Mt. Baker Snow School fosters connections between mountain snowpack and our watershed health. The alpine heights of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest become a living laboratory—blending citizen science, environmental education, and recreation. Local middle school classes explore on snowshoes, led by Western Washington University (WWU) interns, Institute M.Ed. students, and climate scientists. Students receive two sessions:

1. A classroom visit introducing weather monitoring, public lands, and healthy watersheds.
2. A field trip to Mt. Baker Ski Area where students conduct hands-on experiments—gathering samples, monitoring conditions, and analyzing data on snowpack, snow algae, and snow-water equivalency. This unique citizen science opportunity contributes to cutting-edge research at WWU’s Kodner Lab.

Program Outcomes

- **APPLIED SCIENCE LEARNING** of watersheds, weather and climate
- **Increase ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS** for local kids and families
- **Encourage HEALTHY LIFESTYLES** through winter recreation
- **Increase OBSERVATION and INQUIRY** skills
- **Foster a greater SENSE OF PLACE and CONNECTION** to community
- **Expose kids to STEM EDUCATION and CAREER PATHWAYS**

**2018 Highlight: Expansion Pilot**

This year, Mount Baker Jr. High School students conducted a real life lab from start to finish, preparing them for success in high school science. WWU interns and Northwest Avalanche Center scientists visited classes after trips to help students analyze data and draw conclusions. Students presented findings to peers, parents and the Mt. Baker community at a symposium.

"Students took what they'd learned in the classroom to a deeper level—analyzing specimens under a microscope (many for the first time) and thinking about organisms in novel ways."

— Eric Henry, Mount Baker Jr. High Teacher
Participant Snapshot

Our priority audience is rural and underserved communities surrounding Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Schools pay just $10 per student. With philanthropic support, the Institute subsidized fees by $55,000!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH Served</th>
<th>TEACHER &amp; PARENT Participants</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER &amp; INTERN Instructors</th>
<th>NEW SCHOOLS Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>556</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

45% LOW-INCOME students
69% RURAL UNDERSERVED schools
8% NEW SCHOOLS served

Evaluating Outcomes

- 80% of teachers reported improved attitudes toward science
- 90% reported increased academic success in key science concepts
- 80% reported improved critical thinking about environmental issues

“ Our students live along Mt. Baker Highway, which ends at the stunning Artist Point vista. Yet, most have never seen the viewpoint, played at the ski area, or hiked the trails. Hands-on experiments with inspiring instructors enhance students’ academic experience and instills connection to the natural world.”

— Neal Schlegel, Mount Baker Jr. High Teacher

2018 Partners & Supporters

Mt. Baker SnowSchool is made possible thanks to support from individuals and organizations, including:

- National Environmental Education Foundation
- Hands on the Land
- Whatcom Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Fund for the Environment
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Thank you to these funders whose grant support made Snow School possible:

- National Environmental Education Foundation
- Hands on the Land
- Whatcom Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Fund for the Environment
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

And to all of the individuals and families who made generous contributions, thank you!

Thank you to companies who donated warm clothing, gear and snacks for students: Backcountry Essentials, Community Food Co-op and SmartWool.

ncascades.org/snowschool  (360) 854-2599  info@ncascades.org