

# 1 Introduction

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## About Kokanee Carnival

The Kokanee Carnival Youth Education Program (Kokanee Carnival) is a dynamic, innovative, hands-on effort to teach elementary school children about the importance of clean water, healthy streams, fish natural history, conservation of fish habitat, resource stewardship, and community involvement. Kokanee Carnival links lessons taught in class and outdoor learning experiences with science and math skills that students can apply to everyday situations. This program is a successful, effective, volunteer-driven partnership of conservation organizations, resource agencies, schools, and sponsors working toward a common goal. Kokanee Carnival participants include individuals from the following organizations:

**Conservation organizations** - The Central Oregon Flyfishers (COF), Sunriver Anglers (SRA), and Central Oregon Llama Association (COLA)

**Resource agencies** - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (ODFW-STEP) and Deschutes National Forest (DNF)

**Schools** - elementary, middle, high school, private, and alternative

**Sponsors** - individuals, organizations, and other funding sources who fully "spawnsor" the program with their donations

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Kokanee Carnival Youth Education Program is to provide a dynamic, hands-on learning experience to educate and excite elementary school children about clean water, healthy watersheds, and fish conservation, while promoting safe and responsible angling, good citizenship, and community stewardship.





Currently, the Kokanee Karnival program involves 30 schools throughout Central Oregon, reaching more than 1,000 students, teachers, and parents. Kokanee Karnival's success is directly attributable to the dozens of volunteers and resource agency staff who donate approximately 3,000 hours of service each year.

Kokanee Karnival provides students in the Central Oregon tri-county area (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson) with natural resource education opportunities. The program incorporates field trips, hands-on learning experiences, and yearlong classroom activities. Each portion of the program helps students achieve Oregon Department of Education Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) benchmarks in most curricular areas. By participating in the program, students have an opportunity to achieve the following objectives:

- Learn about the kokanee salmon life cycle
- Observe and understand components of good fish habitat and learn how basic principles of conservation affect fish habitat
- Understand a fish's place in the food chain
- Learn about the role of fish hatcheries in managing fisheries resources
- Conduct a fish egg incubation project to model a fish nest (redd) in natural stream conditions
- Learn about fish biology, water safety, angling skills, and the role of fishing regulations in managing fish resources
- Understand and demonstrate the importance of caring for the watershed in which they live through community stewardship projects
- Develop skills in math, graphing, data collection and recording, reading, speaking, and report writing
- Develop an understanding of how to apply skills and concepts learned in Kokanee Karnival to other subjects and life situations

## About This Manual

This manual is a definitive guide to Kokanee Karnival. It explains the history and purpose of the program, and it provides guidance through the process of organizing and operating the program successfully.

If you are a Youth Education Program Director, use this manual to coordinate an existing Kokanee Karnival program or to establish a similar program.

If you are a volunteer, teacher, parent, or anyone interested in helping with Kokanee Karnival, or if you want to start a similar program, use this manual to learn about the various aspects of the program and the details involved in setting up, operating, and maintaining the program.

## Before You Begin

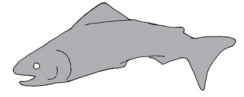
To operate this program successfully, special knowledge of fish and their habitat, water and watersheds, and conservation is not necessary. However, experience in the following areas is an asset:

- Organizing schedules, events, data, equipment, and many other details
- Communicating with others through written correspondence, public speaking, and phone conversations
- Using a computer for word processing, transmitting email, setting up and maintaining databases, and developing presentations
- Obtaining financing through grants and other sources
- Encouraging people to volunteer
- Working with volunteers who have varying skill sets, degrees of experience, and levels of education
- Working independently with little or no supervision
- Interacting with children

## Getting Started

Each chapter of this manual provides detailed information about Kokanee Karnival.

- For an overview of the program, see **Chapter 2. Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program.**



The information and activities in this manual focus on kokanee salmon and locations in Central Oregon. The Kokanee Karnival program is adaptable to other fish species such as redband trout, bull trout, or chinook salmon, and to locations in your area.

- To learn how schools and volunteers may participate in the program, see **Chapter 3. Participation.**
- To provide students with an opportunity to observe naturally spawning kokanee salmon, see **Chapter 4. Streamside Experience.**
- To provide students with a tour of a local fish hatchery and a means to experience the purpose and benefits of Oregon’s hatcheries, see **Chapter 5. Hatchery Experience.**
- To teach students angling skills, fish biology, and water safety, see **Chapter 6. Angling Clinic Experience.**
- To learn about the Fish Eggs to Fry egg incubation program, Fish Dissection, Angler Education, and Community Stewardship classroom projects, see **Chapter 7. Classroom Projects.**
- For ideas about how to raise money to support the program, see **Chapter 8. Fundraising.**
- For examples of scripts for the Streamside, Hatchery, and Angling Clinic Experiences and Angler Education, see **Chapter 9. Scripts.**
- For contact information for federal and private organizations, descriptions of games, First Fish Certificate, outline for classroom fish dissection, examples of fundraising letters, forms, and more, see the **Appendices.**

## Conventions Used in This Manual

The terms “Kokanee Karnival” and “program” refer to the Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program.

The kokanee salmon illustration, like the one shown on the left, highlights information specific to the program in Central Oregon. For example, the “Summary” near the end of Chapters 4, 5, and 6 contains information pertinent to Kokanee Karnival in Central Oregon.

