

**FALL 2009**

**Komo Kulshan Outdoor School (K.K.O.S.)  
High School Leadership component**

**Letter of Introduction/General Information – Acceptance to Training**

Thank you for your interest in KKOS! We are excited to offer you this opportunity and know that your contributions will make a positive difference in students' lives. This document will help describe the program, your responsibilities, and provide a checklist of what you need to accomplish before, during, and after the program. Again, thank you for your interest and, welcome to our staff!

*Please realize, also, that KKOS has been certified to now offer you credit and support in your **Senior Culminating Project**, should you choose to use this experience in that way. (Contact Program Director, Christie Fairchild, for more information)*

**Introduction:**

*"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand" (unknown author)*

Komo Kulshan Outdoor School (KKOS) is a unique opportunity for upper elementary school students to learn about their environment by experiencing it. One can always read about a Western Redcedar tree, or one can see, feel, and smell its great size and grandeur. This is the essence of Outdoor School, yet it involves much more.

KKOS also provides for the emotional and social development of its students. It strives to support self esteem and independence, as well as build cooperative learning and living skills.

As a High School Leader, YOU have the responsibility to be a positive role model, providing students with feelings of acceptance, encouragement, trust, and a sense of both physical and emotional safety. You have a tremendous opportunity to show children, who come from a diversity of backgrounds, that there are people who truly care for them, who will take the time to create an environment of acceptance, a place where they can experience success, where they can make new friends, and feel at home in nature.

Children need structure, especially in unfamiliar surroundings, and at times you may feel overwhelmed and challenged. This is a task that will require 100% of your attention and focus, and a tremendous amount of positive energy. The result of changing or affecting a child's life in a positive way can be so powerful that it may become a lifelong memory for you. *Remember - even if you help just ONE child during your Outdoor School session, you will have made a difference in that child's life forever.*

## Expectations of High School Leaders

*"The best minute you spend is the one you invest in people." (Ken Blanchard)*

As a fairly new program (begun in 2003), the success (or failure) of these Outdoor School sessions may very well determine the future of our efforts with *Puget Sound Energy* at Baker Lake Lodge. I have no doubt that the students and teachers will enjoy the experience and learn much; but how we act, treat the facilities, and respect this generous gift and PSE's trust in us is a serious responsibility. I am confident that those of you wanting to be involved will help the program to succeed.

### **Listed below are some of the things we will ask of you:**

- Encourage and assist students in respecting and caring for themselves, each other, and their environment
- Create a physically and emotionally safe environment for all group members
- Be a positive role model for the younger students in attitude, conduct, language, dress, and participation
- Maintain a positive, enthusiastic and caring attitude
- Provide positive, democratic leadership
- Focus on student needs at all times, utilizing the "Strategies for Success" model (presented at HSL training)
- Communicate needs, concerns, and information to staff in a timely manner
- Assist teachers in teaching, group management, and safety
- Supervise students at meals, including preparation, presentation, and clean-up, as well as campfire programs and bedtime.

### High School Leader Checklist: (to be completed BEFORE your session)

*"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion!" (Ethiopian proverb)*

- Complete all school, class, and activity obligations
- Have your **Training Application form** signed by teachers and your parent/guardian; **and mail it to us at: KKOS, P.O. Box 842, Concrete, WA. 98237** (*We MUST have this at least ONE WEEK before your training weekend!*) Don't forget to also complete your **Registration Form** (included here) **and bring that to training.** (NOTE: there are **2 forms** to complete! Be sure to make a copy for yourself, too.)
- Confirm arrangements with your employer to miss work, if necessary
- Meet with your KKOS classroom teacher the week before your scheduled session
- Select and prepare an appropriate song, story, or legend to share with students at the second night's campfire. Bring a musical instrument, if you play one!
- Get ready *mentally*: think about your students and the leadership they will need from you to do well; think about their experience and what you can do to make it better; think about (and carry out) any personal adjustments you may need to make to accomplish this.
- Label all your belongings with your name and school on each bag.

**Thanks again, and we will be seeing you soon!!!**