

WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING TOGETHER!

# Getting ready for your workshop



## ABOUT SIERRA CLUB BC

**We are so excited to be running a workshop with your school!** At Sierra Club BC we are creating a more inclusive movement, empowering new partners and local leaders to take positive steps in their communities that help restore balance to vital ecosystems in B.C.

As part of this work, we've facilitated environmental school workshops for over 20 years. Education, especially for children and youth, is key in ensuring future generations are well-versed in stewarding abundant ecosystems and a stable climate. After all, they're the decision-makers of tomorrow!

Our workshops use a place-based approach that centres ecological and cultural knowledges. They facilitate a shift to respectful, reciprocal relations with the land, water and all living beings.

**In this packet, you'll find more about what you can expect from our session and how you can prepare for our time together.**



## BIG IDEAS AND QUESTIONS WE'LL EXPLORE

- Inviting learners into a relationship with the beings just outside their doors.
- There are many pathways that connect us all.
- Practicing mindfulness and community care. Who is part of our community?
- How might the practice of sustainability be reimagined? Encouraging innovative possibilities in the face of the climate crisis.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

Our approach is to give each SCBC Facilitator of Learning creative freedom for environmental program delivery. We believe that this approach allows us to bring our most authentic selves and strengths forward, which in turn allows for a more enriching program experience.

Although Facilitators of Learning will put their own spin on things, you can expect that discussion and activities will be tied to the season, include some art, some critical thinking, team building, include some Indigenous connections and stories that are specific to the area of your learning community, and invite an exploration on how we are all connected in our shared home.

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO **BEFORE** FOR YOUR WORKSHOP

- Let our team know if there are any specific considerations we should be aware of before your education engagement (e.g. unique learning circumstances/opportunities, recent or upcoming celebrations we could make connections with, current focused conversations happening in your learning community, your preferred connecting lens/theory/style).
- Please read our **Invitation to View and Explore Equity**.
- You will be going outside so please ensure that the learners are prepared thoughtfully for the weather (e.g. sunscreen, hat, rainboots, coat, bug spray).

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO **DURING** YOUR WORKSHOP

- Teachers are expected to support with meeting behavioral needs that might arise.
- Please assist the Facilitator of Learning's styles of engagement, including relationship building with the learners.
- Teachers are expected to respectfully share the space with the Facilitator of Learning.
- All of the adults are learners too! We are expecting you to model active participation in this process.

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO **AFTER** YOUR WORKSHOP

- **Offering feedback:** Your feedback supports us in continuing to move our work forward, measuring our impact, and continually adjusting our programming for the diverse communities that we serve. It also supports our workshop accessibility, as we include your feedback and comments in our funding applications. We would greatly appreciate you and the teachers at your school taking **just a few minutes to complete our online feedback form: [sierraclub.bc.ca/education-programs-feedback-survey/](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/education-programs-feedback-survey/)**
- **Making a donation:** Although it is certainly not required, as a charity, we do appreciate donations. This facilitates our continued prioritization of providing service in schools in traditionally underserved areas. As well, it aids our growing library of free open-access education tools. For schools, we are suggesting a donation of \$75-\$150 per class/group but any amount helps. We are happy to put together an invoice for you if needed. There are a number of ways to donate to Sierra Club BC's Education Program:
  - You can donate directly online at: [sierraclub.bc.ca/donate-education/](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/donate-education/)
  - You can mail a cheque to Sierra Club BC, Education Program, PO Box 8337 Central, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R9
  - **If you have already donated – THANK YOU!**
- **Explore our educational resources:** We have a growing library of materials that can help learners in your community connect with the web of life. You can access those learning tools at [sierraclub.bc.ca/teachers](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/teachers).

# Continue place-based learning in your classroom

## SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Here are some offerings that can help you bring environmental education into your lessons:

- Learn how to make a [recycled notebook](#)! This is a great way to use materials that would otherwise go to waste and also to reflect on your experience with us. It's a great tool for inviting mindfulness into your outdoor education practice.
- If you are interested in growing your local plant knowledge, you can purchase a copy of the [Pacific Northwest Plant Knowledge Cards](#) from Strong Nations.
- Learn stories, songs, language, and games from the first peoples of the land you're on by visiting [First Voices](#).
- Explore our [EcoMap](#)! This interactive tool will help you learn about the amazing plant and animal beings that are just outside your doors and in your broader community! You can read about each being's appearance, life cycle, the habitat they share with other beings, if they are endangered, and other important information.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

We're inviting you to use the following gifts to support the work that you are already doing — or are looking to do — for evaluating the impact of this education engagement on your learners. Consider how you can do this work in a way that is mindful, inclusive, and perhaps using a different approach.

- [SCBC Education Rubric](#) for assessing impact and reflection as it relates to the education engagement you participated in (it may be a model you wish to continue with as you evaluate other aspects of your learners' experiences in education).
- Explore our many interconnections with the beings just outside our doors through Sierra Club BC's education curriculums. You can find our resource library at [sierraclub.bc.ca/teachers](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/teachers)



## HAVE QUESTIONS?

It's a pleasure to connect with you and the learners in your community. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are looking for ideas, other supports, or just to chat!

**You can reach us via email at [education@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:education@sierraclub.bc.ca).**