

Regional District of Nanaimo - Watershed Field Trips

The “Need to Know” Document for Teachers

Thanks for booking a field trip with us; we look forward to the experience with your class! Please read the following to ensure a successful day out for you and your students.

WE ARE COMING TO PICK YOU UP!...So don't book a bus.

The program includes transportation. We have reserved School District buses for the trip days. Please ensure that we are aware of your school hours so we can try to work within that time frame. The bus will arrive at your school between 8:45 – 9:00 to make sure that the bus will get your class to the entrance to the upper watershed for a 10am start.

NOTE: School District 69 requires teachers to fill out the bus forms themselves even though the buses are booked and paid for by our program. Please contact Gunnar at 250-954-3022 or gnorrgard@sd69.bc.ca

It's difficult for us to estimate what time the bus will return you to your school, but we always do our best to accommodate your needs. The plan is for you to leave the second site of the field trip -- Englishman River (SD69) or Nanaimo River (SD68) Regional Park – and head back to school between 2:00 - 2:10 pm.

GROUP SIZE

We believe in small group learning so we are only able to accommodate one class at a time – maximum 30 students. Please make sure that you have at least one other adult with you (a maximum of 3).

THE WATERSHED DISCOVERY KIT and the TEACHER RESOURCE & ACTIVITY GUIDE

A *Watershed Discovery Kit* will be dropped off at your school (ideally 2-weeks before your field trip). Please be in touch with us to coordinate when is the best time for us to drop it off, at a time when you are available to meet with us briefly to go over a few items.

You can keep the guide and one (1) of the maps if you like. The maps are not laminated due to cost so please do your best to preserve them for the next class – i.e. no spills, rips, wrinkles, mark-ups.

Please return the rest of the kit materials when you attend your field trip – bring it with you at return it to us on the bus. To take a sneak peak at the *Teacher Resource & Activity Guide* **visit our webpage (www.dwwp.ca) and go to the PROJECTS section, and click on SCHOOL EDUCATION.** See the next section for more details about what you can expect to find inside the kit. Please note that we have a limited number of kits and rely on you returning it on time so that we can share it with the next group. You may be charged \$50 if you do not return your kit on-time. Thanks for your understanding.

A 3-PART PROGRAM

We see this as a 3-part program. The kit will contain a number of pre- and post-trip lessons that we hope you will find useful before and after your visit to the watershed. Most of the materials you will need are included in the kit.

PART 1: Pre-Trip:

The pre-trip activities are about preparing for the day and providing context for the field trip experience. Our goal is to have you introduce the topics and stir a sense of wonder by getting students predicting, guessing; stimulating their curiosity.

PART 2: Field Trip:

Leave this part up to us. We've got all kinds of engaging, hands-on, outdoor learning experiences planned for the day of your trip.

PART 3: Post-Trip:

The post-trip activities are about reflecting on experiences and making meaningful and relevant connections, while creating opportunities for student assessment. We'd be thrilled if you choose to share any student reflections with us.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORMS

A template *Parent/Guardian Consent* form can be found on page 21 of the *Teacher Resource & Activity Guide*.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Notify us in advance of any allergies or physical limitations of your students that we need to be aware of.
- We discourage students' use of electronic devices while on the field trip – this includes cellphones, tablets and cameras.
- Please make name tags for your students for them to wear on the trip as this helps our guides. Also, divvy your class into two groups ahead of time (i.e. Group 1/ Group 2 or Wolves/Bears) as this will assist us when splitting the group up for two concurrent activities.
- It is a good idea for teachers to bring Emergency Contact numbers for their students on the trip

FURTHER QUESTION/COMMENTS?

Program Contacts

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WE'LL SEE YOU SOON!