



## **SNAKE PROGRAM (kindergarten to grade 7)**

The Swan Lake Snake Program is a one-hour presentation that can be delivered either in your classroom or at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

### **For classroom presentations please provide the following:**

- \* Large easy-to-read student **nametags**
- \* Wall clips / or magnetic blackboard / or place to display charts and hanging cloth display
- \* A table for display objects
- \* A list of student questions, if it is appropriate for your students (optional but useful)

### **Swan Lake nature programs strive to support Teachers in the classroom:**

#### **Big Ideas:**

- Plants and animals have observable features (K)
- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment (gr.1)
- All living things have a life cycle (gr.2)
- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems (gr.3)
- All living things and their environment are interdependent (gr.4)
- Multicellular organisms rely on internal systems to survive, reproduce, and interact with their environment (gr.6)
- The theory of evolution by natural selection provides an explanation for the diversity and survival of living things (gr.7)

#### **Content:**

- Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment (gr.1)
- The ways organisms in ecosystems sense and respond to their environment (gr.4)
- Digestive, excretory, respiratory and circulatory systems (gr.5)

#### **GOALS**

The goals of this program for your student are to:

- a) Understand more about snakes; their anatomy, what they eat, how they move and where they live
- b) Appreciate and respect snakes and the important role they play in their environment
- c) See, and if so desired, touch both local and exotic snakes

## PRESENTATION

This presentation to the whole class covers the following general topics:

- a) Body of snake - internal and external aspects, main internal organs, senses
- b) Food and feeding - what is eaten, how it is eaten
- c) Skin, shedding - why and how of shedding, frequency
- d) Size - both the largest and smallest snakes are featured

We will use materials which will include the following:

- 1) Skeletons, skins, snake artifacts
- 2) Charts (local species, internal views, etc.)
- 3) Live snakes

## SNAKE VISITORS

The choice of snakes we bring to your class may vary. There will be at least three from the following collection:

- a) North Western Garter snakes: eat worms and sometimes slugs, gentle; eat by grabbing and swallowing quickly.
- b) Ball Python: approximately 4 feet long, native to Central Africa, living in savannas and dry forest, rests in tree branches, prefers mice, kills by constriction, gentle slow moving snake, prefers not to be touched on the head.
- c) Corn snakes: native to S.E. United States, a constrictor, somewhat shy; eat small rodents, kills by constriction
- d) Pueblan Milk snake: native to Mexico, a constrictor, uses mimicry of the venomous Coral snake as a defense strategy but is harmless; eats small rodents, kills by constriction

## Payment

An invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you receive. 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** payments may be phoned in.

**Receipts** will be sent by fax or e-mail as requested.

## 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](mailto: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 please don't hesitate to contact us; we always welcome your feedback.