

Salmon Watch Field Trip Introduction & Wrap up

Use this to guide your introductions. Language in parentheses is to help you, but please make it your own.



1. Welcome and Introduction:

- a. Start by welcoming everyone to the Salmon Watch program. Have yourself and each leader/volunteer educator introduce themselves, their pronouns, their occupation/connection to salmon, and what station they are leading today.
- b. **Land Acknowledgement Poem:** Find this in your field trip bin in the plastic sleeve
- c. **Briefly explain the purpose of the day:**
 - "Today, we're going to explore the incredible world of salmon and their ecosystems. We'll talk about the amazing journey they go on throughout their life, how they are connected to this place, what things influence them and discuss why these fish are so important."

2. Overview of the Day: Provide a brief rundown of the day's activities

- a. We'll be observing salmon in their natural habitat, testing water quality, and learning about the challenges they face, including invasive species and habitat changes.

3. Prime the Brain & Body for Learning: Take a moment to settle students.

- a. Raise your hand if you have had a chance to do some outdoor learning in school before?
 - i. "Some of us have and some of us haven't! → Awesome, this is a new opportunity for a lot of us! Since this is new I just want to share that our bodies might not be used to thinking and learning outside. So we are going to take a moment to get our bodies ready to be outside learners."
- b. Invite the group to take a moment to fully immerse themselves in the natural environment:
 - "Before we begin, I'd like us to pause for a moment of silence. Let's take a few minutes to simply listen to the sounds around us—whether it's the flowing water, the wind in the trees, or the calls of birds. Let this moment remind us of the beauty and complexity of the ecosystems we're here to explore today."
 - *Allow 1-2 minutes for silence, encouraging everyone to focus on their surroundings and connect with the environment.*

4. Set Expectations:

- a. This is a hands-on, interactive experience. We encourage you to ask questions, share your thoughts, and be curious. The more engaged you are, the more you'll get out of today's activities.
- c. Address any safety guidelines or rules to ensure a smooth and safe experience, such as staying with the group, respecting wildlife, and following any specific instructions during the activities.
- d. Lastly Share where the bathroom is and the protocol for using the restroom. *We recommend students tell the adult they are with when going and go with a buddy*

5. Connection to the Larger Picture: Briefly connect the day's activities to broader environmental themes

- a. "What we'll learn today goes beyond just salmon. It's about understanding the delicate balance of ecosystems, the impact of our actions on the environment, and how we can all play a part in preserving these natural resources for future generations."

6. Excitement and Engagement: *End your introduction with an enthusiastic call to action:*

- a. "Let's dive into the world of salmon, explore their journey, and discover what makes them such a vital part of our ecosystem. I'm excited to see what we'll uncover together today!"

7. Transition to First Activity:

- a. Check in with volunteers on timing making sure that everyone knows when and where they are sending their students next.
- b. Break the students into their groups with volunteers leading the station.

End of Day

Wrap Up: Gather everyone together in a circle.

1. Start by asking open-ended questions to prompt reflection. Give students 1-2 minutes to think of their answer.
 - a. Did you have any moment(s) that made them think differently about salmon or their environment?
 - b. What was one thing you learned today that you didn't know before?
2. **Group Share:** Go around the circle & ask students to share about the moment that made them think differently OR one thing they learned.
3. **Highlight Key Takeaways:** Summarize the main learning objectives of the day, such as:
 - The importance of salmon to the riparian ecosystem and local communities.
 - How water quality impacts salmon health.
 - Impacts of invasive species.

4. Acknowledge Contributions

Thank the participants for their engagement and contributions throughout the day.

Acknowledge the work of the volunteer educators, teachers, or special guests who helped make the event a success.

- a. Give one big clap for all those who came out to help
- b. One big clap for you who came out today to learn in a new environment
- c. One big clap for the salmon!

5. Load buses and do a final check for students gear or left items / lunches.