



# GUIDE

VOLUNTEERS

S A L I S H S E A E X P E D I T I O N S

# GUIDE

## VOLUNTEERS

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# SALISH overview of

## Program History

In 1994, Four Winds Camp on Orcas Island contacted Katherine Murphy and Sophy Johnston about developing an educational program that would utilize a 60' sailboat they were planning to build. Specifically, Four Winds had plans for the new boat during summer months but wanted many students throughout the year to make use of the vessel. Murphy and Johnston considered how to apply an inquiry-based science curriculum that would support the new learning standards that teachers must comply with to a boat-based project. They did extensive research about other residential outdoor learning centers and other boat programs in the Puget Sound area. As a result, they decided to develop an inquiry-based science program in which students were given the opportunity to do marine research out in the field.

Salish Sea Expeditions incorporated in September 1994 and an agreement was made with the Four Winds board that Salish would bare-boat charter *Carlyn* in the spring and fall months. Numerous grants were received (using Four Winds nonprofit status) to support start-up costs, and in 1996 SSE was granted its own 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

The first programs were conducted in the spring 1997 with six different schools from the Puget Sound region. Each successive spring we have added several new groups and had a high return. Salish has recently added several summer programs to explore Puget Sound. Through spring and summer programs, Salish serves between several hundred students each year.

Salish is currently supported by a busy year-round staff (Executive Director, Education Director, Operations Manager), an active Board of Directors, and many volunteers. Together, they work to provide valuable educational programs to Puget Sound area students.

program history

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# SALISH

## overview of

## Goals

Salish Sea Expeditions strives to bridge the gap between the structured classroom and the complicated outside world by enabling students to explore a relatively inaccessible yet pervasive local place: Puget Sound. Our sampling equipment includes plankton nets, sediment grabs, and water quality monitoring equipment, which allows students to study all aspects of the marine environment from its tiniest life forms to the impacts of pollution. Furthermore, students organize and conduct all aspects of their expedition, from the meal planning and cooking to the sailing and navigation. Thus, we offer an educational experience, which both augments and complements a traditional classroom program instilling in students the valuable lessons of cooperation and responsibility.

### The importance of real-world learning

Studies indicate a steep decline in student math and science achievement following fourth grade. This decline is attributed to content-laden curriculum that lacks real-world applications. Most science activities involve predetermined “experiments” that do little to challenge imagination and ignite curiosity. The Salish program provides middle school students with opportunities to design, measure, analyze and present their own scientific research. The importance of hands-on scientific inquiry in classroom learning is supported by Washington’s 1997 Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALR’s) in science. Incorporating the Salish research program into Puget Sound middle schools helps teachers to meet state guidelines and trains students to be scientists and critical thinkers.

The Salish research experience dramatically increases students’ understanding not only of science, but also of Puget Sound, a central ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest and an ideal setting for educational research. Equipping students with an understanding of Puget Sound ecology in conjunction with basic scientific skills will help them to manage and protect the land and resources of the

goals

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# SALISH overview of

## How It Works

Salish combines innovative classroom study with actual field research, providing an exciting educational opportunity for youth to learn scientific principals and practice problem-solving skills while investigating scientific issues surrounding the waters of Puget Sound. Salish programs have three components: Expedition Preparation classroom sessions, the Expedition, and Expedition Sythesis classroom sessions.

Expedition Preparation: Marine scientists lecture on Puget Sound's natural and human history, explain the scientific process, and orient students to basic seamanship skills. Students share the questions and hypotheses they generate about Puget Sound and then create a hypothesis to test using Salish' s sampling equipment. Using their new knowledge and skills, students fully develop their scientific hypothesis and detailed sampling plan for their upcoming expedition.

Expedition: From the decks of the Carlyn, students conduct their research. Their scientific expedition can be from 2 to 5 days in length. The group is divided into two watches, and each student rotates through the various duties aboard the vessel including collecting and analyzing oceanographic samples, sailing and navigating the ship, and helping with cooking and shipboard chores. Students may collect scientific data on water chemistry, plankton, sediments, habitat, and weather. Students also participate in on-going water quality monitoring projects linked to government and university research efforts that are separate from their research project. Each night Carlyn docks or anchors at a marine state park and half of the students camp ashore, pro-

viding a chance to study shoreline and inter-tidal environments, while the other half of the students sleep on the boat.

Expedition Synthesis: Salish educators return to the classroom to assist students with data interpretation, evaluation of their research methods and oral and written presentations. Students discuss what they learned about designing a research project and what new questions they have as a result of their research. Students create

how it works

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S A L I S H S E A E X P E D I T I O N S

# INFO volunteer

## Job Descriptions

### Job Descriptions

**J**in the past, Salish has been fortunate enough to profit from a wide range of volunteer expertise, from established professionals (consultants, graphic designers, scientists, database designers, photographers) to high school students interested in pursuing a career in the marine science field. Without the help of these generous individuals, Salish would not be able to produce such an innovative educational opportunity for Puget Sound youth. Salish Sea Expeditions only has three year round employees. As the company grows, the need for volunteers has become much more important.

Some of the many volunteer opportunities that we have available are:

#### Office Assistant

Provide clerical support to our program, including filing, updating databases, updating web page, organize and catalog photos, and other administrative tasks.

#### Public Outreach / Relations Assistant

Assist with community outreach and business solicitations by hosting an informational meeting in your home, and distributing posters and advertisements.

#### Shipboard Assistant

Assist in line handling and docking on vessel transits, or provide vessel maintenance.

#### Shore Support

Provide transportation for volunteers and staff to rendezvous locations with the program vessels.

#### Yard Maintenance

Provide flower bed weeding and lawn mowing at Salish's office.

The volunteer opportunities at Salish are endless. If you have a skill that you think might enhance the program, feel free to talk to the volunteer coordinator about it. We are very open to suggestions and would love to hear your ideas.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Lorrie Kalmbach-Ehlers

647 Horizon View Pl. N.W.

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

lorrieke@salish.org

(206) 780-7848 ext. 3#

job descriptions

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# INFO volunteer

## Evaluation

Thank you for donating your time to help Salish Sea Expeditions fulfill its goal of providing innovative educational opportunities for Puget Sound youth. If you could fill out the questionnaire about your experience as a volunteer for Salish, you will help us determine ways to improve future volunteers' experience. Thank you for your time!

valuation:

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Name:

Brief Description of Duties:

Date(s) in which you volunteered:

Approximate Total Hours you Volunteered:

How did you get involved with Salish?

Why did you volunteer for Salish?

What's your favorite part of volunteering for Salish?

What have you learned as a volunteer for Salish?

Were our expectations of you as a volunteer clear? Reasonable?

What could we do to improve your volunteering experience?

evaluation

Would you like to be informed of future volunteering opportunities?

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# INFO volunteer

## Personal Info

Volunteer Information

**V**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you hear about the Salish Sea Expeditions? \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Available to Volunteer (include days and times)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What types of activities are you interested in doing at Salish Sea Expeditions?  
 Database Entry  
 Filing and other General Office Duties  
 Host an Informational meeting in your home  
 Distribute Posters and Fliers for Program Promotion  
 Vessel Maintenance  
 Assist on Vessel Transits  
 Office Flower Bed Weeding and Lawn Mowing  
 Transporting Volunteers and Staff to Redezvous Locations with Program Vessels  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your experience, or your interests?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

personal info

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