

Skagit Conservation District
ANNUAL 6TH GRADE CONSERVATION TOUR
MAY 11th and 12th, 2010

The 6th Grade Conservation tour is designed to provide a fun and educational outdoor experience to local 6th grade students and inspire a better understanding of the forest/human connection.

The tour consists of seven stations hosted by local natural resource professionals who will guide students through entertaining educational activities focused on conservation of our natural resources. Classes spend 15 minutes at each station for a total of one hour and 45 minutes to complete the entire tour. Classes rotate through the stations sequentially with a different class beginning the tour every 15 minutes. This year's forest partners include the **WA State Department of Natural Resources, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit County Department of Public Works Master Composter/Recyclers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sierra Pacific Industries, North Cascades National Park, USDA Forest Service and Skagit Conservation District.** Topics for exploration will include:

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| 1. Forest Protection | 5. Forest Regeneration |
| 2. Salmon Lifecycle | 6. Macroinvertebrates - Indicators of Stream Health |
| 3. Composting & Recycling | 7. Leave No Trace – The Impact Monster |
| 4. Soils & Erosion | |

WHERE IS IT HELD?

The Annual 6th Grade Conservation Tour is held at the Pomona Grange Park. The park is located adjacent to the Washington State Fish Hatchery on Old Highway 99 N, just north of Burlington.

HOW IT WORKS

Your class will be greeted by a natural resource worker, upon your arrival at the park. A new class begins rotation through the forest walk every 15 minutes (see attached schedule). Students will spend 15 minutes at each of a series of seven stations. The total length of the tour will not exceed two hours. Classes arriving early or wanting to stay late are welcome to have lunch in the picnic shelter or tour the adjacent fish hatchery. **STUDENTS NEED TO BE AT THE PARK AND READY TO BEGIN THE TOUR AT THEIR ALLOCATED TIME** (it is important that we strictly adhere to the schedule). Your class will stay together throughout the entire tour.

LUNCH

The picnic shelter and tables will be available if your class would like to have lunch at the park. You can have lunch either before you start the tour or after you are done. If you plan on having lunch at the park before you start the tour, please be sure your class arrives at the park early enough to allow time for eating. Students will need to be reminded to bring a sack lunch.

DRESS

Please inform your students to dress for the weather!!! **Boots, coats, and hats are highly recommended! We will be outside!**

REGISTRATION

CLASSES MUST PRE-REGISTER. Registrations for the 6th Grade Conservation Tour are taken by phone so we can assure that the time you request to start the tour is available. Your request may also be e-mailed if you prefer. **THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPATE. CONTACT THE SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE A TIME SLOT FOR YOUR CLASS TO BEGIN THE TOUR. PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 16th** (register early for best selection of times and date). Our office is open M-F from 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Please contact Cindy at (360) 428-4313 or cindy@skagitcd.org.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Once you have called to register and reserve your time slot, I will send out a packet to you containing background study information for each station so that you can prepare your students for the tour.

BUSSES

Teachers are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from the site. Remember to schedule transportation early to assure that busses are available. If more than one class from your school is attending, arrangements to travel together should try and be organized.

Transportation Assistance Funds

A limited amount of funding for busses is available through the Skagit Conservation District. Please contact Sue Bridgman at the Skagit Conservation District for information at (360) 428-4313.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is recommended that each teacher try to bring at least one other adult to help supervise. Parents are usually happy to attend.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Call Cindy Pierce at the Skagit Conservation District, (360) 428-4313, or e-mail cindy@skagitcd.org.