



Washington Department of Natural Resources

Youth Education and Outreach Program Offerings

What is DNR?

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages more than 5.6 million acres of public land in Washington, including shorelines, rivers, forests, and grasslands. DNR employs more than 1,600 natural resource professionals across a variety of specialties working to manage, sustain and protect Washington's lands and waters to support the needs of present and future generations.

What is YEOP?

DNR's Youth Education and Outreach Program (YEOP) facilitates place-based, career-connected, outdoor learning experiences on state lands and cultivates the next generation of natural resource professionals. We work as educational coaches for DNR staff and partner with schools, Tribes, other government agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations to deliver programming. To learn more about YEOP, navigate to www.dnr.wa.gov/youtheducation

Why YEOP?

YEOP staff are WA State certified teachers with years of classroom experience in multiple disciplines. It is our job to serve as a bridge between classroom teachers and natural resource professionals. We understand the myriad tasks on educators' plates. We also know the immense value of hands-on, outdoor learning. We will connect you to DNR professionals and other community partners, facilitate access to state lands, AND design engaging, interactive, standards-aligned activities!

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

GUEST SPEAKING

Topics:

- Aquatics: aquatic invasive species monitoring, river, coast and wetland habitats, climate change impacts on aquatic lands, coastal restoration
- Geology: Washington's geologic history, geologic hazards and emergency planning, rock cycle
- Forestry: forest health, climate impacts on WA forests, forest ecology, timber harvest
- Wildfire: fire history and projections, prescribed fire, planning for fire resilience, wildland firefighting
- Conservation & Recreation: protected lands, WA's unique ecology, recreation impacts, responsible recreation
- Cultural Resources: archeological protections, co-stewardship with WA Tribes

Formats: YEOP can provide guest speakers for your classroom for any length between 15-75 minutes.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- YELMT map—explore land managers in your area and identify DNR recreation sites to take your students outside using our tool at <https://tinyurl.com/yelmtmap>
- Gear libraries—check out FREE forestry tools and personal protective equipment from one of DNR's offices. Learn more at www.dnr.wa.gov/youtheducation
- Pathway graphics – profile cards showcasing DNR staff's career paths, job duties, and advice for students interested in working for the DNR; contact yeop@dnr.wa.gov for access








PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

YEOP will work with you to design a project to engage your students in the management of a local site. Examples include planning to improve the wildfire resilience of your school, using camera traps to identify the best location for a wildlife crossing, and creating a restoration or forest management plan. Contact yeop@dnr.wa.gov to engage with our staff in project design!

FIELD TRIPS

YEOP will work with you to design a field trip that integrates with what your students are learning in class. Topics can be combined in station-style events.

Funding may be available for transportation and substitute costs. Reach out to inquire about availability.

TOPIC	GRADE	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	STANDARDS
Nearshore or Riparian Monitoring	7 th - 12 th	1.5 - 4 hrs Seasons: 	Beaches, rivers or lakes; DNR Aquatic Reserves	Assess nearshore or river conditions with activities like measuring water quality, surveying bird species, measuring beach slope, assessing macroinvertebrates, and surveying vegetation	NGSS: LS-2, Ecosystem Dynamics Math: Gr 7, Random Sampling ELA: 6-8.4, terminology and domain-specific words
Forest Measurements	6 th - 12 th	45 mins - 3 hrs Seasons: 	Any forested area, local parks, trees on your schoolyard	Gather data on the characteristics of forested stands by setting up and flagging plots, identifying tree species, measuring diameter, tree height, and live crown ratio using professional forestry tools.	NGSS: LS2C, Ecosystem Dynamics Math: Gr 6/7, Ratios & proportional relationships ELA: 9-10.7, translating technical information
Ecosystem Health	6 th - 12 th	1.5 - 4 hrs Seasons: 	Any outdoor site, DNR Natural Areas	Assess the ecological health and complexity of a site by setting up plots, assessing land use, inventorying biodiversity, and measuring hydrological conditions	NGSS: LS2C, Ecosystem Dynamics ESE: 2 – The Natural and Built Environment Math: Gr 7, Random Sampling
Wildfire Risk Assessment	3 rd - 12 th	45 mins - 3 hrs Seasons: 	Schoolyard, at parks, forested sites, etc.	Explore fire behavior and methods to improve fire resilience by identifying hazards, setting up fuel transects, assessing fire history/burn scars, and developing recommendations for improved resilience	NGSS: ESS3B, Natural Hazards STI: Tribal, federal, state agency collaboration Math: Gr 7, Random Sampling
Native Plant Ecology	3 rd - 12 th	1-4 hrs Seasons: 	Schoolyard, at parks, forested sites, etc.	Explore the unique ecology of Washington through by identifying plants, learning about ethnobotany, removing invasives, and planting native species	NGSS: ESS2E Biogeology, LS1B, Growth and Development STI: Tribal sovereignty ESE: Standard 1 – Ecological, Social, and Economic Systems
Wildlife Population Surveying	K-12 th	1-4 hours Seasons: 	Schoolyard, at parks, forested sites, etc.	Bird sound mapping, bird lists, animal signs, camera traps, quadrats and transects	NGSS: LS-2, Ecosystem Dynamics; LS1B Growth and Development ESE: 1—Ecological, Social and Economic Systems
Recreation Management	K-12 th	45 mins - 2 hrs Seasons: 	Park, trailhead	Investigate the design of recreational sites by identifying human impacts, exploring engineered features, and interacting with interpretive signage.	STI: landmark court decisions ESE: 3—Sustainability and Civic Responsibility ELA: 11-12.5 text structure and hierarchy

Contact DNR's Youth Education & Outreach Program

yeop@dnr.wa.gov



Visit Our Website

www.dnr.wa.gov/youtheducation