



Seeking Program Partners for the Galiano Restorative Learning Center



To realize their full potential, youth need leadership development opportunities and recreational activities that allow them to grow in mind, body and spirit. They learn about themselves through exploring new options and gain skills through taking safe risks. In the current climate of tighter school budgets and restrictive insurance policies, rising park fees and declining services, however, many youth do not get to participate in trips away from home. These youth have the most to benefit from well-facilitated experiences in nature; where they can - perhaps for the first time - connect with peers, mentors and other species in the midst of a caring and challenging community.

In our experience, even youth that have come to our programs labeled “troubled” have radically transformed in the eyes of themselves, their peers and their teachers, into cooperative, self-confident and motivated team members. They carry this knowledge of themselves back into their classroom, community and families. Key to this transformation is gaining confidence in their ability to make a positive difference through engaging in physical ecological restoration work together. By then participating in personal and group reflection to translate the lessons learned into the context of their human communities, they build the courage and hope needed to plan how to begin restoring any damage they experience back home.

Our Restorative Retreats offer a unique experience; each one is co-developed and facilitated with the partner service providers we host, and feature our restorative leadership model adapted to fit their group’s needs. Each group we support in bringing their youth out will leave much stronger, having grown together through a program. Only through an overnight adventure can group leaders really develop the trust and connection among their youth that is needed to maximize their ability to engage and support them. We can help with the logistical, supervisory and programming aspects that prevent groups from taking their kids camping.

Outdoor Education	Out-trips	Sustainable Life Skill Sets
Grand Garry Oaks of Mount Galiano	Native Plant Nursery Tour	Ethnobotany & permaculture; Food gathering & preservation
What a Marine Life!	Kayak Trip	Wetlab, boating & marine restoration; Climate change & energy generation
Adventures at the Great Beaver Swamp	Local Farm and Housing Tour	Transportation: pedal, electric, bio-diesel; Construction, agriculture & species at risk
A Walk in the Watershed	Tour of Galiano Island Recycling and “Redirectory” free store	Wetlands & water systems; Art, music & waste diversion
Secrets of the Forest	Trip to Dionisio Marine Park	Forest restoration & wildcrafting; Resource harvesting & extraction

We are now developing partnerships with groups who would like to bring their youth to Galiano for our first season of multi-day programming at the new Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. We are looking to work with diverse youth service providers, community groups, and schools to ensure all youth have the chance to immerse themselves in nature.

For more info about our programs and the Learning Centre, please visit www.galianoconservancy.ca

Current Partners of the Galiano Conservancy Association

Here are a few of the groups we have partnered with recently to enable them to come to Galiano. Each have their own circumstances, strengths and needs when it comes to arranging programming and the logistics of their visit. At the Galiano Conservancy, we pride ourselves on our ability to adapt our programs to suit each group we work with.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren *“is constantly seeking partnerships with like-minded agencies and organizations to help provide events where the children can have an adventure, the caregivers can have a few hours of respite, where everyone is safe, and where participants can meet others facing similar challenges as themselves. Past experience with the Galiano Conservancy has led us to value their expertise, their dedication, and their attention to detail. We would like to see them expand the reach of the one day adventures they have provided to us over the past few years, and extend these trips to overnight experiences. We are sure that other agencies, communities, and family groups would appreciate the opportunity to join in the fun and benefit from the educational component of their services.”*

Debra Whitman, Victoria Program Coordinator, Parent Support Services BC

The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Center Society (VIRCS) *“is pleased to support the Galiano Conservancy Association as one of the most informative, rigorous, culturally sensitive and fun organizations we have ever partnered with. On three occasions, we have been able to offer our newcomer clients of all ages, from youth to adults, the chance to visit Galiano Island to explore and learn about the local forest, marine and wetland ecosystems. The opportunity to explore our natural environment is essential to helping newcomers feel at home and have a successful settlement process. This is especially true for newcomer youth and young adults who benefit greatly from outdoor education and often lack the resources to engage in experiential environmental education. Programs like those offered by the Galiano Conservancy Association help newcomers develop leadership skills, gain new hands-on skills and make new friendships. Everyone came away with a sense of satisfaction and empowerment from the knowledge and understanding they had gained of the natural world in their new home.”*

Megan Thom, Enable Program Coordinator



Edward Milne Community School’s Environmental Studies Program *“would like to voice our support for the educational programs offered by the Galiano Conservancy. In our goal of reconnecting students with their local environment, your association continues to offer high quality enrichment opportunities that help students develop their sense of place in nature. Activities involving marine investigations, invasive species removal, trail construction, forest restoration and wetland management have offered our students a unique way to learn about natural environments through two intensive three-day programs each year. The skills gained from these activities are impossible to develop in a classroom setting and the opportunity for real, hands-on stewardship promises them huge personal gains in respect and self-worth. Upon returning to Sooke, many of these students are now involved in local environmental concerns that affect their community. After 7 years of partnership, we look forward with enthusiasm to continuing our prosperous relationship!”*

Mike Bobbitt, Teacher and Vice Principal



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