
Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance is pleased to offer three ECOstudies school programs this Fall.

Bird Migration Program at Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory
Grades 3 and 4

Program Overview

In 2025, this program will bring schools back to Vaseux Lake, an important stopover for thousands of migrating birds and home to the Okanagan's banding station! Through migration games, a nature walk to the bird blind, and a presentation about bird's flight adaptations, students will explore bird migration and flight adaptations, conservation and threats. The Syilx story of the Yellow-breasted Chat highlights local first nations tradition and our collaboration with the Okanagan College biology department allows us to use a large number of physical wing, feather and bone samples from different native bird species. Students will be able to visually compare bird size and color and deduce flight adaptations, a key part of the year ¾ curriculum. The bird migration experience allows for physical learning, in which students hunt for environmental and physical elements birds need for their migration, as well as games which allows students to "experience" the many challenges birds face.

Dates: September 08 – 26

Start time: Mornings only with students arriving at site by 9:30 am

Maximum group size: 36 students

Program length: 2 hours

Transportation: OSCA provides transportation funding support in the amount of \$150.

Buses will depart at the start of the school day and will return to schools for lunch.

Cost: \$95 per class (\$850 value) payable by cheque to OSCA. Invoices will be sent after the presentation and busing is complete. Please DO NOT give payment to the presenters.

BEAR AWARE! We are in bear country! Please do not bring backpacks to the sites. A small snack in pocket is fine but there are no bear-proof garbage bins on site, so all garbage trekked in, needs to be trekked out with the students.

Please also be TICK AWARE and POISON IVY AWARE! Wear long pants and hats and have students and parents check for ticks at home following the field trip.

Celebrate Our Salmon Fieldtrip to Oliver or Penticton River Channel

Grades K to 4

Celebrate the coming home of sockeye salmon after their 6000 kilometre journey to the Pacific ocean and back. The program explores the sockeye salmon life cycle and the challenges they encounter as they travel through different regions. We will explore the many projects which have increased salmon spawning and enabled salmon to again reach Okanagan Lake. The 1.5 hour program is tied to the new science curriculum.

Field trip locations (choose one)

October 8 to 14

Oliver Okanagan River Restoration Site: Meet at the pullout for the **mailboxes on Meadows Dr**, just south of the **junction of Bellevue Dr./Meadow Dr**. There is plenty of room for buses to park off the road. The group and presenters will then walk to the Okanagan River on the trail beside the Forbes Wetland. The easiest access for a bus is northbound along Meadows Dr.

October 15 - 20

Okanagan River Channel, Penticton: The meeting place is Loco Landing Parking lot, 75 Riverside Drive. From there you will take a short walk to the park beside the newly completed Okanagan Lake fish passage.

Start time: Schools have the option of a 9:30am session or 11:30am

Maximum group size: 36 students.

Program length: 1.5 hours

Transportation: OSCA provides transportation funding support in the amount of \$150 for those trips that exceed \$150 in busing costs.

Cost: \$95 per class (\$600 value) payable by cheque to OSCA. Invoices will be sent after the presentation and busing is complete. Please DO NOT give payment to the presenters.

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Wings on their fingers in-class presentation
Grades K to 9

Learn about the anatomy, behaviour, and habitat needs of this amazing flying mammal. And discover some of the fourteen species of bats that call the Okanagan home. Where do bats sleep, where do mother bats raise their young, and how can we help bats? This hour-long interactive presentation uses props, videos, and sound clips to bring the world of bats to life.

Dates: October 14 to November 7

Start time: Schools have the option of a morning session or afternoon session

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$95 + travel costs as follows:

Penticton/Okanagan Falls/Summerland/Naramata/Kaleden no additional travel =

Program Total \$95

Osoyoos and Kelowna + \$110 for travel = Program Total \$205

Peachland and Oliver + \$65 for travel = Program Total \$160

Keremeos and Cawston + \$85 for travel = Program Total \$180

All programs are payable to OSCA by cheque via mail at:

OSCA

113 - 437 Martin Street, Box 349

Penticton BC V2A 5L1

More information and teacher guides

You can find program descriptions and teacher guides on the OSCA website [here](#).

To book and for more information contact Rachel Bland at ecostudies@osca.org