

# Environmental Education Resources in the PNW: Videos, Lessons, Activities, and Articles from other Organizations

## Organizations offering lessons and activities

Below is a list of environmental education organizations (mostly local) that have shared their lessons, curriculum, or other resources. Some are interactive classes, some are downloadable.

### Nature Vision

Nature Vision is an environmental education organization located at the Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville. Nature Vision teaches programs around Washington focused on science topics that support NGSS (Washington Science Standards) and education kits (used in schools). They are offering their water-related lessons in partnership with Cascade Water Alliance as educational packets for grades K-12, complete with five days of activities and an overview for teachers and parents, as well as Facebook videos with a Q+A. Packets are released on Fridays until the end of May (delete depending on timing). Please fill out their feedback form after you're complete! Topics include: Ecosystems, Watershed, Humans and Water, Ecological Impacts, Water Quality, Human Systems, and Invasive Plants.

Link: <https://naturevision.org/student-packets>

### IslandWood

IslandWood is an outdoor school located on Bainbridge Island, with Urban Programs extensions in Woodinville at the Brightwater Treatment Plant and downtown Seattle. IslandWood hosts an environmental education graduate program and week-long overnight programs for 5th grade students in the greater Seattle area. The Urban Programs work to connect students to their backyards through NGSS topics and sustainability, offering class visits and summer camps. IslandWood is currently offering a few different methods of learning for adults and children on their website.

50 Days of Discovery includes posts each day to inform, inspire, and educate.

Link: <https://islandwood.org/get-involved/50-days-of-discovery/>

Amorous Amphibians is a website substitute for their annual Amphibian Walk.

Link: <https://islandwood.org/get-involved/amphibians-amphibians/>

Phenology Friday is a weekly video posted by educators on various topics.

Link: <https://islandwood.org/get-involved/phenology-friday/>

City Nature Challenge is an annual worldwide bioblitz done through the iNaturalist app.

Link: <https://islandwood.org/get-involved/city-nature-challenge/>

### **North Cascades Institute**

The North Cascades Institute (NCI) is an outdoor school located in Sedro-Woolley. They host an environmental education graduate program and week-long overnight programs for students in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. NCI is offering Mountain School at Home; a resource for students, parents, and teachers offering short written lessons and activities.

Link: <https://ncascades.org/signup/schools/mountain-school/mountain-school-at-home>

### **Trackers Earth**

Trackers Earth is an environmental education organization located in Portland. Trackers offers a myriad of youth and adult programs running from day-long classes to week-long camps to year-long programs (including a summer camp in Kirkland). They are offering Trackers Spark where you can sign up for weekly or bi-weekly meetings with other students. Educators teach on various topics that are usually included in their outdoor programming, including homesteading, crafting, survival, and more. The topics are offered for adults and children as young as kindergarten, with each class geared towards specific age ranges. Classes cost a small fee.

Link: <https://spark.trackersearth.com/>

### **Wilderness Awareness School**

Wilderness Awareness School (WAS) is an environmental education organization located in Duvall. WAS offers youth and adult programs running from day-long classes to week-long summer camps to year-long programs. They are offering some of their weekend classes as free e-Courses, through email. Topics include: Naturalist Training, Wilderness Survival, Plant Identification, Nature Connection, Mushrooms, and Bird Language.

Link: <https://wildernessawareness.org/adult-programs/ecourses>

### **NatureBridge**

NatureBridge is an outdoor school based in California with a campus in the Olympic National Park. They have compiled Outside Still Open as a resource for some of their activities and lessons as well as resources they recommend such as National Geographic, national park tours, and museum resources.

Link: <https://naturebridge.org/outsidestillopen#naturebridge-activities>

### **Pacific Science Center**

The Pacific Science Center (PSC), located in downtown Seattle near the Space Needle, is offering Curiosity at Home; an online portal with access to educational videos, hands-on STEM activities (science, technology, engineering, and math), and more. They are hosting Facebook live videos every weekday at 11am with animals, educators, and caretakers and streaming some of their IMAX documentaries. PSC has also posted home activities listed by STEM topic (Astronomy and meteorology; Biology and animals; Chemistry; Engineering; Geology and environmental science; Math; Physics) for students ages K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

Link: <https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/events-programs/curiosity-at-home/>

### **Woodland Park Zoo**

The Woodland Park Zoo, located in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood of Seattle, is offering Zoo to You; an online portal with access to activity books, Zoomazium activity outlines, powerpoint presentations, education packets, and more.

Link: <https://www.zoo.org/zootoyou>

### **Seattle Aquarium**

The Seattle Aquarium, located on the waterfront of downtown Seattle, is offering an online portal with activity pages, animal fact sheets, infographics, virtual field trips, animal and educational videos, and live-streaming webcams, as well as Facebook Live interviews with animals and caretakers.

Link: <https://www.seattleaquarium.org/experience-aquarium-anywhere>

### **Burke Museum**

The Burke Museum, located in the University District of Seattle, is the Washington State Museum of Natural History and Culture. They are offering Burke From Home; an online portal with a myriad of resources including drawing lessons, weekly curriculum packet subscription (topics such as Mesozoic animals, whales, anatomy, plants, storytelling, fish, etc.), collections Q+A with videos, coloring pages, crafts, a scavenger hunt, lectures and tutorials, virtual museum visits, a podcast, and native plant and animal identification information.

Link: <https://www.burkemuseum.org/burke-from-home>

### **E3 Washington**

E3 Washington is an environmental organization. They have collected readings, activities, videos, online games, and other nation-wide resources for learning.

Link: <http://www.e3washington.org/safe-outside-diy-learning>

### **North American Bear Center**

The Bear Center is located in Minnesota and is offering live cams of their bears as well as informational online presentations to learn more about bears.

Link: <https://bear.org/watch-us-live/live-cams/>

### **Children and Nature Network**

The Child and Nature Network was co-founded by Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods, and was “created to encourage and support the people and organizations working to reconnect children with nature.” CNN is offering Finding Nature at Home, a large collection of articles and tips for connecting to nature during social distancing. They also have toolkits, reports, infographics, and advocacy tools “designed to help you or your organization connect children, families, and communities to nature.”

Link to Finding Nature at Home: <https://www.findingnature.org/>.

Link to Tools and Resources: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/tools-resources/>

### **Stanford NGSS Integrated Curriculum**

Stanford has released NGSS curriculum that can be done in groups over Zoom for 6th-8th grade students.

Link: <https://scienceeducation.stanford.edu/curriculum/stanford-ngss-integrated-curriculum-exploration-multidimensional-world>

## Podcasts, Documentaries, and More

Below is a list of recommended podcasts and documentaries that pertain to connecting to nature during this pandemic. Some podcasts refer to a specific episode, some are general; podcasts can be accessed through many apps including Stitcher, Spotify, Apple, Google Play, Pocket Casts, and more.

### Podcasts:

Zero Hour; “We’re Not Slowing Down for Coronavirus”, and [others](#)

Getting Curious; “How Do We Stay Healthy in the Age of Coronavirus?”

Rumble; “Give It to Me Straight, Doc”; “Dr. Mona Says Don’t Drink Bleach”; and more

Radiolab; “From Tree to Shining Tree episode”

Generation Anthropocene: stories and conversation about planetary change.

For the Wild: discussions on critical ideas of our time and actions for the regeneration of natural communities.

The Rewilding: explores the philosophy and practice of returning to place-based, regenerative subsistence strategies.

The Wild: exploring the beauty and wonder of the outdoors and its inhabitants.

The Cryptonaturalist: explores strange nature, fiction and non-fiction.

She Explores: stories of women who are inspired by time spent outside.

Band Together: explores the power of storytelling to make change in the world and further the climate movement.

Native Stories: platform to perpetuate and advance indigenous wisdom through the oral tradition of storytelling.

### Docu-Series:

Planet Earth: BBC series about our planet; each episode focuses on a different ecosystem. Available on Amazon, Google Play, Vudu, iTunes, and YouTube.

Our Planet: Netflix series about our planet; each episode focuses on a different ecosystem. Available on Netflix.

Blue Planet: BBC series about undersea life. Available on Amazon, YouTube, iTunes, Google Play, and Vudu.

Night on Earth: Netflix series about our planet at night; each episode focuses on a different ecosystem. Available on Netflix.

### **Documentaries:**

Flight of the Butterflies: short documentary following the yearlong migration of monarch butterflies. Available on Amazon, iTunes, and Vudu.

The Biggest Little Farm: about a farm in California becoming completely sustainable with the wildlife. Available on Hulu, Amazon, or purchase directly from their [website](#).

Chasing Ice: follows a National Geographic photographer as he documents climate change. Available on Amazon and iTunes.

Blackfish: about a performing orca in captivity at SeaWorld. Available on Amazon, FandangoNow, iTunes, and Vudu.

The Ivory Game: undercover investigation of the ivory trade. Available on Netflix.

Virunga: about the Virunga National Park in the Congo. Available on Netflix.

Encounters at the End of the World: study of the environment and human nature, focusing on Antarctica. Available on Amazon, FandangoNow, iTunes, and Vudu.

Jane: National Geographic documentary about Jane Goodall. Available on Disney+, Amazon, FandangoNow, iTunes, and Vudu.

Chasing Coral: about global warming's impact on coral. Available on Netflix.

The Rising: short film focusing on the Quinault tribe on Washington's coast. Available on [Crosscut](#).

Becoming Ruby: Inclusion, Bikes, and Hand Written Notes: short documentary by Patagonia about a Bellingham native.

### **Deep Look Video Series:**

These videos on YouTube are 3-5 minutes long and are interesting and accessible informative lessons on various topics. Check out [this one](#) about our local slugs.

## Articles

Below is a short collection of articles that have been written about the pandemic, nature connection, and climate change. These articles do not necessarily reflect the thoughts and opinions of the Bridle Trails State Park Foundation.

Grist: [The key ingredient to surviving both coronavirus and climate change: our shared sense of humanity](#)

Common Dreams: [‘Coronavirus isn’t stopping us!’ Youth activists adapt to global pandemic with digital #climatestrikeonline](#)

LA Times: [Stuck at home? Now is the perfect time to learn the language of the birds](#)

LA Times: [Here’s what a coronavirus-like response to the climate crisis would look like](#)

Yes! Magazine: [Environmental Activists of Color](#)

Grant Makers in Health: [The urgent need for nature during and after COVID-19](#)

Child and Nature Network: [Nature and Privilege: How COVID-19 has unloaked equity gaps in nature access](#)

BBC: [Will COVID-19 have a lasting impact on the environment?](#)

Human Rights Watch: [How COVID-19 could impact the climate crisis](#)

The New Republic: [Green jobs are the answer to the Coronavirus recession](#)



## **Apps and other Resources**

Below is a list of other resources for you to explore relating to nature connection during the pandemic.

### **Merlin - App**

Merlin is a birding app created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Users go through various steps of information about a bird they saw for the app to supply likely subjects. It is free and provides complete and accessible information, as well as the option to download “bird packs” for use in the backcountry.

### **iNaturalist - App**

iNaturalist is an app that lets you post pictures of natural mysteries for other users to help you solve, as well as contributes the information to a worldwide body of data for research scientists.

### **Trees Pacific NW - App**

This app helps users identify trees by their unique characteristics. It provides local and place-based information about the trees you may find.

### **350 Webinar**

A discussion on 5 principles for a #JustRecovery [video](#)

### **Edible Schoolyard Project**

The Edible Schoolyard Project is a garden organization founded by Alice Waters in California. They are offering various garden-related natural history and cooking lessons [here](#).

### **Our Climate Our Future**

Award-winning video [experience](#) that “educates young people on the science of climate change and empowers them to take action”.

### **Earth Guardians**

An [organization](#) that “trains diverse youth to be effective leaders in the environmental, climate, and social justice movements across the globe - using art, music, storytelling, on the ground projects, civic engagement, and legal action to advance solutions to the critical issues we face as a global community.”

### **Virtual Field Trips**

List of 30 [virtual field trips](#) compiled by NCI.

### **NOAA**

List of [activities](#) compiled by NOAA

### **Nature's Notebook**

A [citizen science project](#) tracking seasonal changes in animals and plants.

### **Latino Outdoors**

Latino Outdoors is offering many ways to connect and learn through meetings and videos, [here](#).