



OWL PROGRAM

Depending on which option you have chosen, the Owl Program is either a one hour or one and a half hour in duration. The first portion of the program is the same for both program options, while the second option includes an additional half hour guided pellet dissection. This program may take place in your classroom or at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

Option #1

This **one hour program** starts with a short class discussion about general owl knowledge while introducing some of the key concepts of the program. These concepts include: food webbing, physical adaptations, habitats and behaviors 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

Owl calls are also featured.

This is an interactive program with a focus on fun as well as information.

Option #2

The same program as above with an additional **½ hour guided pellet dissection**. During the dissection children will have the opportunity to use bone charts to identify what they find. It is recommended that teachers have a plan for the bones retrieved. The cost of the program includes the extra ½ hour of instruction time and enough pellets for every student to have many bones to explore.

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

- **Name tags** for students – easy to read
- Clips, **bulletin board** or alternative to display posters

Option#2 the above items and:

- Zip baggies or equivalent to store each dissected pellet.

Payment

In 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 e-mail or fax upon request.

Change of Dates and/or Times:

If you wish to change the date or time of your program please contact us 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.

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.