



Salish Sea Expeditions: 2010 – 2014 Strategic Plan

Approved by Board of Directors

January 2010

Statement of Core Purpose

Developing curiosity and confidence through student-led scientific research and adventure on the waters of the Salish Sea.

Statement of Aspiration

To create a generation of critical thinkers who will collaborate to solve society's hardest problems.

Guiding Principles

1. **Intellectual curiosity and critical thinking.** We value innate curiosity and promote a desire to understand the workings of our natural world. In collaboration with their teachers, we strive to provide students with new and powerful tools to develop critical thinking skills.
2. **The deep value of the Salish Sea.** The Salish Sea physically defines our region and service area. We value an understanding of the marine environment as a key element of scientific literacy and the foundation for appreciating and respecting the marine realm.
3. **Student-led research and hands-on learning.** We believe that student-run, hands-on research leads to the most effective learning. Our educational model empowers students to take charge of their own learning experiences, building a foundation of lifelong learning skills.
4. **Remove barriers.** We seek to provide the Salish experience as broadly as possible and actively reach out to students and communities of varied socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.
5. **Teamwork and self-reliance.** Salish's interactive model transforms classroom dynamics and allows each student to become an integral part of the expedition. Students excel in new roles while collaborating with classmates in shared learning experiences.
6. **Strong science leads to environmental stewardship.** We believe that through scientific exploration of the Salish Sea and connected watersheds and the associated opportunity to understand and reflect on human impact, students will develop a sense of stewardship for these waters.

Strategy Statement

By 2014, Salish will achieve 2½ times growth in the number of middle and high school students who conduct student-driven scientific research on the Salish Sea's waters and watersheds as part of our team-based, classroom-integrated expeditions.

Action Plan

- Double participation of students participating in school year, boat-based programs through increased vessel capacity
- Triple participation in watershed research programs; institutionalize current "Source" programs through well-conceived program definition and pricing. Focus primarily on educational institutions engaged with our "Sound" programs
- Conceive and develop robust summer programs; establish formal partnerships with other like-minded organizations supporting both open and group enrollment
- Ensure student representation in the four Educational Service Districts that border the Salish Sea; engage ten expeditions per year from each ESD