

## Training Opportunity:

Whistler Museum

# Whistler Nature 101 & Interpretation

Interested in elevating your (or your staff's) knowledge of Whistler's nature and communicating that information?

This three-day hands-on training introduces participants to Whistler's incredible natural environment and to effective interpretation techniques for sharing that information. It will include in-class learning, field trips, and an opportunity to practice skills. It is designed for anyone interested in nature and lifelong learning, and/or people working or volunteering with museums, guide companies, parks or anywhere people go to have an enjoyable time and maybe learn something. Resources will be provided.

From a past participant: *"Whistler is far more interesting in terms of biodiversity than I ever imagined. And learning communication techniques will be useful for my job and life in general."*

## OUTCOMES

Participants will be able to demonstrate an introductory knowledge of:

- Whistler's geography, geology, volcanoes, and glaciers – and how these physical elements influence the variety of life here.
- Biodiversity, and how it is the foundation of healthy, functioning ecosystems upon which all life depends.
- The art and science of interpretation: a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, and inspire engagement with the world around us.

## BENEFITS

- Continue to increase your knowledge of nature. *For your staff, ensure the information they share with guests is as accurate as possible.*
- Help sustain your passion for nature. *And your staff's passion, which will rub off on your guests.*
- Learning interpretation skills is an opportunity for lifelong learning. *And for your staff, it also builds confidence in working with the public.*

## 2026 REGISTRATION DETAILS

<b>When</b>	<b>Whistler Nature 101:</b> Thursday, May 21 & Friday, May 22, 9 am – 5 pm <b>Interpretation 101:</b> Thursday, May 28, 9:30 am – 5 pm
<b>Where</b>	HI Hostel (1035 Legacy Way in Cheakamus)
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$200 early bird (Register by May 7)</b> \$250 regular (Last day to register is May 15)
<b>How to register (3 options)</b>	1. Email Kristina at DiscoverNature@WhistlerMuseum.org 2. Call the Whistler Museum at 604-932-2019 3. Visit the Whistler Museum at 4333 Main St. (behind the library)

## TRAINING OVERVIEW

<b>Day 1</b> (May 21)	<b>Whistler 101:</b> Introduction, First Nations, Biodiversity (what it is and why it matters), Whistler's physical geography (geology, volcanology and glaciology)
<b>Day 2</b> (May 22)	<b>Whistler 101:</b> Overview of key species in Whistler and how everything is interconnected, stewardship, and Whistler's top Discover Nature places
<b>Day 3</b> (May 28)	<b>Interpretation 101:</b> The basic principles of interpretation and understanding how people learn based on the <b>POETRY</b> acronym: Interpretation has a <b>Purpose</b> , is <b>Organized</b> , <b>Enjoyable</b> , <b>Thematic</b> , <b>Relevant</b> , & <b>You</b> make a difference

**Note:** Customizable courses are available for your organization or business. Contact Kristina if interested.

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Kristina Swerhun is a biologist, long-time volunteer with the Whistler Naturalists, and nature interpreter. She started and continues to manage the Whistler Museum's *Discover Nature* interpretation program at Lost Lake, which has been running since 2015. She also works with the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) on its Interpretive Panel Project and wrote and narrated the biodiversity video for the RMOW's Whistler 101 series ([Biodiversity 101](#)). Kristina has also worked as a canoe and nature guide, field biologist, teaching and research assistant at the University of Victoria, Executive Director with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and has written many *Museum Musings* and *Naturespeak* articles for the Pique Newsmagazine.

Contact Kristina:

E: [DiscoverNature@WhistlerMuseum.org](mailto:DiscoverNature@WhistlerMuseum.org)

C: 604-907-2339

