



Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

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Swan Lake Owl Program

Thank-you for choosing Swan Lake Christmas Hill's **Owl Program!** Following is a brief description of what you can expect from this very popular program. As indicated on the request form, there are **two options** available. The first portion is the same for both program options, while the second option includes a half hour guided pellet dissection. Each teacher receives a package with back up activities and handouts that can be photocopied for students.

Option #1

This **one hour program** starts with a short class discussion about general owl knowledge and gives time for children to share personal experiences, while introducing some of the key concepts of the program. These concepts include: food webbing, physical adaptations, habitats and behaviours of owls, the concept of night hunting and a general introduction to identifying owl species of Vancouver Island. A **student is chosen by the classroom teacher** and dressed in **owl costuming pieces** while the interpreter discusses each new addition and the **adaptations** they represent.

- the head, body shape and size
- the senses: sight, hearing
- the feathers
- talons, hunting,
- pellets and prey

The use of **specimens** and **photographs** placed on desks around the room are used to reinforce these concepts. The students will move around and have the opportunity to ask questions or tell stories to the interpreter, and examine the **resource materials** including:

- Owl information: books, written materials, pictures, posters
- Skulls, feathers, specimens and owl mount...but **no live owls**
- Owl pellet and bone charts
- Silhouettes of local species specimens, photos

Following is a **short slide presentation**, complete with **owl calls**, to demonstrate the differences in types of owls. There is a small booklet for each child to take home, which includes sketches of the main species of owls present on Vancouver Island and some vocabulary. This is an interactive program with a focus on fun as well as information.

Cost: \$90 in your Classroom or \$60 at Swan Lake

Option #2

The same program as above with a **½ hour guided pellet dissection**. For this option, the class will need to be divided into study groups of three to five children. During the dissection children will have the opportunity to use bone charts to identify what they find. Each group will **briefly report** their findings to the class. It is recommended that teachers have a plan for the bones retrieved. The bones will be left on the paper plates provided. The cost of the program includes **six owl pellets**. More pellets are available at an additional cost of **\$5 per pellet**.

Cost: \$150 in your Classroom or \$120 at Swan Lake.

Program needs if the program is held in your classroom:

In order for the program to be successful we will require the following items depending on the program option you request.

Option #1

- Slide **screen** or white board and **extension cord** with 3 prong holes (grounded)
- **Name tags** for students - large
- Clips, **bulletin board** or alternative to display posters
- **Tables/ desks** for specimens

Option#2 the above items and:

- paper towels to dissect pellets on (optional)
- Zip baggies or equivalent to store each dissected pellet.

Paper plates are provided and bones can be put on these.



Payment

An invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you received. **Payment** is due at the time of the program, and cheques should be made out to **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** and given to the programmer:

VISA or MC can be phoned in.

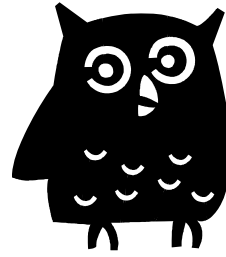
Receipts will be sent by mail the week following your program date.

Change of Dates and/or Times:

If you wish to change the date or time of your program please contact **Scott Mair at 250.479.0211** or at programs@swanlake.bc.ca. We will do our best to accommodate your request, depending on available times and dates.

If you have any questions or comments about your program please don't hesitate to contact us; we always welcome your feedback.

Traveling Owl Program Vocabulary List



binocular – a kind of vision in which both eyes see the same scene so the animal can judge distance and speed.

camouflage – colours, shapes, or behaviors that help an animal blend with the surroundings.

canopy – the topmost layer of a forest, containing the tallest trees that reach the light.

facial disk – saucer-shaped disk of moveable feathers around hidden ears of owls that direct sound to the ears.

habitat – the place where an animal lives.

incubate – sit on eggs and hatch them by the warmth of the body.

mob/mobbing – the act of small birds crowding and annoying a roosting owl.

molt – to shed and replace feathers.

nocturnal – active at night.

ornithology – the study of birds.

owlet – a young owl.

pellet – compressed, undigested parts of prey regurgitated through the mouth.

predator – animal that hunts and kill other animals for food.

regurgitate – cough up material through the mouth.

resident – bird that lives in the same area all year.

roost – to sleep, a place where birds sleep or rest.

species – set of animals that are grouped together for classification, because they are alike and can interbreed.

territory – the area an owl defends against intruders.

threatened – a species whose numbers are declining dangerously low, that is listed and protected by the government.

understory – the layer of small trees in a forest that grown in the shade.

whitewash – excrement, or droppings from a bird.

Additional Information:

Owls in the Family - Farley Mowat

Welcome to the World of Owls - Diane Swanson

Owls for Kids - Neal Niemuth

Owls - Who Are They? – Kila Jarvis and Denver W. Holt

The Book of North American Owls – Helen Roney Sattler

www.owlpages.com



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