

## School Programs

### Learning Curriculum

Our learning program while the students onboard our boats usually follows an all encompassing agenda, but some course material is flexible due to the unpredictability of wilderness, environment, wildlife, weather patterns etc. While on the water or land Mother Nature has a way of pleasantly surprising us! If you have a specific program or topic you would like to focus on during your trip, please advise the office well in advance of your trip departure and we will find a Naturalist to accommodate your needs.

Aboard our ship students will learn about the natural environment, biology, weather and some basic matters involving the ship and navigation. Our crew teaches students through group activities, projects, observation and discussions.

### **Ship Operation**

- To give students the opportunity to learn about our sail boats.
  - the technical names of various parts of our 68' sailboats
  - how the sails are hoisted, lowered or trimmed
  - various knots used onboard
  - The physics behind sailing (sailing positions, wind direction, waves etc)
- Navigational Skills
  - How to read a marine chart and use a compass
  - How to observe the landscape and figure out the ships position on the chart
  - Help in steering the vessel
- Regular ship duties and chores on the inside and outside of the ship.
  - assist in the preparing of meals & clean up duties
  - Maybe add some things on the watch roster here?
  - wash decks to insure there is no shore debris (sand)

### **Natural Interpretation**

Students will be fully immersed in learning about both Marine Biology and land Biology. On a daily basis students will be going ashore. Here they will be exploring and learning about the marine creatures that inhabit the intertidal zone. They will also, learn about the terrestrial flora and fauna that inhabit the Gulf Islands on their daily hikes with our highly skilled naturalists.

## **Marine & Terrestrial Biology**

- Identifying assigned marine birds and mammals: looking for specific characteristics and behaviors in these species.
- Students will learn about common animals found in the 5 different levels of the rocky shore inter-tidal Zone:
  - Subtidal
  - Lower Intertidal
  - Middle Intertidal
  - Upper Intertidal
  - Spray Zone

## **Weather Systems**

Students will be shown how to keep weather records.

- They will be taught how to identify cloud types, precipitation, measuring wind speeds & direction and how they can affect sailing

## **Environmental Stewardship**

Throughout the trip we expect that the students will gain a new appreciation for the natural environment through being fully immersed in it. We hope that students will be able to leave having learned ethical environmental practices that they can continue to use throughout their lives.

- Students will gain an appreciation and understand how they can reduce their impact on the marine environment
- They will learn about the fragility of ecosystems and how their balance can be disrupted
- They will learn about the importance of keeping a 100 meters of distance between our boats and marine mammals in order, to not create any unnecessary stress on them
- Onboard students will be expected to use our recycling system