



# Y.E.S

## *Teacher's Handbook*

Thank you so much for your interest in delivering the Ocean Friendly Youth Environmental Stewardship curriculum with your students. Surfrider Pacific Rim developed this program with the aim of encouraging young people to connect with their environment, providing opportunity for hands-on, place based learning that provides them with skills to become environmental leaders in their communities. Since 2017, youth on the Pacific Rim have been given the chance to become certified as Ocean Friendly students by completing this ever-evolving curriculum, and it is our intention to extend this opportunity to children and young people beyond our local area by providing support and connecting with a network of like-minded educators. None of this would be possible without your participation, our heartfelt thanks to you!

### ***What age group is the program for?***

The curriculum is offered for students in grades 1-5 and a different curriculum for students in grades 6-12.

### ***How long does it take to complete?***

The program is split into 4 “classes”. The final class for both programs involves a project that may take multiple periods. We also give the option to do it in 2 classes. With either a beach clean + science lesson, beach clean + art project or beach clean + ADST project. It is up to you to decide what best suits your class!

### ***We don't live in a coastal community, is the content still relevant?***

Absolutely! All waterways lead to the ocean, and pollution running through storm drains, streams, and rivers will all end up in the ocean eventually. Beach cleans can easily be replaced with a “Green Streets” clean with the same end result of preventing trash from entering our ocean ecosystems. We highly encourage you to adapt the program to make it as relevant as possible for your students.



## *Overview of the Program*

### **Class One: Introducing the Plastic Problem**

Plastic in the marine environment

Plastic in the food chain, biomes, local ecosystems, water sources

Personal & Social Responsibility

Letter Writing

### **Class Two: Beach Clean**

Oceanic forces and debris dissemination (wind, gyres, current)

Beach Clean Leadership

Data Collection

### **Class Three: Ocean Friendly Campaigner**

Magnifying our impact –Ocean Friendly Students

Entrepreneurship

### **Class Four: Social Media Campaign**

Media Arts

Project Presentation

Quiz

The program is designed to be a framework to inspire your classes, with opportunity to include more detailed focus on specific aspects to meet your curriculum objectives.

### **Options for ways to run the program:**

- 1) All 4 classes together
- 2) Classes 2&1 only: Beach clean & the science behind it
- 3) Classes 3&4 only: Campaign & Media Arts
- 4) Classes 2&3 only: Beach Clean & Campaign



## Introduction to Surfrider Pacific Rim

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Surfrider Pacific Rim is a Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the ocean, beaches and waves through a powerful activist network. The Pacific Rim Chapter operates along the Esowista Peninsula, in Ucluelet and Tofino, as well as Ahousaht on Flores Island.

The Pacific Rim Chapter focuses on eliminating single use plastics, implementing progressive recycling practices for petroleum products, and working with the public, youth and businesses through programs and events that raise awareness about coastal stewardship and ocean friendly behaviours.

The Youth Environmental Stewardship Program works with local schools to create awareness around protecting the beaches and ocean. The goals of the youth environmental stewardship programs are to promote safe and healthy access to coastal habitats for generations to come.

In this program, you will learn about marine debris, plastic pollution and the impact this issue has on our environment and communities. You will also gain insight on how your consumption impacts the oceans, and what you can do to make a positive difference. This program is multidisciplinary, and includes the science of plastics, how to record data following a beach clean up, how to think critically about human behaviour and the environment, writing and research, as well an art project using the marine debris you will collect. Through this program, you will gain the skills to steward your environment and share your knowledge with those around you! Enjoy!