

West Coast Wildlife Education and Conflict Management.

Thank you for deciding to help Our wonderful bear population on the Sunshine Coast!

Hi and thank you for Your care and concern regarding Our local Black Bears.,

My Name is Gerald Shaffer, the founder and executive director of West Coast Wildlife, an independent body that works to educate youth, lobby government, sell bear friendly products and research black bears so we can find better ways to reduce conflicts.

We've been at this for quite some time and we are glad you've joined us because change is hard and new energy is always needed. A few of Our successes include working with the Town of Gibsons adopting Bear Smart community, creation of a radio network alerting boaters to Whale activity, lobbying for protections of local islands, educating Bear Safe through trade shows, schools, community groups and industry as well. It's a long road and we've had failures as well, every bear shot is a failure of the system to protect them, so there is lots of work to do.

I have worked for the Ministry of the Environment. I was trained by them to run the Bear Aware program, I know who they are and how they operate which saves a lot of time wasted. What We've learned so far and what you must realize is that here the COS works for people, We work for bears. Keeping our towns bear safe has become our motto and our goal so thank you for your participation im West Coast Wildlife, Our efforts are noticeable.

As a West Coast Wildlife Volunteer you have the opportunity to participate at a number of levels, here are some of the ways you can help.

Class rooms presenter of our curriculum Bear Safe.

Neighbourhood watch coordinator

Neighbourhood wildlife steward

Graphics Design

Word processing

SEO (if you don't know what that means it ok)

Volunteer coordinator

Meeting coordinator

Retail sales rep

Web design

Print design

Advertising.

Lobbyist at local, regional and federal levels

Act and Bylaws reader and consultant

Non profit Law

Copyright

Board of directors

Financial Contributor

Trust Coordinator

Grant writer and researcher

Field Researchers

Accounting

Consultants

Boat operator

Plane observer (frequent air travellers or pilots can volunteer info on observations they have from the sky perspective...often revealing interesting illegal activities that affect wildlife.)

News release writer

Press coordinator

Press speaker

Photographer

Marine Radio Look out.

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Ok the list goes on and on, this is not a small endeavour but you have joined at a great time as We are near the beginning of our next growth cycle. It promises to be an exciting voyage.

So I want to Volunteer, now what?

So the first thing to do is to clarify with the Executive, whomever that may be at the time and tell them what your preferred form of participation will be, once we have that established everything else is pretty straightforward.

Being an office free lifestyle these days is great, it allows us to enter other rural towns and cities with volunteers without having the carbon footprint of travel.

Some of the tools you will need to get your knowledge base up and running is very easy to find. Websites like Bearsmart Can bring you the latest up to date research. Youtube as well has most of the leading experts giving you everything you require from bear spray handling to bear behaviour per species and geographic locations. Reading and researching is very much at the top of our list for volunteers to do. Spare time learning about bears translates into bears actually not being shot. It is an amazing payback and West Coast Wildlife gives us the structure to make it count.

Here are some recommended Sites that we request you watch and read. Your knowledge needs to be correct and in line with our own program. If you have any questions or doubts about research or policies please let's talk. I am available most of the week till late and early in the mornings.

www.bearsmart.com

<https://www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/training-of-workers-with-respect-to-bears>

<https://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Infrastructure/Solid%20Waste/Solid-Waste-Management-Plan-01-01-05.pdf>

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96488_01

<https://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/News/2016-Good%20Neighbour%20Guidelines-for%20web.pdf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xSu_n_9J1A

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njsGthYc8HE>

Curriculums

Following are some of the curriculums that we provide to our communities to teach basic etiquette when living in Wildlife country.

Bear Safety Curriculum up to Grade 4

West Coast Wildlife is happy to present a program for younger children about wildlife and staying safe in wildlife country.

Curriculum:	Living in Bear Country as a Kid.
Age:	Up to and incl. grade 4
Duration:	20 minutes plus QnA (timed out at the teacher's discretion)
Props:	Large Stuffy Bear, bowl of what a bear eats.

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Generally split into mixed grade groups

Bear Species and habitat Education: ***what does a bear look like***

Using our prop the Stuff we examine the broad parts of the bear to note things to look for like fur colour, big head, no tail and the difference between a boy and a girl and a mom with cubs.

Conflict Avoidance: ***What to do as a kid if you see a bear***

In this quick section we are trying to identify with the children and let them know that we are talking from their point of view, lower, vulnerable, scared. We show them the circle of safety, how to look big, how to walk away safely and why not to run.

How to help save bears: ***Some of the things we can do to keep them safe***

Creating a system at home as a kids isn't easy. We talk about ways that kids really can inspire their parents to consider more bear friendly ways of living at home

How we can do better at home. ***Recycling tips, containers tips "bear Safe Containers"***

From containers that keep bears out and smells in, to not touching electric fences and blending food scraps.

Wildlife Ethics: ***how to behave in nature***

Giving a fundamental belief structure to the children that includes the wildlife as part of our ecosystem with a natural right to exist in its natural environment and it is we as residents to respect and behave appropriately. We are talking to future rulers and policy makers in the young audience, they must be taken very seriously and given purpose to believe in wildlife rights and reasons to create wildlife friendly policies when it is their turn.

Wildlife empathy: ***Seeing from a bears point of view.***

Pointing out how we have taken great care to see the world from a kids point of view and encouraging the kids to see life from a bears point of view.

AR option: ***Wildlife AR app***

Time allowing, we can provide an ipad to showcase a Bear or other wildlife walking about the class room in AR.

This amazing program has been used for years and is designed to create a feeling of awareness regarding bears and other wildlife in a short period of time and not create a fear cycle. By offering knowledge of Bear behaviour we hope to draw on feelings that young folks can relate to like pets and other animals they understand. Empathy. ethics and understanding of wildlife is the first step and one that we pride ourselves in offering our community

We often don't have the volunteers to role out this program but we do now, So please take advantage of our keen volunteers and book at time for your classroom.

Topic: Understanding Bears and how to live with wildlife
Time: 20 - 40 minutes flexible for young minds that may have limits
QnA: Great time to answer funny questions and learn about local families.
Hand outs: Black bear colouring and info sheet
Over Time: As long as the kids are engaged.
Technical: No technical set up required.
Cost: Free. Paid for by grants from West Coast Wildlife.

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To book Your classroom presentation please call 604 865 0588 or go to www.westcoastwildlife.ca and book a time.

Thank You on Behalf of **West Coast Wildlife Volunteers 2019**

Gerald Shaffer
Executive Director
West Coast Wildlife