offering their Junior Stream Stewards [42] and School Cooperative Program (aka Salmon in the Classroom) [40] as virtual lessons. These are being developed using Google Sites.
- **Skagit PUD** is creating video tours of source water streams, Judy Reservoir, and the Water Treatment Plant. They are also offering *The Story of Drinking Water* curriculum for free - with a teacher's guide, student booklet and a DVD with water experiments. More info at www.SkagitPUD.org
- **Skagit Watershed Council (SWC)** has adapted their Drain Rangers program to be a student-lead study of how stormwater drains at home ([PDF](#)). They are also offering a virtual version of their luminary program [50] in preparation for a virtual Illuminight Winter Walk event in January 2021. Both programs are designed for grades 5-6. They also have an [education page](#) on their blog with lots of other resources for K-12 educators.

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