



# Wild Schools Program

The Wild Schools program is a whole-school, three year initiative for K-8 schools that supports outdoor and place-based learning.

Schools that participate in the Wild Schools program:

- Develop stronger connections to community
- Increase ecological literacy among staff and students
- Feel empowered and hopeful by learning about and taking action to support BC's biodiversity

The Wild Schools program uses hands-on environmental learning strategies to engage learners through a process of **Wondering, Inquiring, Learning and Doing**—being **WILD** with BC's biodiversity!

Goals of the program are to:

- Provide schools with professional development and resources to support environmental teaching and learning
- Engage schools in outdoor place-based learning to help connect students with nature
- Foster schools participation in stewardship of B.C.'s biodiversity



## At a Glance

The Wild Schools program matches you with a Wild BC Facilitator who will guide you through the process of learning, planning, initiating and fostering your school's outdoor environmental learning. The program is designed to be flexible to accommodate individual needs and interests of all staff at your school to uncover new ideas and build upon existing outdoor learning.

### Each Year Includes:

1. Develop a school plan with support from your Wild Schools facilitator (to be submitted online).
2. Allocate a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 10 hours for professional development that will be tailored to your needs and interests in outdoor learning and BC's biodiversity.
3. Extended professional learning throughout the year with your Wild Schools facilitator. For every hour of PD the school completes, there will be 3 hours of extended PD available for staff. This includes one-on-one or small team coaching, mentoring, co-teaching, advising, consulting or modeling to support staff continued PD.
4. Celebrate completion of 5 hours of PD milestone by selecting from a variety of resources, funding or facilitator time.
5. Debrief the year with your WildBC Facilitator and refine your plan for the upcoming year.

### At the end of Year 3:

Celebrate your school's completion in the Wild Schools program with a school-led event, special day, or project, supported with planning PD from your WildBC facilitator.

