

# 5. Hatchery Experience

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## About the Hatchery Experience

The Hatchery Experience introduces students to the purpose, activities, and benefits of Oregon's hatcheries and the role hatcheries play in managing Oregon's aquatic resources. The Hatchery Experience is a half-day field trip. Classrooms enrolled in Kokanee Karnival at the Comprehensive Level are required to participate in the Hatchery Experience as part of their acceptance agreement.

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The Streamside and Hatchery Experiences are combined into a day-long field trip for students. Students travel to one location in the morning and to the second location in the afternoon, with two schools per day trading places after lunch. Students travel to Brown's Creek and the Fall River Fish Hatchery, which are within a few miles of each other. Two schools participate each day, with a total of eight schools experiencing this field trip over a four-day period.

Classrooms enrolled in Kokanee Karnival at the Elective Level can contact the hatchery and set up a similar tour on their own.

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The Hatchery Experience consists of the following eight stations:

- 1. Broodstock** – Students learn about the source of fish eggs for the hatchery, fish traps for capturing fish, and methods of transporting equipment to egg-take sources at lakes and streams in remote locations.
- 2. Eggs and Milt Spawning** – Students observe ripe (ready to spawn) male and female trout; volunteers and hatchery personnel demonstrate the spawning process using fish eggs and milk or cream to represent the milt.

**3. Incubation — Hatch House** – A volunteer describes the role the hatch house plays in the incubation of the eggs.

**4. Feed Room** – Students view bags of fish food pellets, compare samples of various sizes of fish food that correspond with the size of the fish, and learn how the hatchery controls fish growth through feeding.

**5. Rearing Ponds and Liberation** – Students learn how fish grow and develop in rearing ponds and how the hatchery captures and transports the fish to lakes and streams. Students view a fish liberation truck and feed the fish in the rearing ponds while at this station.

**6. Stocking Methods** – Volunteers discuss several methods of fish stocking in lakes and streams, including helicopter dumps and backpack trips.



**7. Llamas** – Volunteers from a local llama organization discuss how llamas are used to stock lakes and streams, how much weight a llama can carry, how far a llama can travel, and the survival rate of fish stocked using this method.

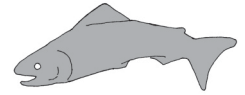
**8. Salmon People** – Native Americans describe how and why salmon are important to their culture. They often show examples or products and other items related to salmon and the Native American way of life.

At each station, one or more trained volunteers follow a prepared script that engages the students and involves them in learning activities. For samples of scripts used at each station, see **Chapter 9. Scripts**. Students spend **15 minutes** at each station.

## Preparing for the Hatchery Experience

To prepare for the Hatchery Experience:

- Prepare and distribute a daily schedule of events.
- Notify each school of the date and time you expect them to arrive. Remind teachers that it is the school's responsibility to provide one parent volunteer for every six students.
- Contact the hatchery and arrange the days and times when students can visit.
- Obtain commitments from an adequate number of volunteers to conduct activities at each station. Remind volunteers of the day and time they are expected to arrive.
- Ensure that all equipment is available, in good working order, and on-site for the day's activities.
- If necessary, make arrangements for volunteer carpools, lunches for volunteers, beverages or bottled water for students, and portable toilets.



Be prepared for anything. Inclement weather may prevent the llamas' owners from coming, or a school might cancel. Make adjustments where necessary.

If the program budget allows, consider reimbursing schools for the cost of transportation to the hatchery. Insist that at least one parent volunteer is available for every six students.

## Schedule – Hatchery Experience

- 8:00 Volunteers arrive and set up stations. Place a Kokanee Karnival sign near the entrance to the hatchery.
- 9:00 As students arrive, keep them together in one group.
- 9:10 Welcome students, explain the process and expectations, including safety considerations and how they will rotate to each station.
- 9:30 Have students walk to the first station.
- 9:45 Have students move to a new station every 15 minutes until they have visited all stations.

If the Hatchery Experience is held in a remote or hard-to-find location, place one or more signs along the route to guide drivers and provide maps.

## Equipment, Props, Teaching Tools

To conduct the Hatchery Experience, consider the following items:

- Hatchery location - Must be easily and safely accessible to volunteers, students, and teachers.
- Scripts - For samples of scripts used at each station, see **Chapter 9. Scripts.**
- Volunteers - At least two volunteers are needed for each station. Depending on the experience of the volunteers, you might need more help at each station. In addition, one volunteer is needed to welcome students, discuss safety, and explain how students will rotate through the stations.
- Name badges and Volunteer Record Form – Volunteers should wear name badges and record hours volunteered and miles driven.
- Directional signs for Kokanee Karnival event.

## Egg and Milt Spawning

- Live male and female trout (supplied by hatchery and handled by hatchery personnel)
- Pan to hold fish eggs and milk (represents milt)
- Fish eggs and milk



## **Broodstock**

Assorted types of fish traps (aluminum screen, rack and pipe) and nets (trap, seine, and gill) (all items supplied by hatchery)

## **Incubation — Hatch House**

- Vials of preserved specimens showing stages of development (green eggs, eyed eggs, alevin, fry)

## **Feed Room**

- Examples of different sized fish food pellets (supplied by hatchery)

## **Rearing Ponds and Liberation**

- Tanker truck (supplied by hatchery)

## **Stocking Methods**

- Back packs (supplied by hatchery)
- Aerial tanks or "space shuttle" (supplied by hatchery)

## **Llamas**

- One or more llamas
- Panniers and plastic bag for transporting fish in pannier

## **Summary – Hatchery Experience**

**When:** Third week in September, four consecutive days, 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

**Where:** Fall River Fish Hatchery, along Century Drive in Central Oregon

**Who:** Classrooms enrolled at the Comprehensive Level are required to participate in the Hatchery Experience.



### Things to Do in Advance:

- Call manager of the Fall River Fish Hatchery to arrange days and times students may visit. Arrange hatchery visit well in advance so hatchery can have available the equipment they supply.
- Contact the President of Sunriver Anglers and notify of dates and times so volunteers will be available for the Hatchery Experience stations.
- Contact the Central Oregon Llama Association and notify of dates and times so volunteers and their llamas will be available for the Llama station.
- Contact Native American storyteller, well in advance, and notify of dates and times.
- Kokanee Karnival pays schools for the cost of transportation to the Hatchery Experience. To ensure that classrooms have use of a bus for the **entire** day, get commitments from school superintendents and transportation heads well in advance of the date of the Hatchery Experience.
- Arrange to have lunches and beverages available for volunteers and bottled water for students. (A local vendor provides bottled water as an in-kind donation.)

