

Environmental and STEAM Programs for K-12 Classes in the Skagit Watershed

The following local organizations are offering programs for in-person or 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.

- **Glacier Peak Institute (GPI)** is offering in-person activities for schools, organizations and small groups in the upper Skagit and Sauk Rivers that follow proper COVID protocols. These include guided hikes, canoeing, rafting, trail building, art projects, fish management lessons, eDNA sampling and more.
- **Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA)** is free to visit in person seven days a week. They offer [free lesson plans](#) and an [Art Box Lending Library](#) of art supplies that educators can borrow for free for up to three weeks at a time. They also offer [MoNA Link](#), a two-year professional development program that offers multiple museum visits and standards based integrated art lessons. Learn more about their programs [here](#).
- **North Cascades Institute (NCI)** is offering a modified Mountain School [16] program this fall that is class-based. The traditional 3-day program for 5th graders may become available this Spring, depending on COVID. More info and resources posted [here](#).
- **North Cascades Institute (NCI)** is also offering a 1-day field-based program for 3rd-graders called Forest School. More information on this program can be found [here](#).
- **Pacific Mammal Research (PacMam)** is offering virtual or in-person classroom presentations about marine mammals in the Salish Sea, which can be tailored to meet the specific needs of individual teachers [17]. Also available are half-day field trips (grades 7-12) to collect data at their study site in Anacortes. This program is free, but transportation is not provided. Students must hike 10 minutes to/from the site.
- **Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve** offers half-day and full-day field trips for classes at any grade level [21]. Their interpretive center includes salt water aquaria, a touch tank, and interactive exhibits. Full-day program includes a field component at the beach.
- **Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve** also offers the Kids on the Beach program [44] for grades 5-8. This program is science research/experiment project involving taking data on a local beach.

Contact:

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Susan Wood | Padilla Bay
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- **The Salish Sea School** is offering 1) virtual and 2) field trip marine science and conservation lessons for K-12th grade students. Field trips are shore-based or boat-based. These lessons span the entire marine ecosystem from tufted puffins to Southern Resident orcas and we discuss how students can help protect and restore marine life. They also have free [printable field guides](#).

Amy Eberling | Salish Sea School
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- **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]

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- **Skagit Audubon Society** offers guided birdwatching field trips or class visits with non-living bird specimens [26]. Also, anyone can check out kits for young birders that include a bird guide, binoculars, activities, and children's books from the public libraries in Burlington, Mount Vernon, Anacortes, La Conner, and Upper Skagit!

Kim Nelson | Skagit Audubon
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- **Skagit Conservation District** is offering 1) stormwater presentations [36] (in-person with social distancing or [pre-recorded](#)), 2) stewardship poster contest [33], 3) the Environthon (grades 9-12) [34], 4) videos and worksheets about the Skagit Watershed for a range of grade levels and 5) an in-person Skagit Youth Conservation Tour [35] in May of 2022.

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- **Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)** is offering their Salmon in the Classroom [40], Kids in Creeks [41], and Junior Stream Stewards [42] programs. Funding for school busses is available. Ask about virtual options and availability.

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- **Skagit Land Trust** offers their land for educators to use as an outdoor classroom. They also have some resources for teachers, such as the Elk Education Trunk [23] and are happy to work with teachers to meet their outdoor classroom needs [43]. Contact:

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- **Skagit PUD** has a virtual tour of Judy Reservoir, its source water streams, and the water treatment plant, including videos, photos, and more. 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

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- **Skagit Watershed Council (SWC)** is offering their Drain Rangers program [49] in-person or as a [PDF](#) to be done asynchronously at home. They are also offering virtual and in-person versions of their luminary arts program [50] in preparation for the Illuminight Winter Walk event in January 2022. Both programs are designed for 6th-graders but can be adapted for other students. They also have an [education page](#) on their blog with lots of other resources for K-12 educators.

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