

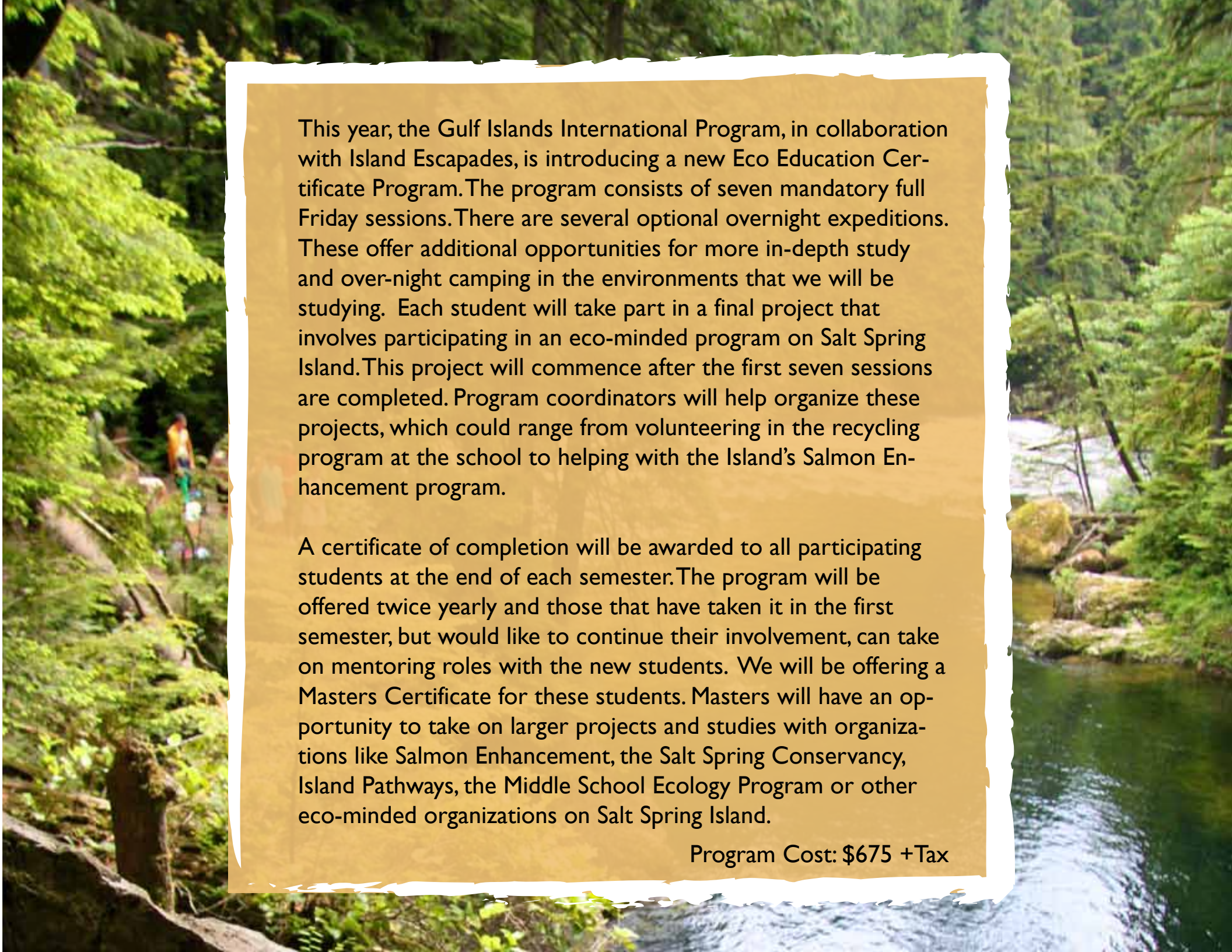


# GISS <sup>ECO</sup>ADVENTURE PROGRAMS

FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SALTSPRING STUDENTS







This year, the Gulf Islands International Program, in collaboration with Island Escapades, is introducing a new Eco Education Certificate Program. The program consists of seven mandatory full Friday sessions. There are several optional overnight expeditions. These offer additional opportunities for more in-depth study and over-night camping in the environments that we will be studying. Each student will take part in a final project that involves participating in an eco-minded program on Salt Spring Island. This project will commence after the first seven sessions are completed. Program coordinators will help organize these projects, which could range from volunteering in the recycling program at the school to helping with the Island's Salmon Enhancement program.

A certificate of completion will be awarded to all participating students at the end of each semester. The program will be offered twice yearly and those that have taken it in the first semester, but would like to continue their involvement, can take on mentoring roles with the new students. We will be offering a Masters Certificate for these students. Masters will have an opportunity to take on larger projects and studies with organizations like Salmon Enhancement, the Salt Spring Conservancy, Island Pathways, the Middle School Ecology Program or other eco-minded organizations on Salt Spring Island.

Program Cost: \$675 +Tax





## INTERTIDAL STUDIES

Explore the intertidal zone of Salt Spring Island by kayak. Exploring by kayak allows us to get right up along the shoreline where we can view sea stars, sea cucumbers, crabs and many other species. All of these species are dependent on each other for survival. Human interaction with this ecosystem, if negative, can have grave consequences on the entire ocean. With this program you will not only learn about the intertidal zone you will also learn some of the finer points of sea kayaking.

## MARINE MAMMALS

The waters around Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands are filled with marine mammals and birds including seals, sea lions, mink, river otters, whales, porpoise, dolphins, seasonal ducks, shore birds and raptors. These Creatures are greatly affected by boats, air traffic and human pollutions. We will examine the behaviour of these mammals and their interactions with other mammals including humans.

## LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS

With this program you will walk through a variety of areas on Salt Spring Island, including Mt Maxwell Provincial Park and Ruckle Provincial Park along the waterfront. This program is aimed at teaching about the different native plants that are found on Salt Spring Island with many of these species being found throughout the south coast of British Columbia.

## FIRST NATIONS HISTORY

In addition to the natural studies we are offering a comprehensive study on the First Nations people who used Salt Spring Island as village sites. In this section students will learn about traditional fishing, hunting, travel, cooking and building. Students will travel by kayak a historic means of transportation for First Nations to a midden beach where they will be shown traditional pit cooking techniques and will have the opportunity to build a ceremonial sweat lodge. While cooking and building students will have an opportunity to use traditional tools as well. Students will visit historic landmarks for the First Nations on Salt Spring and will learn about the First Nations people who live in Canada, British Columbia and on Salt Spring Island.



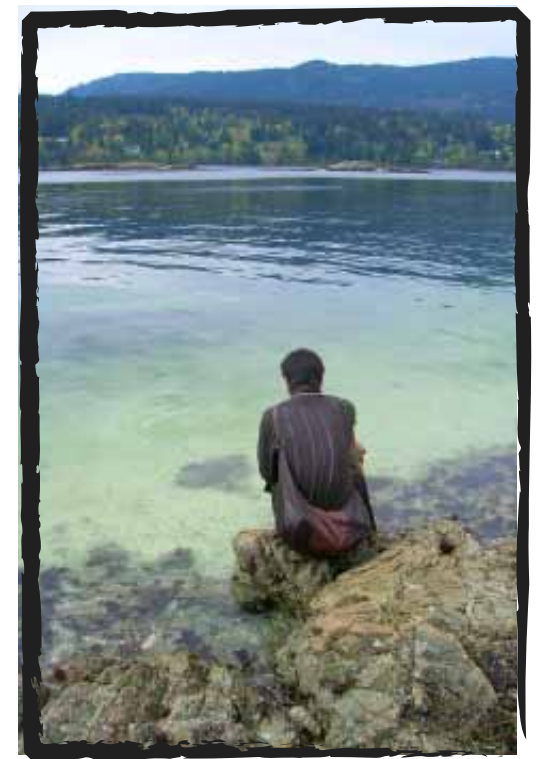
## B.C. FOREST ECOLOGY

This program is aimed at teaching forest sustainability. Students will visit a first growth forest on Salt Spring Island Mill Farm between Mt. Bruce and Mt. Tuam. They will then be taken to Seven Raven farms where they will be given a tour and talk about forest sustainability and what this means to residents of Salt Spring and British Columbia. Students will also be given information on woofing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) opportunities and see first hand what logging does to slope stability and soil erosion.



## STREAM ECOLOGY

This program is aimed at teaching students about the fresh water ecosystems and how the streams and lakes shift from being full of life to their eventual death. Students will examine many of the different micro-organisms found in the fresh water ecosystem, while studying with biologists and members of the Cusheon Lake watershed society. Students will examine birds and mammals that reside on the lake including Beaver, Otter and Nutria.



## ECOLOGICAL ACTIVISM & PERSONAL CHOICE

Students on this program will learn what they can do to help protect the different ecosystems they will have visited and what services are available to them on Salt Spring Island. We will visit a number of different centers on the Island which could include the Salmon Enhancement Society, Wildlife Refuge center, the Nature Conservancy, the recycling center and other centers that students may be interested in. This program will help students decide on what eco-minded program they would like to participate in for their final project.