
seaStars & Beyond Program Overview

Harbor WildWatch offers a unique educational opportunity called **seaStars & Beyond** to teacher-recommended kids, ages 8-12, and their parents. seaStars & Beyond is for young nature enthusiasts interested in learning more about our marine environment, sharing a hands-on educational experience alongside their parents, and helping Harbor WildWatch educate others on how to preserve a healthy shoreline!

Harbor WildWatch will accept 25 kids (and their parents) into seaStars & Beyond for spring/summer 2010.

Applications must be postmarked by March 20. All students accepted into the program must attend the orientation session and all **5 exciting educational workshops** to be eligible to volunteer on the beaches in the *Get your Feet Wet* programs and join us on the culminating field trip in September.

Harbor WildWatch is a 501 (3)c non-profit organization and is funded solely through grants and private donations. **The fee for this year's program is \$150** (due by April 10). Participants will receive a copy of our new book, [Puget Sound's WildSide, A Natural History of Puget Sound's Marine Environment](#), a t-shirt, baseball cap, unique sea critter pin, 15+ hours of educational workshops, at least 4 hours working alongside top beach naturalists, and an exciting end of summer field trip.

2010 seaStar Schedule

Orientation - Saturday, April 10, 10:00-12:00 @ Gig Harbor Library.

Workshop 1 - Saturday, April 17, 11:30-2:30 @ Kopachuck State Park

Plants and Algae: We will hike through the woods to the beach exploring the flora of a temperate forest biome along the way. We'll learn how this terrestrial ecosystem compares to a coastal marine environment through hands-on activities, identification challenges, and a class project of pressing algae.

Learn. Have Fun!

"I got to learn about sea life and share what I learned with other people" ~seaStar age 8"

"It was a whole lot of fun. I loved seeing the different sea creatures." ~seaStar age 9

"I found out that nudibranches are one of my favorite sea animals." ~seaStar age 10

"I really loved the Get Your Feet Wet programs because I love to interact with nature." ~seaStar age 11

Workshop 2 - Saturday, April 24, 12:00-2:00 @ Kopachuck State Park

Marine Mammals & Birds: Through a comparative anatomical workshop and hands-on field exploration, the kids will investigate our local mammal and marine bird populations and learn about the three unique whale pods that call Puget Sound home.

Workshop 3 - Saturday, May 1, 11:00-2:00 @ Penrose State Park

Invertebrates & Conservation: Famous WA. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Specialist Alan Rammer will lead us as we search the point at low tide and discover what lives under the rocky intertidal. We'll learn beach etiquette and what conservation means, preparing participants to mentor others on how to maintain a healthy marine habitat.

Workshop 4 – Sat., May 8, 10:00-12:00 @ PNW Salmon Enhancement Center, Belfair

The Significance of Salmon: We'll learn all things salmon with a visit to one of the premier salmon rehabilitation facilities in the Puget Sound region, inspection of a fish weir, and playing a salmon survival game.

Workshop 5 - Saturday, May 22, 10:00-12:00 @ Crescent Creek Park

Tying It Altogether: Through an interactive game and urban walk-about, we'll take a comprehensive look at how all aspects of these workshops are interconnected.

Volunteer - variable dates/times during the summer

Volunteer at least 4 hours with Harbor WildWatch's "[Get Your Feet Wet](#)" summer beach programs. seaStars and parents will serve as beach hosts, assisting guests to identify intertidal organisms and interpreting the animals and algae in touch-tanks.

Community Service Project - variable dates/times during spring/summer

Design and complete a service project such as organizing a beach litter clean-up day, cleaning interpretive signs, assisting park rangers, or non-native plant removal.

End of Summer Field Trip - September 26, 10:00-4:00 @ Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

We will be able to walk the trails, bird-watch and experience how an estuary works first hand. We will tour the interpretive/educational center. Games, food, and fun with FIN the salmon are included.

The mission of Harbor WildWatch is to inspire all people to be good stewards of the environment by studying various ecosystems and our connections to them.

For more information, please visit www.harborwildwatch.org or contact seaStar Program Coordinator, Sandy Dawson, at Sandy@HarborWildWatch.org.