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SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR SALMON SURVEYS WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

For students Grade 8 to 12.

Each year senior secondary students participate in spawner salmon surveys with West Vancouver Streamkeepers for a seven week period in the fall. Small teams are formed of three to six students, each with a Streamkeeper Sponsor, who attends each survey. These teams survey a given zone once a week at one of eight streams and tributaries in the community searching for returning adult salmon.

Duties of Streamkeepers:

Meet the students at the agreed start point of the survey zone.

Streamkeepers should not drive the students to or from the survey location. If students need to be transported, they should be driven by one of their parents or another student.

Greet and congratulate students in an adult-oriented manner . i.e. a handshake is good practice.

Discuss the risks associated with creeks:

- the rise and fall of water levels in creeks
- understand the strength of flowing water
- danger of a fall into the water of a fast moving stream
- danger of a fall on the rocks beside the stream
- danger of a fall on the wet rocks in shallow water
- danger of a fall from the banks of a stream

Explain to the students to be aware of their surroundings:

- rising water levels . don't take risks
- animals present
- property owners
- other persons in the area

Students need to be told ~~not~~ to be in a hurry . take your time . observe what is around you and think about what you see.

Teach the students to be respectful of salmon, other aquatic species and the habitat in which these animals live. Try not to be intrusive into their environment.

Ensure the data collected and information collected are accurate.

Type of Surveys:

- 1) Bank Surveys . nine teams are conducting bank surveys . viewing salmon from the land adjacent to the stream.
- 2) Partial In-Stream Surveys . two teams have one or two members wearing waders that are able to cover more of the stream than is possible from the banks.
- 3) In-Stream Surveys . three teams are in-stream. Each student and the Streamkeeper sponsor is provided with waders to allow them to walk the stream. Special care is taken not to walk in potential spawning areas and to be mindful not to disturb fish in the stream.

Equipment:

All students are provided with a high-visibility yellow vest that they, along with the Streamkeeper sponsor, wear during the survey. This is particularly important when accessing streams through private property.

Students provide their own wading/walking stick for stability when walking the stream bank or the edge of the stream.

Students provide their own knee high boots.

Students performing in-stream surveys are provided with chest or hip waders.

Students doing surveys through large culverts are required to bring a flashlight or a headlamp.

Students are provided a thermometer to take air and water temperatures on each survey.

A zac knife is provided to each team in the event students wish to examine dead spawned-out salmon internally to see whether a spawning event occurred.

Amendments Adopted: April 17, 2013

Updated: October 5, 2012

Updated: October 8, 2011

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