

Collaborating with Non-Profits

The Pacific Northwest is very fortunate to have many active non-profits seeking to protect our fragile, yet vital ecosystem. All have something different to offer creating a diversity of possible connections for students.

Some of the non-profits that are part of the Salish Sea Experience program are:

[Killer Whale Tales](#)

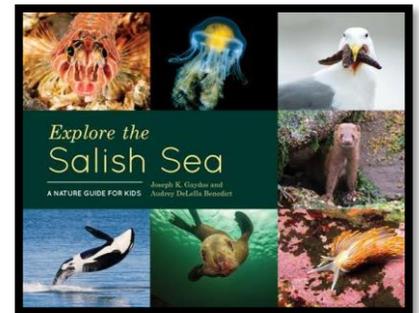
Jeff Hogan of Killer Whale Tales “uses storytelling and field-based science to inspire students to take an active role in the conservation of Southern Resident Killer Whales and their habitat.” He keeps students enthralled through his 90-minute presentation in the classroom. Students earn coveted Orca trading cards when they document the stewardship practices suggested for home. Jeff also offers a rotation on prey availability or whale ID when he is on the island. Some lucky students have been able to use their new whale ID skills right away.



[SeaDoc Society](#)

SeaDoc Society is an Orcas Island non-profit associated with the University of California, Davis whose mission is “to ensure the health of marine wildlife and their ecosystems through science and education.” They recently published “**Explore the Salish Sea,**” an informative picture filled book written for fifth and sixth graders. It works well for fourth graders too!

SeaDoc’s goal is to get a copy of this book into the hands of every student. They have funding to offer copies free of charge to Title 1 schools. These books would belong to the students to take home. Some Bellingham Title 1 schools are using this book in their curriculum. Those students will be thrilled when they find out they get their own to take home!



Check out their [Junior SeaDoctors page](#) to learn more about how to connect with the Salish Sea.

[Washington State Parks](#)

David Halpern, the ranger at Lime Kiln Point State Park, works hard to provide a quality selection of rotations for teachers to choose from that reinforce the lessons in the classroom and the learning target of the field trip.

[The Whale Museum](#)

Dr. Bob Otis, retired professor from Ripon College, works in conjunction with the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor to do his research over the summer. Dr. Otis shares his work with the students at the lighthouse – unless the whales come by. Then students get a view of a scientist in action.

The Whale Museum provides a classroom adoption so each class going on the field trip has a personal connection to one of the whales and knows the story of the pod through the eyes of that whale. They also provided bookmarks using the whale as one more way to keep the importance of stewardship in the front of students’ minds.



Whatcom Conservation District

The Whatcom Conservation District works to “foster a healthy, sustainable relationship between people and the environment.” We will be partnering with them for the stewardship program to bring their watershed trailer to the schools, so students can see a realistic representation of how the land and sea are connected.

Wild Orca

Dr. Deborah Giles (goes by Giles) is a resident scientist and lecturer at the University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Labs. She is also the science and research director of Wild Orca, a non-profit “dedicated to education and action initiatives contributing to the conservation of wild killer whale populations.” Giles shares her orca research when Dr. Otis is not available.

Giles has also been the vessel captain since 2009 for a project with University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology. This project uses specially trained dogs to sniff out whale scat on the water, so it can be retrieved for analysis to determine the physiological health of the whale.

