



FIELD TRIP PACKET



OUR MISSION

Promoting compassion, empathy, and respect for all life through wildlife rehabilitation, ecological teachings, and wildlife conservation.



WE PROVIDE:

- Humane care and rehabilitation to sick, injured, orphaned, and displaced native wildlife with the goal of releasing healthy wild animals back into their appropriate habitat.
- Quality conservation education programs to coastal communities.
- Meaningful volunteer opportunities for young people and adults; and
- Long-term monitoring of wildlife and environmental health.

Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in bringing your students to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast! We are excited to offer an engaging and educational experience that connects students with wildlife, conservation, and the important work of a wildlife rehabilitation center.

During your visit, students will have the opportunity to tour our wildlife hospital, meet our non-releasable ambassador birds, and learn about local ecosystems, including our restored wetland habitat. Our goal is to inspire curiosity and foster a deeper appreciation for wildlife and conservation efforts.

This guide includes all the information you'll need to plan your trip, including scheduling details, costs, safety guidelines, and educational resources. We look forward to welcoming you and your students for an unforgettable experience!

Sincerely,



Kari Henningsgaard
Executive Director
Wildlife Center of the North Coast





ABOUT THE WILDLIFE CENTER

Wildlife Center of the North Coast (WCNC) is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education center based in Astoria, Oregon. We rescue and rehabilitate injured, sick, orphaned and displaced native wildlife with the goal of releasing healthy, strong creatures back into their appropriate habitat. In addition, we offer wildlife conservation education programs to the community in the form of summer camps, school field trips, our ambassador animal program, the operation of our wildlife emergency hotline, and more.

We operate under permits issued by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Our licensed rehabber is Rehab Coordinator, Ginger Nealon.

WCNC is the only wildlife care hospital in our region, and serves communities along the central and northern Oregon Coast and cares for more than 1,000 animals in an average year. Our center specializes in seabird rehabilitation, but provides professional medical care to all native wild birds and most native mammals in need. A variety of seabirds, raptors, ducks, songbirds and mammals come through our doors every year, each in need of some kind of care. Whether injured, sick, starving or orphaned, we work hard to take care of their every need, get them healthy, and released back into the wild where they belong.

We have a small, dedicated staff and depend on our amazing volunteer team and generous friends like you to continue the life-saving work we love. WCNC relies on public donations and grants to fund our daily operations.





FIELD TRIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- A behind-the-scenes tour of our wildlife hospital, where students will learn about wildlife rehabilitation and see how we care for injured and orphaned animals.
- A close-up introduction to our ambassador birds—non-releasable raptors and seabirds that help educate the public about their species.



EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

Our programs cover topics such as:

- Wildlife rehabilitation and conservation
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Human impact on wildlife
- Adaptations and survival strategies

Programs are adjusted based on grade level to ensure age-appropriate content.



LOGISTICS & SCHEDULING

AVAILABLE FIELD TRIP DATES & TIMES:

Field trips are offered Thursday or Friday, from 10:30–11:30am*. Please schedule at least two weeks in advance to ensure availability.

**If this does not work for your group, we are happy to discuss other options. Alternative scheduling requests for field trips will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on staff availability.*



GROUP SIZE & CHAPERONES:

- Minimum group size: none
- Maximum group size: 20 students
- Requested chaperone ratio: 1 adult per 10 students

If you have a larger group, we may split students into smaller rotations or schedule multiple visits.



COST & PAYMENT INFORMATION

COST:

- Suggested donation: \$5 per student
- Teachers and required chaperones attend free
- Additional adults: \$5 suggested donation per person

No students will be turned away due to inability to pay. Please reach out if cost is a barrier.



PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Cash or check (payable to Wildlife Center of the North Coast)
- Online donation via our website:
<https://coastwildlife.org/donate/>



SAFETY & GUIDELINES

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Respect all animals, staff, and other visitors.
- Stay with your group and follow instructions from WCNC staff.
- Keep noise levels appropriate to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- Some areas are restricted for safety reasons—please stay on designated paths.



ACCESSIBILITY:

Our facility is not currently accessible. Please inform us of any special needs or accommodations in advance so we can best prepare for your visit.



WHAT TO BRING & WEAR

CLOTHING:

Dress for the weather! We recommend layers, closed-toe shoes, and rain gear as needed.

NOTEBOOKS & PENCILS (OPTIONAL):

Students may want to take notes or sketch observations.



SNACKS & LUNCH:

If your group plans to eat on-site, please let us know in advance. There are outdoor areas available for lunch.



DIRECTIONS & PARKING

ADDRESS: 89686 Hwy 202 Astoria, Oregon 97103

DIRECTIONS:

Google Map directions to our facility aren't always accurate, so please use the following:

If you are coming from Astoria on Hwy 202, we are the first driveway on the right after milepost 9 (keep an eye out for the green marker). If you come to the Olney General Store, you have missed the driveway and need to turn around. There will be a sign out by the road to help you find us. As you make your way down the gravel road, the first building you come to is the clinic, if you keep driving to the left you will come to a blue building, and we will meet you there.



PARKING:

- Buses: Bus parking and turnaround is available on-site.
- Cars: We have a limited number of designated parking spots available. If you will be bringing more than a few vehicles please plan to park in our field in front of the barn.



PRE- AND POST-VISIT RESOURCES

To help your students get the most out of their visit, we suggest:

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- Discuss the role of wildlife rehabilitation and why animals might need human care.
- Introduce key vocabulary: rehabilitation, ambassador animal, conservation, ecosystem, adaptation.
- Explore a map of the Pacific Northwest and identify common wildlife species.



POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- Assign a reflection journal: What was the most interesting thing they learned?
- Create a "Wildlife Protector" pledge—students list actions they can take to help wildlife.
- Research a local species and present on its habitat, diet, and conservation status.



CONTACT INFORMATION

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HOSTING YOUR CLASS AT THE
WILDLIFE CENTER OF THE
NORTH COAST!**



For scheduling, questions, or special requests, please contact:

EMAIL:

education@coastwildlife.org

PHONE:

(503)338-0331

WEBSITE:

www.coastwildlife.org

"Promoting compassion, empathy and respect for all life through wildlife rehabilitation, ecological teachings, and wildlife conservation."



Wildlife Center Field Trip Outline

Organization: Wildlife Center of the North Coast

Location: 89686 Hwy 202, Astoria, OR 97103

Contact: Annie Cahill, education@coastwildlife.org

Field Trip Overview:

Join us for an engaging and educational experience at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast! Students will get a behind-the-scenes tour of our wildlife clinic and meet our ambassador birds up close. This is a unique opportunity to learn about local wildlife, conservation efforts, and the vital role our hospital plays in rehabilitating injured and orphaned animals.

Itinerary:

- **Welcome & Introduction (10 minutes):**
 - Overview of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast and our mission.
 - Brief safety guidelines for the tour.
 - **Clinic Tour (30 minutes):**
 - Guided walk through our wildlife hospital.
 - Explanation of the rehabilitation process, from intake to release.
 - Please note that in order to keep stress levels down, rehab patients will not be on display in the clinic. We also work to keep noise levels down to help with stress reduction, and will appreciate you joining us in this effort by using quiet voices.
 - **Meet the Ambassador Birds (15 minutes):**
 - Introduction to our resident ambassador birds.
 - Learn about each bird's story and species-specific behaviors.
 - Discussion on the importance of these species in our ecosystem.
 - **Q&A and Wrap-Up (5 minutes):**
 - Open floor for student questions.
 - Recap of key learning points.
 - Information on how students can help local wildlife.
-

"Promoting compassion, empathy and respect for all life through wildlife rehabilitation, ecological teachings, and wildlife conservation."



Logistics:

- **Grade Levels:** Suitable for K-12
 - **Group Size:** Up to 20 students per group (larger groups are welcome, but might be split into smaller groups).
 - **Duration:** Approximately 1 hour
 - **Suggested Donation:** \$5 per student (We believe in making this experience accessible to all students; if any students are unable to make the donation, they are still welcome to participate.)
-

Preparation:

- **The Wildlife Center will provide introductory materials to instructors prior to the field trip.**
 - **Teachers:** Please review and discuss the materials provided and basic wildlife safety with your students before the trip.
 - **Students:** Encourage students to think about questions they might have about wildlife and conservation.
 - **Attire:** A good part of your tour will be outdoors, and the trails on our property are not paved, so please keep this in mind when choosing footwear. Comfortable, weather appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes are recommended.
-

Directions to our Facility:

Our address is 89686 Hwy 202, Astoria OR 97103. If you are coming from Astoria on Hwy 202, we are the first driveway on the right after milepost 9 (keep an eye out for the green marker). If you come to the Olney General Store, you have missed the driveway and need to turn around. There will be a sign out by the road to help you find us. As you make your way down the gravel road, the first building you come to is the clinic, if you keep driving to the left you will come to a blue building, and we will meet you there.

Booking:

To schedule your field trip or for more info, please contact us at education@coastwildlife.org. We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with your students!