



Multi-Day Programs at the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre

Each multi-day program will feature a theme determined in partnership with the leaders of the participating group and Galiano Conservancy staff. The group will learn about a particular ecosystem and / or aspect of sustainable living and will then complete a related hands-on activity or project. Programs will share certain common elements that ensure lessons and activities are geared to the level of the participating group, that there is a safe and functional learning environment, and that participants experience a journey of discovery culminating in their return home with a new sense of connection, purpose and confidence.

Themes and projects to choose from include:

- ▶ forest restoration & wildcrafting
- ▶ permaculture & species at risk
- ▶ climate change & energy generation
- ▶ wetlands & water systems
- ▶ resource use & construction
- ▶ Garry oak ecosystem & ethnobotany
- ▶ transportation: pedal, electric, etc.
- ▶ wetlab, boating & marine restoration
- ▶ food gathering & preservation
- ▶ art, music & waste diversion

Potential Out-Trips to choose from include:

- ▶ Native Plant Nursery Tour
- ▶ Local Farm & Housing Tour
- ▶ Dionisio Marine Park
- ▶ Kayak Trip to Retreat Island
- ▶ Tour of GIRR's Recycling System
- ▶ Visit to Galiano Museum

Green Corridor Hiking Trip:

Every program will climax with a full day cross island hike where participants learn what it takes to survive as a deer; finding food, water, shelter, avoiding predation and other threats. Participants will gain new perspective on the values of the protected land surrounding the Learning Centre and the importance of connected natural areas in our landscape.

Formal workshops placed within a schedule of activities that manage energy levels:

Intense multi-day programs for youth from diverse backgrounds run the risk of packing in too many workshops in too short a time and end up burning participants out in the first couple of days. To avoid this, a well designed program includes daily activities such as morning check-ins and evening small group time that allow participants to debrief what they've experienced or share any needs, requests or concerns. We facilitate short games between and during each learning period to wake participants up and get them moving and comfortable with each other. Providing daily flex time set aside for recreation helps participants to focus on learning during formal activities. Each day, youth will have an hour of reflection time in a "solo spot" of their choosing. For many, this will be the first time they have a chance to know a natural place intimately and to experience a quiet mental environment.

To discuss this opportunity further, please contact Ken Millard, Director (250) 539-2424

Sample schedule for a multi-day program at the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre



Day 1:

- ◆ Travel to Galiano Restorative Learning Centre (by bike, depending on group)
- ◆ Welcome, intro to basic amenities, name games, forming small groups
- ◆ Creating a Community Contract: negotiables and non-negotiables

Day 2:

- ◆ Community Check in: Needs & Requests; Personal Responsibilities
- ◆ Intro to Sustainable Living
- ◆ Site Tour (forest, garden, water, energy, transportation, waste)
- ◆ Community Principles (restorative, holistic, self-sufficiency, flexibility)
- ◆ Themed Nature Study (Quadrat studies, soil testing, bird watching, night moth trap, insect pit)

Day 3:

- ◆ Theme-related external workshops or out-trip
- ◆ Build, learn the care/use of and take home a related Sustainability Solution eg: solar cooker, flower press, bird house, birdbath, hummingbird feeder, mason bee house, butterfly net, slug cover object, compost, or planter with native plants such as Garry oak, yarrow, or spring gold.

Day 4:

- ◆ Green Corridor Hiking Trip (full day traversing the protected areas network)
- ◆ Group Sharing Activity (translating lessons learned about ecological restoration into context of personal/family/community restoration)

Day 5:

- ◆ Theme-related On-Site Projects: construction, restoration, garden installation, planting, or harvesting, sustainable infrastructure set up and maintenance, build/fix bikes, willow wattling erosion control etc
- ◆ Action planning: creating a personal plan to take responsibility in one's life and community
- ◆ Creative Expression eg: art, music, dance, theatre, make/screen film, writing, photography

Day 6:

- ◆ Pack up, clean up, waste diversion
- ◆ Closing, good byes and travel home

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