



## Immersion Year 2

*Welcome to the Immersion Year 2 Program! We are so excited to launch this pilot program as staff have dreamed about making this a reality for many years. See below for details that are relevant to your 9-month long experience.*

### Course Description

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The Immersion Year 2 will support students in looking towards what is next in their work and in their life after the year finishes. How this learning can become meaningful and relevant beyond the Immersion will be a key guiding question. The staff will help support the students through this year ultimately leaving them empowered to take next steps and find their unique ways to put their learning to work in the world. There will be a focus on deepening core routines and skills development in the three curriculum areas with oversight and mentoring from staff, but it will also require a *significant dedication and self-drive* from each student. While the staff will provide many opportunities for learning, it will be up to each student to take responsibility for their education and make it happen.

Students will continue to explore the curriculum for which they gained foundations during year one and also explore new skills and learning in the WAS curriculum through facilitated and self driven dirt time experiences. This is also an opportunity for students to deepen into the learning community created by the first year of The Immersion, and through doing parts of it again, deepen into it as “Senior Students”. It is appropriate for individuals who are hoping to grow their naturalist knowledge, wilderness skills, and leadership fluency in a supportive learning community basket.

Students will:

- Be part of the overall arc with the first-years by attending hand-picked class days and field trips; fostering a deeper, multi-layered learning community.
- Experience new class days and trips that are specific to the second-year cohort that help you deepen your learning.
- Have surface area to guide your own learning through community dirt time designed and structured to cultivate embodied practice.

## **Instructors at The Immersion Year 2**

Immersion Year 2 instructors bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the program. Their interests and passions complement each other to ensure a diversity of perspectives and sensitivities. They also represent a large amount of mentoring experience—a powerful, felt-sense of how to guide individuals and groups through the transformative reconnecting that takes place during the year at The Immersion Year 2.

### **Core Instructors**

Brooke Nelson and Kyle Schultheis

### **Program Manager**

Marcus Reynerson

**Guest instructors** will also join the teaching team throughout the year. Some of these include Laura Gunion, Sam Bowman, Richie Rivera-Booth, Phoebe Reid, Andy Franjevic, Heather Durham, Mike Prince, Karen Tomkins, Merilee Bradford, and Marcus Reynerson

## **Class Format**

The Immersion Year 2 begins in early September and ends in late May/early June with a maximum of 12 students and an average student/teacher ratio of 6:1. The normal weekly routine generally involves classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. There will also be a few Friday class days throughout the year, and possible weekend class days. Most days are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with any exceptions noted on seasonal schedules distributed in class. Office hours are 8am to 4pm weekdays.

## **Extended Day Trips and Overnight Field Trips**

Throughout the year, the class embarks on several different outings and overnights:

- **Day Trips:** Often, the program takes day outings to local destinations around the Puget Sound region. On these days, class may leave earlier than 9am and may return later than 3pm. The program may be able to make accommodations for students with specific schedule needs.
- **Overnights:** Throughout the year, there are several overnights that range from 3 to 8 nights long. Sometimes these will be at our campus, other times these will be at a different location. **Students may be responsible for providing their own food** - depending on the trip, there may be opportunities to buy food or eat out. Food may be provided depending on the trip.

## **Immersion Year 2 Curriculum Details**

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The second year will involve three core areas of content that students will focus on for the year. Some of this will come through attendance with selected year one classes again, and some will come through new content and class days with second year staff.

- Natural and Cultural History of the Pacific Northwest - Students will dive deeper into learning about the ecological landscapes and culturescapes of this region. These studies will come through study in ecology, ornithology, bird language, wildlife tracking, botany, and cultural studies.

Potential class day curriculum may include:

- Introduction to wildlife trailing
  - Fall and spring ethnobotany and harvesting
  - Snow tracking and ecology
  - East slope Cascade ecology
  - Marine and island ecology
  - South Puget sound ecology
  - Coastal Dune wildlife tracking
  - Pacific Northwest geology
  - Advanced birding and bird language at multiple locations through the seasons
  - Naturalist assessments
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- Bushcraft and Outdoor Skills - This area will deepen students into bushcraft, survival, and other outdoor living and traveling skill sets. Work on fire, shelter, campcraft, navigation, food and water procurement, and wild crafting will make up this component. Potential class day curriculum may include:
    - Advanced shelter overnight
    - Advanced camp craft
    - Map and compass navigation
    - Aidless navigation
    - Continued core routines and awareness
    - Knife making
    - Pack basket weaving
    - Large animal processing
    - Bow crafting
    - Traditional traps and snares
    - Stone tools
    - Fiber arts
    - Food preservation; canning, smoking, drying
    - Wilderness skills challenges involving shelter, water, fire, and food
    - End-of-year wilderness living experience
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- Leadership, Awareness, and Personal Development/Self Discovery - Students will continue their practice of core routines, self-awareness, embodiment, justice awareness, and communication and group process work. This component aims to leave graduates more connected to who they are and more on the trail of what they have to offer to the world. Potential class day curriculum may include:
    - Solo quest, including both preparation and integration
    - Coaching focused on applying skills towards future goals
    - Passion-based projects with student presentations
    - Continued embodied inner tracking

- Continued 8 shields mentoring
- Choice-based winter guilds
- Deepening scout protector skills
- Advancing equity in nature connection
- Opening week, closing week, and reflections with Immersion Year 1

## Immersion Year 2 Calendar Overview

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*Specific schedules will be given before the start of each session; Dates subject to change.*

Orientation Day 1	Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - evening
Orientation Day 2	Friday, September 8, 2023
Opening Week	Monday, September 11 - Friday, September 15
Normal Class Weeks begin	Tuesday, September 19
Oregon Dunes Field Trip	Monday, October 2 - Friday, October 6
Marine Ecology Field Trip	Dates TBD
Advanced Shelter Building Overnight	Dates TBD
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Fri November 17 – Mon November 27</i>
Final Day of Fall session	Thursday, December 7
<i>Winter Break</i>	<i>Friday, December 8, 2023 – Monday, January 1, 2024</i>
Winter Session Starts	Tuesday, January 2, 2024
Teaway Winter Field Trip	Dates TBD
Final Day of Winter Session	Thursday, March 7
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Friday, March 8 – Monday, March 18</i>
Spring Session Starts	Tuesday, March 19
End of Year Initiations/Rites of Passage	Dates TBD
Last Day of Class	Friday, May 31
Graduation Ceremony	Saturday, June 1, 2024

