

Introduction:

2021 Arlington-Stillaguamish Eagle Festival is revised this year, due to the COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Activities are on your own or virtual. We have compiled a plethora of nature activities for you to explore. To entice you even more, the Stillaguamish Tribe is offering prize drawings for Eagle Festival participants (see back).

Activities

Enter the Eagle Photo Contest

Arlington Arts Council invites Snohomish County, Skagit County, and Camano Island residents to enter the Eagle Photography Contest through AAC Facebook page. First place eagle photo will be awarded \$200. Email photo to recreation@arlingtonwa.gov. Last day to enter is Feb.4.

View 11 Years of Winning Eagle Photography

View the past 11 years of winning eagle photographs. Located at Coastal Community Bank (windows), 525 N Olympic Avenue, Arlington.

Enter the Nature Haiku Contest

The Nature Haiku Contest is open to Snohomish County residents. Prizes are \$25 for first place in three age categories (ages 6-9, ages 10-15, ages 16 & up). Contest ends Jan. 31 at midnight. Enter online arlingtonwa.gov/eaglefest or by mail to: City of Arlington, Recreation, 238 N Olympic Ave, Arlington 98223. View the entries Feb. 6- 14 on City Hall windows (238 N Olympic Avenue, Arlington).

Outdoor Nature Art Show

February 5-14. Enjoy natural depictions of the beautiful Pacific Northwest flora and fauna as created by local artists. Located at Centennial Trail in downtown Arlington, 3rd to 4th Street block.

Eagle Fest Wood Carving Display

Chainsaw Carver Steve Backus will have a display at the Arlington Co-op (121 S Olympic Ave) on January 30, 11am-4pm.

Wolf Haven’s Virtual Sanctuary Visit and Activities

Virtually meet Wolf Haven’s wolves through the online gallery or virtual sanctuary visit at www.wolfhaven.org Activity sheets for kids available at www.arlingtowa.gov/eaglefest.

Discover Your Watershed Virtually

A watershed is an area where streams and rivers drain into a common body of water. Watersheds transcend local, state and federal boundaries. Each watershed becomes a focal area for water quality, marine habitat, stormwater runoff, and other issues. This map shows the major rivers that subsidiary streams flow into within Snohomish County. www.soundsalmonsolutions.org/edresources-kids

Can you survive a Salmon’s Journey?

Online game: Guide your salmon upstream to spawn, but watch out for dangerous obstacles along the way! www.soundsalmonsolutions.org/edresources-kids

Sound Water Stewards University

Sound Waters University’s first virtual event. The live online portion of the event is Feb. 6, but you will have full access to the classes after the event to explore at your leisure. Registration is required. Tickets are \$50. www.soundwatersuniversity.org/classes/

Sound Water Stewards, Estuary Activities

The mouth of Stillaguamish River is a critically important estuary ecosystem called an estuary where fresh and saltwater mix. The river carries nutrients downstream and the rising and falling tides create a rich habitat for juvenile salmon which experience the highest growth rates of their lives while in estuaries. The estuary also provides habitat for migratory birds and wildlife. Sound Water Stewards present a video on salmon life cycle, plus a fun educational video called Estuary Soup, and a guide to walking near the Leque Island estuary restoration near Stanwood. <https://soundwaterstewards.org/web/2021-eaglefestival/>

Join the Stilly Valley Trek Fitness Event!

Did you know an eagle flies 30 miles a day on average? How many “eagle days” will you commit to exercising and other activities that get you moving and exploring your Valley during this year’s festival? Participants of all ages and abilities can register online with their own exercise goals to reach between Jan. 23 and Feb. 13. The first 50 people to register will receive a free pedometer! All exercise counts for this virtual event – walk the Centennial Trail, log your stroll around the neighborhood, track the time you spend on your Zoom yoga. Prizes from local businesses will be awarded in age categories and include: most miles, fun photos, creative videos, and most time spent exercising. Everyone who registers will also be eligible for drawings. Register at stillyvalleyhealth.org. Upload pictures and videos of your own trek to social media using #StillyValleyTrek.

Recommended Eagle Festival Book List

Check out a book or DVD from the recommended list for the Eagle Festival from Arlington Library. www.bit.ly/355073W

Contribute to Science with iNaturalist

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to a backyard weed. Go to inaturalist.org or install the free iNaturalist app on your phone. Record your observations, share with fellow naturalists. Your findings are shared with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Learn more at www.inaturalist.org

Identify Native Plants with Your Cell Phone

This free app allows you to identify plants and mushrooms with the click of your camera on a mobile device. Learn more at www.plantsnap.com

Identify Birds with Your Cell Phone

Install iBird, a field guide to North American Birds. You can identify a bird from any photo you upload. iBird also contains bird songs and call vocalizations. The program is \$14.99. Learn more at www.ibird.com

Places to Visit

Arlington Stormwater Wetland Park

This stormwater wetland was designed to filter pollutants from the water flowing through its cells. City stormwater previously flowed directly into the Stillaguamish River. Now this water flows through the wetland where native plants and natural processes filter it. Walk the meandering trails around the wetland and read the interpretive signage or follow the Eagle Trail along the dike near the Stillaguamish River. Directions: use parking lot at Haller Park 1100 West Ave., walk west under SR 9 bridge to Stormwater Park. www.arlingtonwa.gov/stormwaterpark

Portage Creek Wildlife Area

This 150 acre wildlife reserve is home to a variety of wetland plants and animals. Stroll along the stream and enjoy the open meadow paths while catching glimpses of herons, raptors and species of waterfowl. Location: 20802 59th Avenue NE, Arlington www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities

Eagle and Salmon Viewing at Squire Creek Park

Squire Creek County Park is located approximately 24 miles east of Arlington towards the town of Darrington. If conditions are right, visitors can view spawning chum salmon in Squire Creek and eagles.

Access to the Sauk River is just five minutes away at Backman Park (25333 Clear Creek Road) Location: Squire Creek Park, 41415 SR 530, Arlington www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Squire-Creek-Park-54

Leque Island—Stanwood Levee Trail

Hike to the top of a berm to a restored tidal marsh on Leque Island, located between Camano Island and Stanwood. Gravel path is 0.7 miles long with great view and birds. Site is managed by WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Location: Eide Road off of SR 532, follow road to end to parking area. www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/stanwood-levee-trail

Forston Mill Ponds Park

Once the site of a bustling mill and community of over 300 residents, all that remains now of Fortson are some concrete walls and two pretty mill ponds. A fun place to explore. This site is also a trailhead for the Whitehorse Trail.

Read the history here: www.discoverdarrington.com/history-2/historical-places/fortson-mill/ Location: SR 530 to Fortson Mill RD, near Milepost 42 www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility

Nature Conservancy Port Susan Preserve

One of the finest estuarine habitats in Puget Sound. An estuary forms where fresh water meets saltwater and provides habitat for many species of birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Self-guided tours available with reservations only at www.arlingtonwa.gov/eaglefest Location: Port Susan Bay Nature Conservancy, Boe Road, Stanwood

Stillaguamish Valley Museum Watershed Model

An outdoor shelter houses a hand-carved cedar relief map of the Stillaguamish River watershed as it was in 1910, when Arlington was the world’s capital for cedar-shake mills. The map includes locations of pioneer communities, mines, logging operations, Stillaguamish tribal encampments, and the sites of old roads, schools and cemeteries.

Location: 20722 67th Avenue NE, Arlington

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Viewing Sites

Head north on State Route 530 to Skagit County for a day of exploration, eagle sightings and a beautiful road trip. Registration is required for guided walks. Location: Howard Miller Steelhead Park, 52809 Rockport Park Rd, Rockport For more information and other areas in Skagit County to view eagles, go to: www.skagiteagle.org