

Puget Sound Marine Youth Education Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to schedule a beach field trip to receive a classroom presentation?

No. A WSU Beach Watcher can visit your classroom even if you are not planning to visit the beach. A classroom presentation, however, is required if you are planning a beach field trip with WSU Beach Watchers.

NOTE: Classroom presentations are given to 1st graders and upper grades.

Is there a fee to receive a classroom presentation?

No. Classroom presentations are FREE, although donations are always welcome.

How do I schedule a classroom presentation?

For teachers that are scheduling a beach field trip – Upon confirmation of your field trip date, WSU staff will forward your application to our Classroom Presentation Coordinator, who will then recruit a WSU Beach Watcher classroom presenter and have him / her contact you directly to schedule a mutually convenient time and date for your presentation.

For teachers that only want a presentation – please submit an application form (no need to submit the expectations form) to Yolimar Rivera Vázquez as described below (see *How do I submit my application?*). Once received, it will be forwarded to our Classroom Presentation Coordinator to be processed.

What does the classroom presentation involve? What should I expect?

WSU Beach Watchers have designed an engaging PowerPoint presentation that introduces the beach ecosystem, the creatures that live there and their connection to the larger watershed. We also cover beach etiquette in preparation for a beach visit. The Beach Watcher presenters modify the presentation content to be age appropriate according to the age and level of education of your students.

We ask teachers to provide a computer, projector and white space or a screen to project the presentation. We ask that you be present in the classroom during the presentation. The Beach Watcher presenter will bring the presentation in a flash drive.

What if my students are home-schooled? – Beach Watchers are happy to visit home-schooled students if you have a meeting location with enough space for everyone. Arrangements for audio visual equipment or a meeting room can be made through WSU Snohomish County Extension if home-school groups don't have access to these.

I want to do my beach field trip on a specific date that is not on your flyer. Can we do the field trip on my specific date?

Most likely not. In order to provide a successful beach experience for your students, we work ONLY during low tide dates. We have already carefully inspected all the low tide dates available for the season and selected the best options – these are the dates in the flyer.

We do have three backup dates if the “best low tide dates” advertised in our flyer don't work for you. These backup dates, however, are usually “not as good low tides”, decreasing your students' chances of seeing a great deal of biological diversity.

How can I find out which are your backup dates for field trips?

Please contact Yolimar Rivera Vázquez at yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6029 to find out alternative dates for your field trip.

How do I submit my application?

The lead teacher should submit an application form and an expectations form, both signed by all participating teachers, to Yolimar Rivera Vázquez via email, fax or postal mail.

Email: yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu

Fax: (425) 338-3994

Mail: WSU Snohomish County Extension

Attn. Yolimar Rivera Vázquez

600 128th St. SE

Everett, WA 98208

When will I learn if my students will be receiving a beach field trip?

We typically respond within one and a half weeks of your complete application submission. We do NOT process incomplete applications until all forms are submitted. A complete application submission includes signed application *and* expectations forms. Both of these forms MUST be signed by all the participating teachers in order to start processing your application.

What are the chances of securing my 1st choice date for a field trip?

We process applications and assign beach field trip dates on a first-come, first serve basis. Therefore, we encourage early application submissions to increase your chances of securing your preferred date.

Is it possible to have a diver participate of the field trip experience?

Yes (although it's not required), as long as the diver and teacher are willing to follow WSU Beach Watchers standards on the treatment of subtidal organisms. These are:

- It is the responsibility of the teacher to recruit a diver (if desired) and share his / her contact information with WSU Beach Watchers (see expectations form).
- The teacher or diver must provide a place to temporarily hold any subtidal animals collected, such as a kiddie pool or a fish tank.
- The diver will only collect those organisms that beach visitors typically cannot see during a low tide.
- The diver should carry the appropriate, valid licenses for diving and organism collection.
- The diver will be responsible for returning all creatures to the area(s) they were collected from.
- The teacher must give up one of the four stations (high tide, mid tide, low tide or art stations) in order to have a new "diver station".
- Teacher and diver must allow WSU Beach Watcher volunteers to collaborate with the education in the diver station.

It would be great if the field trips were free. Why do you have a field trip fee?

We have a \$25 per class fee to cover field trip materials and pay WSU staff to coordinate the field trip requests and volunteer recruitment for your field trips. Although we offer a limited number of waivers upon request, we appreciate the support of those who don't need the waiver, which helps us continue offering the Puget Sound Marine Youth Education program.

What forms of payment do you accept? When should I pay?

WSU Beach Watchers accept checks or cash only. Unfortunately, we do not have the capability to accept credit cards.

Some teachers send us a check along with their application and that is wonderful, thank you! Otherwise, we will send you an invoice. You or your school are expected to send us a check or cash, no more than one month after your field trip date. We understand that for some teachers, payment will come from the school / school district. We recommend you let them know the final fee once your field trip date has been completed.