

young SCIENTISTS Projects

2008-2009

Aquatic Field Guide

3-4 Classes

1-2 Intro Lessons ~ 1-2 Field Trips ~ 1 Conclusion Lesson

With the help of our community partners, Audubon will lead teen scientists, artists, researchers, and writers to create a field guide about the aquatic and nearshore plants, animals, organisms, and habitats, and the human and ecological interactions with them. When completed, Audubon will make the guide available to the community as a resource that encourages the exploration and discovery of the natural wonders of Seward Park. Students will also coordinate and plan a community celebration event for their families, project partners, volunteers and the public in late May or early June to showcase their work.

Baseline Studies

3-6 Classes per year

3-6 Intro Lesson ~ 3-6 Field Trips ~ 1-2 Conclusion Lessons

Classes will choose 1 of our 3 habitat restoration areas, Shoreline Ecosystem, Old Growth Forest, and Garry Oak Savannah and assist us in our first year of work including baseline studies and restoration projects. Examples of restoration work include pulling ivy, removing blackberry, planting native flora, etc. Baseline studies will include GIS mapping of the flora in each site, fauna surveys and behavior studies, etc. This project will focus on botany with some work on the interrelationships between flora and fauna.

All restoration activities are developed in partnership with Seattle Parks Urban Forestry department and in accordance with the Seward Park Vegetation Management Plan. Data collected and analyzed by the students in the program will be shared with Parks and other scientific institutions in order to facilitate park and restoration planning.

Bat Population and Bat Habitat Assessments

1-2 Classes

1-2 Intro Lessons ~ 1-2 Field Trips ~ 2-3 Follow-up and Conclusion Lessons

No one has ever done a population and diversity assessment of the bats of Seward Park. We know they're here and we know there are quite a few of them, but we don't know which bats are here. You and your class can help us with our new citizen science bat studies! By utilizing state of the art software and research techniques, students will monitor the bat populations at the park and assess habitats for bats. This project is best suited to a class of 25 students or less and a class that can take after-hours field trips.

Aquatic Ecology & Chemistry of Lake Washington

2-3 Classes per year

1-2 Intro Lessons ~ 3+ Field Trips ~ 1-2 Conclusion Lessons

Let's start a long-term study of Lake Washington. Students will learn the various ways to determine water and habitat quality including habitat assessments, water chemistry testing, and benthic macroinvertebrate testing. Then they help us continually monitor various testing sites around the peninsula. This project is most powerful with classes that can come to the park regularly.

Coyote & Wildlife Studies

1-2 Classes per year

1-2 Intro Lessons ~ 1-3 Field Trips ~ 1-2 Conclusion Lessons

*Permits with the USDA and WDFW are pending for this project.

Do your students have what it takes to learn about the frequently elusive fauna of Seward Park? They will learn and practice the details of field studies of fauna from reptiles and amphibians to mammals and birds. They might even get to help us put a GPS collar on one of our park coyotes and then utilize our GIS software to track the coyote's paths, learn how to track them the old-fashioned way, and even do some scat analysis to determine what they are eating. This project is best suited to a class of 25 students or less and a class that can take after-hours field trips.