



December 16, 2016

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in WSU Beach Watchers! Our mission, to protect Puget Sound's fragile environment through education, research and stewardship, can not be achieved without dedicated community members. In 11 years, WSU Beach Watchers in Snohomish County have donated just over 58,000 hours of their time to a wide range of projects. A copy of the most recent *Ebb Tide*, our newsletter, will give you a sense of what we do.

The upcoming training in Snohomish County will be based out of McCollum Park in Everett from March 17 – May 19, 2017 on Fridays from 9 AM – 3:30 PM and will include two Saturday field trips on April 1 and April 29, 2017. You are expected to attend all training dates. The training sessions are led by experts in their field. There is a \$55 (electronic version) or \$75 (hard copy version) fee for course materials.

Class size is limited so there is an application process. No experience is required - you don't have to be a professional biologist or teacher. You DO need to be enthusiastic about protecting Puget Sound and be available to work on Beach Watcher projects after the basic training is completed. An application is available in the WSU Beach Watcher website at www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish or upon request to chrys@wsu.edu.

Volunteers are expected to complete and report at least 80 hours of volunteer time over the next two years. Each Beach Watcher gets to craft their own volunteer experience – choosing the types of projects to work on, how far you would like to travel, and setting your own schedule. Projects that qualify for the 80 hour volunteer commitment must:

- Further Puget Sound protection;
- Engage in community outreach, public education, project development, restoration, research, or;
- Support the running of the WSU Beach Watcher program.

We currently have projects from Edmonds to Stanwood and further east. There are many pre-existing projects and committees that new Beach Watchers can join, including summer low-tide interpretation in Edmonds, Mukilteo and Kayak Point, intertidal beach monitoring, stormwater education, youth education, public seminar planning, water quality sampling, and festival education. Continuing education opportunities are provided year-long, so the learning never ends.

Completed applications must be postmarked, faxed or hand delivered by February 26, 2017 to the WSU Extension office (address below). Half-hour “get to know you” interviews will be held prior to the class at a mutually convenient time in early March. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive, so early applications are welcome.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can also look at the WSU Beach Watcher website for more information about the program in general. We look forward to talking with you!

Great Days!

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