

OSCA

The ECOstudies Program is a project of the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA). OSCA is a non-profit organization that promotes community education and community involvement in local environmental conservation.

PARTNERS

Thank you to all the funders and partners of the ECOstudies program. Their support has made accessible and effective environmental education available in the South Okanagan and Similkameen. Thank you to:



Explore local nature with your students!

Look for  Programs



ECOstudies Program

Spring 2010

Kindergarten to Grade 8



THE PROGRAM

The ECOstudies program is a network of environmental educators offering hands-on, interactive, and accessible programs...designed just for you. The ECOstudies program promotes education on local habitats (spaces), local wildlife (species) and human interactions with the landscape (sustainability).

By gaining knowledge, skills, values and taking action, students develop their understanding and awareness of ecology in the South Okanagan and Similkameen valleys.



The ECOstudies program works with many partner organizations to provide quality environmental education. It is administered through the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA). OSCA provides environmental awareness to our region through its annual Meadowlark Festival, community events, and ECOstudies programs.



The Educators

All programs are led by experienced educators with varying backgrounds in natural history, biology, ecology, traditional ecological knowledge and/or social science. All educators are 1st Aid certified.

IRP Connections

ECOstudies programs are linked to Integrated Resource Packages for multiple subjects. A chart that outlines the key Prescribed Learning Outcomes that are covered through ECOstudies programs is available.



In Community Programs



Flower Power and Sage Sense

Did you know that plants are able to eat, drink, protect, reproduce and disperse – without being able to walk around? A visit to Grasslands Nursery will uncover the colourful world of native plants and through identification, biology, role in ecosystems and benefits for water and habitat conservation. Learn about the plant adaptations that make Okanagan plants so special.

Grades 3 to 8 note: available in June only



Where does all the garbage go?

Have you ever wondered what happens to your garbage after it leaves the curb? Do you know why it's important to recycle? Did you know that there are more than twenty different materials recycled at the Campbell Mountain Landfill? Book your bus and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen will provide a tour guide who will lead your group on an exploration of the landfill, where all will be revealed! This program is FREE to all classes and must be booked well in advance by contacting the EcoStudies Coordinator.

Grades 2 to 8 Campbell Mountain Landfill, Penticton

In Class Programs: Sustainability



Sustain-a-what?

This program will increase students' understanding of the concept of sustainability. While engaged in a fun game, students will experience how British Columbia's natural resources can be used in sustainable and unsustainable ways. Renewable and non-renewable resources will be discussed. After the game they will apply their new knowledge to their school and home lives, and create an action-list to minimize the impact of their own actions on our ecosystems.

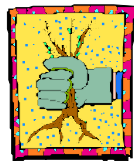
Grades 4 to 8



Climate Chaos

How is the climate changing? What are greenhouse gases? How will it affect me? Is there anything I can do about it? In this program students will get answers to these and any other questions they may have about climate change. Through an interactive presentation and by playing a fun board game, students will learn how to take action on climate change.

Grades 4 to 8



Bully Plants: Let's Weed Them Out

Learn about and understand the environmental impacts of invasive plants or "weeds" on natural habitats and agricultural areas in our region. This program encourages creative and scientific thought using props and interactive activities. This program is sponsored by the South Okanagan-Similkameen Invasive Plant Society and is FREE for all classes. Note: this program can take place "in nature" upon request.

Grades K to 8

"The best thing about the program was the educator's enthusiasm, knowledge, comfortable manner with students and hands on components."

P. Richard, Giant's Head Elementary

In Class

During "In Class" programs, an educator will visit your classroom for a 1 to 1.5-hour interactive program. Visual and/or print support material is offered in addition to talk.

In Nature

For an "In Nature" program your class will meet an educator at a local natural area for a 1 to 1.5-hour outdoor field trip. Depending on the program, the site may be set or flexible. Teachers are responsible for transportation to outdoor sites.

In Community

In Community programs are special programs for dedicated classes that involve a hands-on stewardship component or encourage your students' involvement in projects that contribute to their ecological and social communities.



FEES

- There is a \$75 fee per class for most ECOstudies programs
- Teachers are responsible for the cost of transportation unless the program offers a subsidy.
- Please note that partial subsidies are available for certain programs.

BOOKING

- Plan ahead...some programs have limited spaces and availability
- To book a program or for further information, please contact the ECOstudies Coordinator, Jacquie Likins at (250) 492-4422 or ecostudies@osca.org
- Please feel free to visit our Resource Centre in the upper level of #203-246 Martin Street, Penticton.



In Nature Programs: Species & Spaces



Spring Has Sprung!

Experience the wonder of plants and wildlife as they awaken to spring! This interactive program will lead students on a sensory exploration of the sights, sounds and smells of spring. Learn how to identify some of the common native plants and flowers, trees and birds that live in the Okanagan. Participate in a fun, non-competitive "unnature hunt" to challenge the powers of observation.

Grades K to 2 Location flexible



Eating Like A Bird

Bird bills (beaks) are like specialized tools which help them get the best meal. Students will learn how different birds eat and what they feed on as they explore a number of interactive stations. Play hide and go "seed" and practice cracking open your own seeds like a feeder bird. Find out what happens when birds eat bad things that should not be a part of their diet.

Grades 2 to 6 Held at Sun-Oka Park



Okanagan Knowledge

Understand the Okanagan First Nation's view of the land as you take a tour of the beautiful and diverse locatee lands on the Penticton Reserve with a Syilx Knowledge Specialist. Your class will learn to recognize the plants and animals that live in this incredible area and will be introduced to the important cultural system of traditional ecological knowledge. This area is home to one of the last remaining old growth Cottonwood stands in the valley. Learn why it is so critical to protect the unique habitats of the South Okanagan Similkameen.

Grades K to 8 Held in Penticton at ECommunity Place



Habitat Safari

Triple your fun as you explore three unique Okanagan habitats! Your class will roam the grassland benches, marvel at rocky terrain and investigate riparian habitat in this informative program. Discuss the connections between the different habitats and how they are interdependent. Learn about the unique and endangered wildlife that depend upon these habitats and find out ways in which their habitats can be saved.

Grades 4 to 8 Held at Vaseux Lake

In Class Programs: Sustainability



Water: The Myth of Abundance

Water appears to be abundant in our region, however every drop we use must come from somewhere with a consequence on community growth and the environment. Water use within the Okanagan Water Basin competes with wildlife, fish, agriculture and people. Once we identify methods to reduce water waste, we realize "I don't have to do without to be Water Smart". This series of presentations is a companion to the "Okanagan Basin Waterscape Poster" and the accompanying teacher's guide. Class discussion and exercises focus on using water wisely. This program is offered through the City of Penticton and is FREE to all classes.

Grades 3 to 8 Program & materials available in French

Please note: available within Penticton city limits only



Lunch Waste Audit

Students will analyze their lunches to determine how much garbage they have and then problem solve ways in which they could decrease the amount of waste. Students will learn about the 3 R's, what recycled materials are made into and participate in a fun game show format quiz. This program is provided by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and is FREE for all classes.

Grades 4/5



Eat Dirt!

Composting comes to the classroom with an interactive worm composting program. Students learn about the composting process, why it is important, characteristics of red wigglers and the relationship between worms and soil. This program is provided by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and is FREE for all classes,

Grades 1 to 8

In Class Programs



What's the Buzz?

Tell me what's happening inside those big white bee hives! Biologists and beekeepers Janelle and Kevin explain the fascinating world of bees. Learn the importance of these insect pollinators and honey producers. Taste fresh local honey, try on a beesuit, and get a close look at live bees who are behind glass. Topics include insect ecology and biology, metamorphosis, social structure of a hive, beehive products and agricultural significance. Grades K to 8 note: available in June only



Drumming the Land

Interested in using music to explore ecological concepts in an entertaining and unique approach? Professional percussion musicians will customize a workshop for your class that will apply the rhythms and cycles of music to the balance and cycles of nature. Grades K to 8

In Nature Programs: Species & Spaces



Return to Salmon Alley!

Did you know that salmon such as sockeye, Chinook and steelhead migrate 900km up the Columbia River from the Ocean to spawn here in the Okanagan? Let's take a walking tour of these river habitats they return to and see what different conservation groups are doing to restore the river.

Grades 3 to 8 Held in Oliver



CURATOR KID PROGRAM

The Penticton Museum features a new Natural History gallery with school & family programs related to:

- 'Fritz & Friends' (explore our new live amphibarium with rare frogs, salamanders & turtles)
- 'Rocking Around the Okanagan' (Geology programs)
- 'Dem Bones' (Paleontology programs)
- 'Species of the Okanagan' (flora & fauna of the Okanagan)
- 'Ecozones' (Habitats of the Okanagan)
- 'Living Larder' (First Nation life on the land)

For booking, please book directly through OSCA.

For more info on the Curator Kid Program contact:
785 Main St, Penticton, BC V2A 5E3
Office Tel: (250) 490-2451
Fax: (250) 490-2442
www.pentictonmuseum.com



In Class Programs: Species



Amazing Mammals

What do pine martin, deer, porcupine, black bear and coyotes have in common? They are all amazing local animals! Each one of them plays a special role in the local ecosystem web of life. Explore their special adaptations as you examine their skulls and bones.

Grades K to 3



It's Not Easy Being Green!

Making a living as an amphibian has always been a challenge in the South Okanagan, and it's getting tougher day-by-day! This entertaining and highly interactive program is perfect for students who want to explore what it takes to survive and thrive as a frog, toad or salamander in our shared and ever-changing landscape. This active program is perfect for open classroom settings or gymnasiums

Grades K to 8



Interesting Insects

Did you know that we share this valley with preying mantis, tarantula wasps and ticks? Learn about the basic biology, habits and importance of insects in this informative and fun program. This program feature lots of visual props to examine. Fund out if spiders are insects too...

Grades K to 2

In Class Programs: Species



Snakes of the South Okanagan Similkameen

The South Okanagan Similkameen is home to seven species of snakes! Learn to recognize these different species by examining their shed skins. Explore some of the ways these creatures lead their limbless lives via their habits and habitat. Learn some simple steps you can take to avoid the one species that is poisonous.

Grades 3 to 8



Owls of Canada

Whooo are the owls that range this country? Whooo are the owls that live in the Okanagan? Learn about the unique lifestyles, habits and adaptations that make owls such amazing nocturnal predators. Find out why many local owl species are threatened or endangered, and learn what we can do to recover their declining populations.

Grades 3 to 8



Meet the Antelope 8 Gang

Have you ever heard of Antelope Brush? Well, the Antelope 8 (a motley mix of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians) sure has! They will tell you the reasons why they depend upon the important antelope brush habitat which is a distinguishing feature of the unique ecosystem of the Okanagan Similkameen. Learn about the endangered or threatened status of these animals, human impacts and stewardship initiatives.

Grades 4 to 8