

In August 2016, Outdoor Youth Connections provided a grant for \$2,000 to Sound Salmon Solutions. The money will be used to support their Watershed Detectives program in 2016 and 2017.

Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves as the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and Island County watersheds in Washington State. SSS has a 25+ year history of engaging community members and youth in hands-on science lessons and grassroots habitat restoration.

The Watershed Detectives program is primarily aimed at 4th to 5th grade students. Close to four elementary classes will get a hands-on outdoor experiential education lesson and participate in a planting field trip at an active habitat restoration site near their school's watershed.

Students who participate in the Watershed Detectives Program will:

- Learn to appreciate and enjoy the great outdoors
- Improve scientific inquiry skills (NGSS standard: 5-ESS3-1)
- Learn three specific, personal actions they can take to improve water quality
 1. Pick up pet waste
 2. Wash car at an established car wash, or on lawn
 3. Use less/no fertilizers on lawns and in gardens
- Be aware that storm drains discharge water directly to streams, rivers, lakes and the Puget Sound without any treatment.
- Have the opportunity to actively engage in restoration, and to improve water quality, habitat and biodiversity, by planting native trees and shrubs in their local communities.

Outdoor Youth Connections is proud to provide ongoing support for this local and significant provider for youth outdoor engagement.

