

WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum Youth Seat

Adopted on August 12, 2021

Purpose:

Add two youth seats to the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum to:

- Promote regular and active civic engagement in youth within the WRIA 9 watershed
- Develop knowledge and skills for the next generation of local leaders; and
- To integrate a youth perspective and promote youth involvement in salmon recovery

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about Puget Sound salmon recovery
- Learn how local governments engage in salmon recovery and work together to fund scientific research and projects that advance salmon recovery goals
- Build relationships with elected officials, non-profit organizations, and local government staff
- Develop public-speaking and communication skills
- Provide youth perspective about salmon recovery to elected officials on WEF
- Learn how to engage peers and classmates on topics related to salmon recovery within the Green/Duwamish watershed¹

Membership Criteria:

- Applicants must live or attend school within the WRIA 9 watershed².
- Applicants must be between the grades of 9 and 12
- Terms shall be for one year.
- All applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or ability.
- Applicants under 18 must have parent permission to serve.

Recruitment

To recruit for these positions, WRIA 9 staff will:

Distribute overview and application materials:

- Through Partner organizations of the WRIA including:
 - Muckleshoot Tribal Schools
 - MidSound Fisheries Enhancement Group
 - Duwamish Valley Youth Corps
 - Sustainability Ambassadors
 - Unleash the Brilliance
 - Nature Vision
 - Vashon Nature Center

¹ To learn more about watersheds please visit: [King County watershed information - King County](#)

² School districts include Enumclaw, Tahoma, Auburn, Kent, Federal Way, Renton, Highline, Vashon, and Seattle. You can see a more detailed map of WRIA 9 here: [0411WRIA9LocalActionMap.ai \(govlink.org\)](#)

- Environmental Science Center
- Seattle Aquarium
- Through Forum members, to distribute to:
 - existing Youth Councils within WRIA 9 jurisdictions
 - Municipal parks and recreation departments
- School guidance counselors and principals within WRIA 9 districts (Enumclaw, Tahoma, Auburn, Kent, Federal Way, Renton, Highline, Vashon, and Seattle).
 - School or Government affiliated extracurricular clubs or groups (e.g. Science club, Diversity club)
- Community center leaders
- King County Library System
- 4-H Youth Development ([4-H Youth Development | King County | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#))

Further advertisement opportunities may could include:

- Job and Volunteer Sites (e.g. NEOGOV)
- DNRP Social Media pages
- Local media with a news release or media event
- A flyer in municipalities' utility bills.
- Have student leaders or school administrators share information via social media tools to reach peers and students
- College prep course students (to help build a college resume)

Application and Selection Process:

See attached Application Form.

All applicants will be screened for eligibility by WRIA staff and top applicants will be forwarded for an interview with a panel of WRIA 9 partners. Applications will be due by September 13th, 2021.

Proposed interview questions:

- Why are you interested in being involved in salmon recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed?
- What do you know about salmon recovery in Puget Sound? What do you think are some of the biggest opportunities to help recover salmon?
- How would serving in this position contribute to your personal learning objectives and professional goals?

Expectations:

- Applicants should try to attend all four WEF meetings within their term.
- Applicants should demonstrate an interest in public service and environmental stewardship, and a commitment to engage on the topic by reading meeting materials, asking questions, and being an active member of the Forum.

- Applicants will be asked to give a short presentation to the WEF at the end of their term about what you learned during your term and your thoughts about how youth in WRIA 9 can become more engaged in salmon recovery.

Onboarding and Mentorship:

A youth member would be onboarded and mentored by WRIA 9 staff and a member of the Forum with capacity to be accessible as a resource for questions and any youth member contributions. An onboarding packet will be developed with educational materials and information to ensure the selected candidate is prepared to fully engage as a member. Youth members would receive regular briefing calls prior to any Forum meetings or events and will be included on all Forum correspondence.

In addition to participation in the WRIA 9 Forum meetings, youth members will be given additional opportunities for involvement in important WRIA work. This could include:

- Volunteer opportunities and community events with partners,
- participation in project ranking,
- spend a day at the Green River Smolt trap,
- assist in coordinating project tours,
- and other learning opportunities as they become available.

Timeline: Applications are due September 13th and interviews will be held in October. Youth members will be onboarded by the November 10th, 2021. In future years the timeline may shift to allow youth members to join at the August Forum meeting, with their term running from August – May.

Other Considerations:

Transportation: Youth members may not have reliable transportation. WRIA staff will discuss transportation needs with youth members once in-person events resume.

Compensation: Active participation in the WRIA 9 Forum would reduce hours available to those that work and attend school. Therefore, a \$500 stipend will be administered to compensate for time spent preparing, traveling to and from, and attending WRIA 9 Forum meetings and other events as appropriate. This can be structured in three different ways depending on the preference of the selected applicant.

1. Honorarium model, with payouts twice a year
2. Gift card option for cash or preferred vendor
3. W-9 model contractor with a scope of work and quarterly invoices/payments