

Information For Group Leaders

Plant Identification Cards

The students have previously completed plant identification cards that will be slipped into the plastic sheets. As they walk along the trail to the view site, they are to look out for their plant. When they find their plant (they may need some help), they are to place their stake and clip their identification card to it. The cards will be left for the weekend or collected at the end of the day by the coordinator.

Reflection

At the end of the day, there are 10 minutes allotted for reflection. Groups stay at their final station. Leader recalls the day with students, reads an inspirational quote, and then students find their own place to sit for their self reflection.

Students are encouraged to express their feelings in writing or drawing.

Quote: *You must be the change you wish to see in the world.* Mahatma Gandhi

Group Names

Black-tailed deer/Chevreuril: This is our native SSI deer. It likes to browse on herbaceous plants, blackberry, huckleberry, salal, and thimbleberry and in winter on twigs of Douglas fir, cedar, and willow. It prefers to be solitary for most of the year. The newborn fawns weigh about 8 lbs (3.6 kg).

Mason bee/Abeille: This is our local bee, also called orchard bee. It is black with clear/brownish wings and long black hair on its thorax and sides of head. The mason bee is a very important pollinator. The female constructs small nest cells of clay, individually or in clusters that are attached to twigs, stones or built into cavities of wood. They convert clay into cement like material. Some build inside empty snail shells, and others line each nest with a snip of flower petal.

Alligator lizard/Lézard: This is a local lizard that prefers cooler temperatures. It remains active throughout the day feeding on insects, millipedes, spiders and snails. It lives under rotten logs, rocks or loose bark in cool moist woodlands.

Turkey Vulture/Vautour: A carrion eating bird that soars on thermal updrafts of warm air. They are one bird that has a well developed sense of smell. They nest in a cave, crevice, on a log or among boulders. They have a featherless head to stay clean while feeding on carcasses. When threatened they will play dead or throw up. The odour of its vomit repulses attackers, much like the odour of a skunk's spray. A common food for them on Salt Spring Island is dead black-tailed deer.