

# SALMON RETURN

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*Students see coho spawners returning to the creek.*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- See the salmon lifecycle play out in a creek habitat.
- Relate personal behavior to what salmon need in order to survive in the city.
- Cultivate an interest in learning more.

## WHAT TO DO

1) Contact us to arrange for this activity in the lower creek (access is through private property). Most years, spawners begin to school in the cove by early October. Once we see them consistently near the mouth of the creek, we can schedule your field trip for early to mid November.

2) Give us your e-mail address if you want us to alert you when we start seeing fish.

## OPTIONS

- Ask us to demonstrate the water testing that we typically do during the return.
- Ask us to take the class down to the ferry pier for a look at where the fish enter the creek.
- Visit the salmon art at the viewpoint overlooking the fish ladder.
- Involve your students in our annual drumming to call the fish home with singing, storytelling, and drumming. Geared to all ages, this gathering at the fish-ladder viewpoint takes place on a Sunday evening in mid October.
- Use seeing spawners to stimulate student interest in exploring a host of salmon-related topics (such as marine habitat, cultural history, or contemporary issues).

## SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- On-site leadership.
- A diagram of the residential site you will be visiting at [www.fautleroy.net/creek/lowercreekdiagram](http://www.fautleroy.net/creek/lowercreekdiagram).
- Driving directions to the site at [www.fautleroy.net/creek/creekdirections](http://www.fautleroy.net/creek/creekdirections).

## SPECIAL MENTION

We do our best to maximize the chances that your students will see fish; the coho are in control, however, and we cannot guarantee their presence. We will contact you as soon as possible if seeing fish on your day is iffy.

Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing your visit. Heavy rain, however, may create swift, high water that's not safe for small children. It may also make the water too muddy to see any fish that might brave such conditions. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call early in the morning to strategize what to do.

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.

We employ certain behavior do's and don't's to reduce stressing spawners and will brief your class on those when you get here.

### THEMES

Salmon Cycle  
Stream Ecology  
Water Quality

### GRADES

K - 8

### TIME

1.5 hours