

## Sound Water Stewards Program



Annual intertidal surveys

### **Mission Statement:**

Sound Water Stewards are trained volunteers working in and around Island County for a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound environment through education, community outreach, stewardship and citizen science.



Annual Eelgrass Surveys



### Why Become a Sound Water Steward?

- Sound Water Stewards is a continuation of the Beach Watchers' program started in 1989. To date, more than 600 local residents have completed this educational program.
- Learn about and explore your island community. Take advantage of this opportunity to dive into the wonders of our natural world.
- Learn how to preserve your favorite beach, or expand your understanding of wildlife habitat and conservation.
- A wide-range of guest speakers and site visits offer many opportunities to learn about and to get involved with activities that make a difference in where you live.

Sound Water Stewards  
of Island County

P.O. Box 1620

Freeland, WA 98249

[training@soundwaterstewards.org](mailto:training@soundwaterstewards.org)

For more information about Sound Water Stewards, visit us at:

<http://soundwaterstewards.org/>

Sound Water Stewards is a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation. Contributions to SWS are tax deductible as allowed by law.

SWS receives financial support from Lighthouse Environmental Programs.



# 2017

## Sound Water Stewards of Island County Training

Accepting Applications

Through February 28, 2017

<http://soundwaterstewards.org/training/>



Become an active partner in your unique and vibrant island community.

Here is your chance to learn about current marine research and stewardship projects in your part of the world.



## ABOUT THE 2017 TRAINING

### *What to expect*

Training is a combination of indoor lectures by experts in the field, and guided field trips, for a total of 100 hours.

These 100 hours of instruction and site visits are split into 3 sessions, and trainees are expected to complete all -

45 hours spring training (Mar 16-April 27)

10 hours of summer projects (mentor guided)

45 hours fall training (Sept 14-Oct 26)

Topics include, but not limited to: watersheds and groundwater, marine biology and oceanography, salmon and near-shore habitats; climate change, forestry, sustainable living, coastal geology and intertidal beach monitoring, and more.

### *What to give back*

Following training, each trainee is expected to volunteer for a total of 100 hours over the next 2 years. 50 volunteer hours per year is preferred.

Every year, Sound Water Stewards work with new trainees to help each person tie their particular talents with their interests, to build on their ever-growing knowledge, and have fun at the same time. We need people with a variety of skills: communications, organizational, technical, website, financial, and more.

**Ways to be involved—these all count for volunteer hours:** Attend monthly and seasonal meetings and programs; help with education and outreach at community events; lead beach walks; join on-going beach clean-up crews; join Sound Water Steward committees; rid beaches of invasive plants; participate in intertidal surveys and eelgrass surveys.

## 2017 Training Schedule

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>DATES:</b>          | March 16-April 27, and<br>September 14-October 26<br>Summer Projects |
| <b>DAY &amp; TIME:</b> | Thursdays: 9:00 am—3:30 pm   |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>       | Classes will be held on both Camano and Whidbey Islands              |
| <b>COST:</b>           | \$100 registration fee   |

**Application Deadline: February 28, 2017**

<http://soundwaterstewards.org/training/>

**Submit applications on-line or mail to Sound Water Stewards**

For **Camano Island:** 370 NE Camano Dr. Suite 5, Box 100, Camano Island, WA 98282

For **Whidbey Island:** PO Box 1620, Freeland, WA 98249

## WHAT DO SOUND WATER STEWARDS OF ISLAND COUNTY DO?

*Sound Water Stewards work both independently and in collaboration with many other organizations. Some current and past activities include:*

- Hosting the annual “Sound Waters” one-day university program on Whidbey Island.
- Camano Island offers “Fourth Wednesday” lectures and many educational opportunities throughout the year.
- Annual biological and physical surveys of intertidal zones on more than 30 Island County beaches.
- Rearticulation of sea mammal skeletons on display at Cama Beach State Park and Coupeville Wharf, in collaboration with the Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
- Respond to seal pup stranding calls on area beaches, in collaboration with the Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
- Participate in the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST).
- Create resource notebooks to aid volunteers when answering questions about Island County. Topics are related to geology, cultural history, beach and upland plants and animals. In collaboration with the Shore Stewards program, this helps property owners wanting an active role in the creation and preservation of a healthy near-shore environment.