

SALMON RELEASE

Students release coho fry into the creek in late spring.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn first-hand about the life cycle of salmon and their habitat.
- Witness fry in natural conditions.
- Cultivate an interest in learning more.

WHAT TO DO

- 1) Arrange for fish by either
 - contacting Seattle Public Utilities (206-684-7624) about enrolling in the Salmon in the Classroom program to raise coho for release in Fauntleroy Creek *OR*
 - contacting us about releasing coho raised by one of our volunteers.
- 2) Plan to release between late April and late May, when your fish are about 1.5” long.
- 3) If you raise Salmon in the Classroom fish, select one of these release experiences:
 - let the program coordinator make arrangements for your class to release in Fauntleroy Park with a Seattle Parks naturalist.
 - make your own arrangements to release in the park and notify us how many fry you released.
 - contact us to help with your release in the park or possibly in the lower creek.If we provide the fish for your release, we will also provide volunteer leadership at either location.

OPTIONS

- Select an exploration activity (such as task cards or parts of “Link-by-Link”) to engage students who are waiting their turn to release or who have already released.
- Have students test the water to determine if conditions are favorable for their fish to survive.
- Use parts of the “Let’s Explore What’s in the Water” kit to find out which macroinvertebrates are available in the creek for the fish to eat.
- Visit the salmon art at the viewpoint overlooking the fish ladder.
- Use your release to stimulate student interest in researching a host of salmon-related topics (such as marine habitat, cultural history, or contemporary issues).

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- On-site leadership for this activity.
- A diagram of the release site in the lower creek at www.fauntleroy.net/creek/lowercreekdiagram.
- A map of Fauntleroy Park at www.fauntleroy.net/fauntleroypark/trailmap.
- "Tips and Tricks for Taking Kids Outside" at www.fauntleroy.net/creek/tipsandtricks.

SPECIAL MENTION

Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing your release. Heavy rain, however, may create swift, high water that’s not safe for small children (or small fish!). In the event of a major rainstorm on your release day, call early in the morning to strategize.

If you release in Fauntleroy Park: Provide ample adult supervision and clearly define limits.

If you release in the lower creek: Fencing, plants, and bridges help protect students along the natural creek channel and at the fish ladder (a canyon-like structure with steep sides and deep pools). Prepare your students to respect all barriers and use bridges to cross the creek.

THEMES

Salmon Cycle
Stream Ecology
Water Quality

GRADES

K - 4

TIME

1 hour