

# **Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society**

## **NATURE EDUCATION REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

**NATURE THROUGH TRAILS  
AN OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM  
FOUNDATION OF RESPECT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY,  
AND KNOWLEDGE OF TRAILS AND NATURE  
FOR YOUTH**

**Prepared For :  
The Confederation of Parent  
Advisory Councils of Saanich**



[NatureTrailsSociety.com](http://NatureTrailsSociety.com)

A photograph of a forest path with tall trees and dappled sunlight. In the top left corner, there are two overlapping diamond shapes, one light green and one darker green.

# **Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society**

**Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society is a registered charity working to coordinate and connect trails that can be enjoyed by our communities and wildlife. We build, maintain, and advocate for recreational nature trails on Southern Vancouver Island.**

# Facilitators



## DANIEL CAMMIADE

Daniel is a trail master extraordinaire with over 20 years of experience exploring the island trails on foot, wheels and horseback. This has resulted in invaluable and lasting connections within the trail community. As the founder and Executive Director, Daniel works closely with the SVINTS board, volunteers, staff, landowners, government and indigenous partners to achieve the Society's strategic plan and objectives. As a cartographer by trade, along with extensive trail building experience and training from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), Daniel manages the Society's daily operations, including the design, build and maintenance of trails, guidance and supervision of projects and trail building activities and volunteer and staff engagement, while liaising with key stakeholders to keep everything on track or in this case, trail. As a life-long Victoria local and father of two, he's sincerely invested in this community. Author of two outdoor recreation guidebooks (one in its fifth edition) and a self-employed cartographer, he has published recreational maps for locals and visiting travellers and mapped the popular Hartland Mountain Bike Park in Victoria along with involvement in various sanctioned trail building efforts. As a multi-year past president with the South Island Mountain Bike Society (SIMBS) and in his current role, Daniel advocates for the multi-access accessibility of our local parks and trails. This has resulted in building key relationships and connections with several other trail support groups including the South Island Mountain Bike Society (SIMBS) the Outdoor Club of Victoria, Habitat Acquisition Trust, Vancouver Island Trail Association, to name a few. His involvement in developing the Sea to Sea Management Plan, has illustrated his desire and ability to collaborate with CRD Parks and BC Parks staff and administration.



## MIA BARKASY

Mia is a dedicated Human Resource professional who lends her time and skills to our nature trail community with guidance, development and implementation of organizational people policies, practices and worker relations. As a previous educator and certified facilitator Mia has developed and facilitated various curriculum to educate on trails, coaching, conflict resolution and HR fundamentals. An animal lover, Mia can often be found hiking on our local trails with her best furry friend Romeo.

# Our Vision, Mission and Goals

## VISION

A world-renowned network of multi-use trails with abundant access, that inspires people to engage with the natural world and respect the environment.

## MISSION

Champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners..

## GOALS

Develop, maintain and advocate for shared-use nature trails and trail networks in Southern Vancouver Island.

Champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners.

Pilot, promote and continually improve education programs to teach children and youth about sustainable trail building.

# Nature Through Trails

**An Educational Foundation of Respect, Environmental Sustainability, Fulsome Experience and Trail Knowledge of Trails and Nature for youth.**

*The Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society would like to work with the Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils of Saanich to develop a Train the Trainer course curriculum. This curriculum is to be use by Middle School teachers in teaching outdoor environmental education through the Nature Through Trails program which has a focus on an Educational Foundation of Respect, Environmental Sustainability, Fulsome Experience and Trail Knowledge of Trails and Nature for youth curriculum.*

## **Funding Request**

To continue to develop the curriculum funding is required for research, extended design, marketing, communications and development and implementation of a schedule for training. The estimated cost for two months of staff time to achieve this is \$10,000.

SVNTS may have access to \$4,700 previously secured for trail work through Triple Shot Cross Fondo and a Sannich Youth Fun Run. We will be requesting these funds to be used for this educational program and are requesting a matching donation from the Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils of Sannich and Sannich PAC's.

### **Funding Request:**

\$4,700

Research, develop, schedule and implement a "Train the Trainer" for Saanich Middle Schools.

- Research and Development June 2024 - September 2024
- Schedule and Implementation 2024/25 school year

### **Alternate Options:**

\$4,700

Research and create elementary and high school curriculum for Saanich Schools to be piloted with full instruction from SVNTS

- Curriculum development June 2024 - September 2024
- Scheduled and pilot 2024/25 school year

## **Course Overview**

Nature Through Trails is a three day curriculum designed to support middle school learning of outdoor education by providing students with foundational building blocks of trail history, community involvement, trail development, environmental sustainability, health and overall trail care.

## **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- Know their role in the community of trails.
- Identify a well designed, built and maintained trail.
- Feel confident on local trail networks.
- Identify a trail in need of care and why.
- Know safety guidelines for working on and using trails.
- Understand a trail's contribution to the environment and health.
- Know how to find and access trails in a safe and amicable way.

## **Course Audience**

This course is intended for middle school students. The Train the Trainer session is designed to take educators through the course from the perspective of the student to experience the full curriculum.

## **Course Content Course content topics:**

Trail Safety  
Trails in history  
Trails and our community  
Trails and the environment  
Trails and health

## **Time table**

While the piloted curriculum saw a combination of in class and hands on outdoor trail time, the program is designed and can be curated to fit with individual school and teaching preferences or requirements.

## **Materials**

Facilitators will provide all required learning materials via Power Point on the days of instructions.

Participants are required to bring materials for note taking as well as sturdy footwear and clothing conducive for the weather working outside on trails including gardening gloves.

Participants are required to bring their own snacks, beverages (extra water bottle recommended as we will be working outside) and lunches.

## **Site**

Location for facilitation of this course will be provided by the district of Saanich, keeping in mind the course is designed with both in class and on trail components.

Should participants be unable to provide such a site, SVINTS may be able to provide an opportunity on an alternate site (likely not in the district of Saanich) with a honorarium provided to the property owner. Participants should keep in mind that transportation to the alternate site is not provided by SVINTS and the time required to and from the site is outside the course timetable.

## **Parent Participation**

Parent participation is encouraged in a hands on approach to participate and support supervision of younger students during outdoor on trail components. This allows parents to learn along with their children and become advocates of trail care.

Additionally, each course section is designed to encourage the students to take home what they have learned and share with their families.

## **Appendix A**

Testimonial from Maria Montessori Academy Regarding Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society Trail Education Pilot 2023 - Created and Facilitated by Daniel Cammiade and Mia Barkasy.

In May of 2023, our school, Maria Montessori Academy had the opportunity to be the pilot project school for the implementation of Sothern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society middle school Trail Care curriculum.

This new curriculum incorporated in class foundational trail history, the student's role in a community of trails, trail design, trail confidence, safety, environmental sustainability and impact, trails and health and trail access and advocacy all combined with hands on trail beautification and repair.

While any grade seven parent or teacher knows how trying it can be to engage youth of this age, the facilitators and creators, Executive Director, Daniel Cammiade and HR Board Director, Mia Barkasy of this innovative curriculum, managed to connect with the students and teachers while imparting valuable knowledge and skills through a variety of mediums.

The visual aides, interactive facilitation with engaging questions and prompts, along with fun activities drew both students and teachers into a world of information most do not even know exist in the creation, repair, and maintenance of one of the most highly used outdoor recreational infrastructures in Southern Vancouver Island, trails!

Above and beyond, the students (and teachers) also learned the important role trails play in our communities and environment.

We highly recommend this 3-day intensive interactive program to any organization looking to enhance the outdoor educational, recreational and environmental learning for their students and faculty.



## **Appendix B:**

*BC Ministry of Education Grade 8 Learning Standards & Sample Trail Care Activities.* To date NTS has developed the sample learning standards for:

### ***Applied Design, Skills and Technologies, Science, Social Studies and Physical & Health.***

SVINTS has compiled a full detailed list of related learning standards for each criteria area some examples are:

#### **Applied Design:**

- Research for development of proposed alignment, collaborating with appropriate user groups for feedback and other perspectives on proposed trail alignment.
- Distribute user surveys at Trail heads to give Trail users the opportunity to provide feedback.

#### **Physical & Health:**

- Removal of organic brush and clearing for trail build
- Raking, rock collection and moving and walking trail alignments

#### **Skills and Technologies:**

- Create a trail segment index and schedule for build based on consultation with land owner.
- Understand the pros and cons related to the different technologies available for use in Trail design and building.

#### **Science:**

- Review completed Trail and reflect on design for environmental sustainability and user experience.
- Identify neutral segments that are not managing water effectively.
- Walk roughed in Trail checking for water management issues sensitive ecosystems overly steep grades danger trees wildlife habitat neighbor's privacy sidelines intersection safety canopy clearance etc

#### **Social Studies:**

- Use Trail counters and service to assess personal and social impacts of the trail.
- Create work plan that is separated into the key stages of production with consideration for surrounding communities, users and indigenous reconciliation.
- Learn about the history of trail building, with focus on the land natural resources and culture and how they have all helped define the tools we use today to design and build trails.