



## MULTI-CLASS K-12 STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

Forest professionals are very busy but also passionate in talking to students and the public regarding BC forests. The celebration of National Forest Week (NFW) is a time to reach out to K-12 students and teachers. The NFW-BC Coalition (*Coalition*) has provided support for volunteers, over the last seven (7) years, in making the experience productive and informative. We need your help again in 2020.

The most efficient educational model the *Coalition* has observed in using the limited available volunteer time involves a multi-class field trip. Volunteers in Prince George, Nelson, Port Alberni and other communities have developed variations of the model and shared their knowledge and experience on the *Coalition* website (<https://www.bcnfw.ca/teaching-forestry-resources/>). The model encourages volunteers within a community to work as a team in organizing and holding the event(s).

Those with experience in using the model generally recommend the team get organized early (e.g., May or June) and notify teachers of the opportunity as soon as possible so it can be incorporated into their delivery of the curriculum for the up-coming school year. Don't let COVID-19 prevent you from making the local contacts as we want to raise the opportunity and do not know the state of teacher planning.

The *Coalition* is well-aware of the constraints encountered by forest professionals in volunteering. In responding to these limitations, we will:

- Be flexible in respecting your constraints and encourage holding the event at a time suitable for both you and the teacher(s). The event does not have to occur during NFW per se.
- Be flexible to reflect what you prefer to present. We encourage you to focus on basic information to educate students about forests and the knowledge you use daily. Design the field trip using what you are comfortable in talking about.
- Provide assistance through the information posted on the *Coalition* website <https://www.bcnfw.ca/teaching-forestry-resources/> or calling members of the Executive Committee to identify others who may help with your question or concern.
- Help to get employer support, if needed.
- Work to make it a fun experience.
- Appreciate your efforts.

There are several ways to become a volunteer. You can:

- Complete the *Coalition* volunteer sign-up form [volunteer](#) OR
- Contact your *Coalition* Regional Coordinator <https://www.bcnfw.ca/home/regional-coordinators/> OR
- Contact the *Coalition* directly [info@bcnfw.ca](mailto:info@bcnfw.ca) OR
- Contact Bill Bourgeois, *Coalition* Executive Director [wwb@telus.net](mailto:wwb@telus.net)

**We need your help! BC forests need your help!** *Coalition* volunteers have commented they enjoyed the experience, especially when working as a team. How about experiencing this feeling in 2020 as well?