

**At IslandWood:**  
**A guide for IslandWood Instructors to connect  
the School Overnight Program Curriculum  
to the *Make A Difference Project***

**Lesson Overview:**

- **Purpose:**
  - Provide IslandWood instructors with methods of connecting the *School Overnight Program* experience with the *Make A Difference Curriculum* and the *School Partnerships Program*.
- **Objectives:**
  - The students will compare the IslandWood community to their school's community
  - The students will apply the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood to doing a *Make A Difference Project* in their school's community
  - The students will participate in a small student-directed *Make A Difference Project* at IslandWood
- **Student Outcomes:**
  - Apply knowledge, skills, and experiences to developing and implementing a *Make A Difference Project* in his/her community
  - Participate in a small *Make A Difference Project* at IslandWood
  - Develop a *Make A Difference Project* idea on a paper sea star and add it to the *Sea Star Poster*
- **Prep:**
  - The school's liaison should remind each class to bring their *Sea Star Posters* to IslandWood

**Activities:**

**1. Connect the IslandWood Experience to the Students' Lives**

**Teacher Information:**

- **Objectives:**
  - The students will compare the IslandWood community to their school's community
  - The students will apply the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood to doing a *Make A Difference Project* in their school's community
- **Duration:** Throughout the four day IslandWood experience
- **Venue:** IslandWood

**1. Preparation, Research, and Planning**

- a. Use information provided by the school's liaison about the school and the surrounding community in planning for the week
- b. Researching the waterways, animals, plants, and geographic features of the school's community

**2. Allowing students choices in what they are learning**

- a. Mold the curriculum and teaching plans to the students and their interests

**3. *Make A Difference Project* as a Central Part of the SOP Curriculum**

- a. The *Make A Difference Project* should be an overt theme of the students' learning
  - Tell the students they will be learning about how to make a positive difference in their school's community
- b. The guiding question for the week should center around the *Make A Difference Project*
  - How can you use what you learn at IslandWood to make a difference in your school's community?
  - How can the salmon of IslandWood teach us about the role we play in our school's community?

- How can you decrease your ecological footprint by studying ways that other people live on the land?
  - c. All lessons should include connections back to the students' daily experiences at home
  - d. All lessons should challenge the students to think about how they can use what they learned to make a positive difference in their school's community.
- 4. Reflective questioning that connects what is learned at IslandWood back to the school's community and the students' daily lives**
- Example questions:
    - How can you save this same resource in your home?
    - What do the trees look like in your community?
    - Does this stream look like the stream by your school? What is different? What is similar?
    - What can you do to reduce waste in your community?
    - How can you share what you learned about this with people at home?

## 2. Small *Make A Difference Project* at IslandWood

### Teacher Information:

- **Objectives:**
    - The students will compare the IslandWood community to their school's community
    - The students will apply the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood to doing a *Make A Difference Project* in their school's community
    - The students will participate in a small student-directed *Make A Difference Project* at IslandWood
  - **EALR:** SOCIAL STUDY SKILLS 3; COMMUNICATION 3; SCIENCE 1, 2, 3; ART 3.1, 3.2; CIVICS 4.3
  - **Duration:** 45-60 minutes
  - **Venue:** IslandWood
- The small *Make a Difference Projects* can be used as a culminating activity that allows students to apply the knowledge, skills, and experiences they gain at IslandWood.
    - Introduce the project at the beginning of the week as a goal of what is being learned
    - Choose a project that is small in scope and makes a quick impact
      - Involve the student as much as possible in the planning and implementing of the project
    - Examples of projects include:
      - Picking invasive plants and/or planting native plants from the restoration garden (in the Garden Classroom) to decrease the students ecological footprint
      - Picking up trash on trails or along the road to help the IslandWood watershed
      - Collecting, sharing, and presenting scientific data (water quality, animal sightings, etc.) to assess the health of the IslandWood watershed
      - Making signs, bumper stickers, or art that educates others about their role in the watershed
      - Writing letters to yourself or someone else about how you can use what you learned, did, and experienced at IslandWood to make a difference in your home community
    - Connect the project back to the school's community using reflective questioning
      - Could you do this project in your community?
      - What are some other ways you can make a difference in your school's community?
    - Have each student write an idea for how their class can make a positive difference in their school's community on a sea star

- Introduce *The Seven Sea Star Standards* to the students:

### **The Seven Sea Star Standards**

1. **Involve the entire class** – Can everyone work as a team to make a difference?
2. **Be specific** – What will we be doing?
3. **Use knowledge, skills, and experiences from IslandWood and the classroom** – What knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood or in the classroom are we using?
4. **Be doable with limited time and money** – How long will this project take? Will this project cost us money?
5. **Make a positive difference in the school's community** – How does this idea help the school's community?
6. **Help the class grow as students and citizens of the community** – What will our class learn from this project?
7. **Be Fun** – Will everyone in the class have fun doing this project?

- **Reflection Questions & Projects:**

- How did the project make you feel?
- How did our project benefit the IslandWood community?
- What obstacles did we face during our project? How did we overcome them?
- Did we use the knowledge, skills, and experiences we gained during the week to help us with our project?
- How can we teach others about our project?
- How can we continue to make a difference in the world around us?

### 3. Closing Circle – Sea Stars

#### **Teacher Information:**

- **Objectives:**

- The students will apply the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood to doing a *Make A Difference Project* in their school's community

- **EALR: CIVICS 4.2, 4.3; SOCIAL STUDY SKILLS 2**

- **Duration:** 20 minutes

- **Venue:** IslandWood Friendship Circle during closing circle

- **Materials:**

- *Sea Star Poster*
- Student's sea stars
- Tape to attach sea stars to the *Sea Star Poster*.

- **Prep:**

- Make sure the *Sea Star Poster(s)* is hanging at the Friendship Circle
- Give each instructor tape to give to their students

- Ask for volunteers to read their *Make A Difference Project* ideas from their sea stars.
- Ask the students to tape their sea stars to the *Sea Star Poster* as they exit the Friendship Circle.
- Tell the students that they will be adding more ideas to the *Sea Star Poster* when they return to their schools and begin to explore the school's community.
- Make sure one of the teachers from the school takes the *Sea Star Poster* home on the bus.

- **Reflection Questions & Projects:**

- Can your class make a difference in your school's community?
- Are you excited about developing your *Make A Difference Project*?

*Created by Joseph Petrick, Spring 2004*

**Segue:** The students have become inspired to make a difference in their school's community. The students will use the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained at IslandWood to plan and implement a *Make A Difference Project*.