

3. Participation

School Participation

Kokanee Karnival has two levels of participation – Comprehensive and Elective. Within limitations set by funding and available manpower, both levels are offered to elementary schools in Central Oregon.

Comprehensive Level

The Kokanee Karnival Comprehensive Level is restricted to 4th and 5th grade students. As part of their acceptance agreement, classrooms enrolled at this level are required to participate in the following four Kokanee Karnival activities:

1. Streamside Experience – Students take a field trip to a local stream to observe naturally spawning kokanee salmon. Students rotate among three stations where volunteers present information about trout and salmon food requirements (Nature’s Restaurant⁺), fish habitat (The Comforts of Home⁺), and salmon life cycles (The Incredible Journey⁺).

2. Hatchery Experience – Students take a field trip to a local fish hatchery to learn about the role of Oregon’s hatcheries, hatchery operations, and how hatchery fish are transported. They also learn about the importance of salmon to Native Americans. At six stations set up at the hatchery, trained volunteers and hatchery personnel give presentations to students about broodfish, eggs and milt spawning, incubation, feed room, rearing and liberation, and stocking.



⁺ Titles courtesy of *Discovering Salmon: A Learning and Activity Book*, by Nancy Field and Sally Machlis, Dog-Eared Publications, Middleton, WI, and used with permission.

3. Angling Clinic Experience – Students take a day-long field trip to a local pond where they learn about fish biology, safety around water, fishing tackle and methods, and angling skills. Trained volunteers and representatives from the producing partners give presentations at Knot Tying, Casting and Water Safety, Fish Biology: Care of the Catch, and Fishing Tackle and Methods stations. Volunteer coaches assist students while they fish at the pond.

4. Classroom Projects – A class must participate in a Fish Eggs to Fry egg incubation project, receive Angler Education instruction, and complete a Community Stewardship project. The Fish Dissection classroom project is optional.

Elective Level

The Kokanee Karnival Elective Level is open to all student grade levels. Classrooms can choose to participate in one or more of the following classroom projects:

- Fish Eggs to Fry - Students hatch fish eggs in the classroom, observe development of the eggs, and release the fry into an approved local waterbody. This project models events that occur within a fish nest (redd) in natural stream conditions.
- Fish Dissection - Students learn basic anatomy by examining external and internal features of the salmon while discussing how fish, other animals, and humans behave in their environment.



- Angler Education - Students complete a course that emphasizes basic fishing skills, principles of stewardship, responsible and ethical conduct, and safety around water.
- Community Stewardship Projects - Students participate in one or more projects that encourage caring for natural resources. Completion of a Community Stewardship project fosters a sense of caring for natural resources and provides a way for students to “give back” to the resources they have experienced throughout the year. Project ideas include storm drain marking, riverside cleanup day, tree planting, presentations to sponsors, letter writing, neighborhood cleanup, and water quality monitoring.

School Enrollment Process

The Kokanee Karnival Program Director, the local ODFW-STEP Biologist, or another designated person coordinates the enrollment process. The following steps comprise the enrollment process:

1. Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program Criteria and Application Packets are mailed to local schools in the spring.

Schools return the completed application to the Kokanee Karnival Program Director by the date specified on the application. For an example of this packet, see the **Appendices**.

ODFW's Eastern Oregon STEP program developed the Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program Criteria and Application Packet because the Fish Eggs to Fry egg incubation classroom project and the fish supplied for the Fish Dissection classroom project must be coordinated through that office. The Eastern Oregon ODFW-STEP Biologist mails the applications. Schools return the completed applications to the Kokanee Karnival Program Director.



2. The Kokanee Karnival Program Director reviews a school's eligibility and separates the applications into Comprehensive and Elective levels.
3. The Kokanee Karnival Program Director recommends to the Kokanee Karnival Steering Committee schools to participate at the Comprehensive Level. The Steering Committee chooses the schools that will participate, based on established guidelines.

4. Teachers of classrooms accepted into the program for the following school year are notified by the end of the school year.

A school “selection process” for the Comprehensive Level is necessary because more local schools apply than openings are available. After the Kokanee Karnival Program Director confirms a teacher’s (or school’s) eligibility, the Kokanee Karnival Steering Committee reviews the applicants and determines which teachers may participate in the program during the following school year. Depending on the number of applicants in any one year, it is possible to have more than one classroom from the same school participating at the Comprehensive Level.

Selection guidelines were developed in cooperation with the first participants in Kokanee Karnival. These guidelines are listed on the Comprehensive Level application. When applying, teachers agree to participate at the Comprehensive Level on a rotating basis. Schools rotate based on the number of years the school has benefitted from the program — not a specific teacher.



School Requirements

In exchange for year-long program support, Kokanee Karnival requires a participating classroom to commit to the following items annually, regardless of the activity:

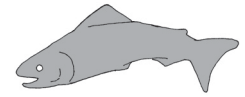
- Program evaluation, completed by participating teachers
- Thank-you letters sent to “spawnsors,” volunteers, and program partners



- Year-long recognition for “spawnsors” in communications with parents and the community
- Student work samples provided to the Kokanee Karnival Program Director

Volunteer Participation

Volunteer participation is essential to the success of Kokanee Karnival. Volunteers come in many shapes and sizes — old to young, retired and working, love to fish or not. The common threads among Kokanee Karnival volunteers are their interest in passing along an enjoyment of angling, appreciation of nature and a desire to protect it, and an enthusiasm for working with children.



Volunteers should enjoy working with children and have time available during the work week.

Finding Volunteers

There are many sources of volunteers. Consider establishing a partnership with one or more of the following local groups or clubs:

- Angling groups, angling shops, and fishing guides
- Conservation groups
- Service organizations, such as Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis
- Community college
- High school classes in biology and ecology

Members of COF, SRA, and COLA volunteer to operate Kokanee Karnival activities, and volunteers from these organizations have met program needs. Most Kokanee Karnival volunteers are retired. Some volunteers with full-time jobs arrange to take time off work to help with activities that occur during their regular working hours.



Organizing Volunteers

The number of volunteers needed for Kokanee Karnival depends on the number of schools that participate and the amount of work each volunteer is willing to do. Volunteers are needed to help with learning stations for the Streamside, Hatchery, and Angling Clinic Experiences, and for Classroom Projects. To help distribute the workload, consider establishing the following volunteer positions:

- Committee Chairpersons – Oversee, recruit, and organize other volunteers, equipment, and logistics for the Streamside, Hatchery, and Angling Clinic Experiences and Classroom Projects. Conduct, with the ODFW-STEP Biologist, timely reviews of Kokanee Karnival activities. Help prepare annual budgets. Coordinate with and report to the Kokanee Karnival Program Director.
- Fundraising Chairperson – Writes grant proposals, arranges fundraising events, and seeks funding needed for ongoing operations and capacity building. Reports to the Kokanee Karnival Steering Committee. Should have excellent interpersonal, presentation, and communication skills, and be well versed in finance. For more information about fundraising, see **Chapter 8. Fundraising**.



The Kokanee Karnival Program Director tracks volunteer hours, miles, and responsibilities and reports this information to the Eastern Oregon ODFW-STEP Biologist. This information is used to acquire matching funds through grants from various sources.

Training Volunteers

The amount of training provided for volunteers depends on their level of experience and knowledge. Volunteer training includes the following methods:

- Holding formal training sessions to teach volunteers how to conduct Kokanee Karnival activities
- Having experienced volunteers serve as mentors for new volunteers
- Asking new volunteers to attend and observe Kokanee Karnival activities while learning from experienced volunteers