



Planning Your Floating Classroom: Important Considerations

The Floating Classroom involves **teacher-led learning, planning, and group management**. In a place with such richness and complexity, the possibilities for place-based learning that nurtures inquiry, core competencies, and curricular connections are endless!

Safety gear, paddling equipment and a brief paddling lesson will be provided. Your LPS skippers will act as guides for your day, leaving ample time for teacher-led learning on the water and during stops along the shore.

There is flexibility in the schedule for your day. We recommend that you:

- Plan a visit of at least 2.5 hours. Our staff can accommodate groups for up to 4.5 hours between 9:15 AM and 1:45 PM.
- Spend no more than an hour in the canoe at a time, to give paddlers opportunities for bathroom breaks and movement breaks.
- Spend no more than 20-30 minutes paddling continuously to allow for a rest and water break. Consider stopping for a group break on the water while listening to a story, mindfulness moment or teacher-led learning.
- Do not plan to address the group while paddling. It is difficult to hear instructions over the noise of the paddles. It is easy to stop in a sheltered location for teacher lead learning and discussion on the water if desired (weather permitting).
- Schedule time for canoe loading/unloading. It typically takes 15 minutes to load the canoes and 10 minutes to unload them.
- Break up your paddle with a mid-way beach landing. There are a few nice locations to unload the canoes about 30-45 minutes paddle from the launch site. They are remote locations with no services or road access, and landing is dependent on water levels and weather conditions. Your guides can give recommendations on the day.

Given these recommendations, most groups choose to (A) go for a single longer paddle before or after lunch, or (B) go for two shorter paddles with a lunch break at the main beach (launch location) or a remote location. Please be ready to adapt to weather, water levels, and group needs.

Generic Full-Day Elementary Schedule (4.5 hr)

LPS-led activities in green, teacher-led in yellow

Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
9:15	Main Beach	Meet LPS Guides	15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome students and teachers ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS leads Opening Circle and housekeeping
–		Intro to The Day	–	➤ Teacher lead introduction or activity
–		High Energy Game	–	➤ Many groups appreciate a high energy game before snack and loading the canoes (think “recess”)
–		Bathroom and Snack	–	➤ Recommend snack before loading canoes with access to toilets
10:30		Big Canoes 101	30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet the canoes ➤ Distribute PFD and paddle, safe handling of equipment
11:00		Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	30 min	➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, basic safety and paddling skills
11:30	Comox Lake	Paddle	20-60 min	➤ LPS staff will lead but plenty of room for teacher collaboration
–		On-Water Activity	–	➤ If paddling more than 20 minutes, a short break is often needed. This is a good time for teacher lead learning.
–		Unload Canoes	10 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
12:15	Main Beach or Other Beach	Lunch	–	➤ Movement and forest bathroom break (no services if not landing at main beach launch site)
–		Load Canoes	15 min	➤ Loading takes time!
–	Comox Lake	Paddle	20-60 min	➤ The return paddle can take slightly (25%) longer, leave some contingency time
1:15	Main Beach	Unload Canoes	10 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
–		Return Gear	10 min	➤ We appreciate your student’s help getting the gear back to the equipment shed
1:35		Closing Circle	5 min	➤ LPS Staff thank-yous and goodbyes. Staff leave by 1:45.
1:40		Wrap-Up	–	➤ Teacher-led closing talk and/or activity

Generic Half-Day Elementary Schedule (3 hr)

LPS-led activities in green, Teacher-led in yellow

Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
10:30	Main Beach	Meet LPS Guides	15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome students and teachers ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS leads Opening Circle and housekeeping
–		Intro to The Day	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teacher lead introduction or activity, building on opening circle
11:00		Big Canoes 101	25 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distribute PFD and paddle, safe handling of equipment
11:25		Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	25 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, ➤ basic safety and paddling skills
11:50	Comox Lake	Paddle	30-60 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LPS staff will lead but plenty of room for teacher collaboration
–		On-Water Activity	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If paddling more than 20 minutes, a short break is often needed. This is a good time for teacher lead learning.
12:50		Unload Canoes	10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unloading takes time!
1:00	Main Beach	Lunch	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Movement and forest bathroom break (no services if not landing at main beach launch site) ➤ Teacher-led game/activity/lesson of choice
–	Main Beach	Return Gear	10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We appreciate your student's help getting the gear back to the equipment shed
–		Closing Circle	5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LPS Staff thank-yous and goodbyes. Staff leave by 1:45 at the latest.
–		Wrap-Up	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teacher-led closing talk and/or activity

Generic Full-Day Secondary Schedule (4.5 hr)

LPS-led activities in green, teacher-led in yellow

Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
9:15	Main Beach	Meet LPS Guides	15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome students and teachers ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS leads Opening Circle and housekeeping
–		Intro to The Day	–	➤ Teacher lead introduction or activity
–		Bathroom and Snack	–	➤ Recommend snack/bathroom break before loading canoes with access to toilets
10:00		Big Canoes 101	30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet the canoes ➤ Distribute PFD and paddle, safe handling of equipment
10:30		Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	30 min	➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, basic safety and paddling skills
11:30	Comox Lake	Paddle	20-60 min	➤ LPS staff will lead but plenty of room for teacher collaboration
–		On-Water Activity	–	➤ If paddling more than 20 minutes, a short break is often needed. This is a good time for teacher lead learning.
–		Unload Canoes	10 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
12:15	Main Beach or Other Beach	Lunch	–	➤ Movement and forest bathroom break (bathrooms only available at main beach)
–		Load Canoes	15 min	➤ Loading takes time!
–	Comox Lake	Paddle	20-60 min	➤ The return paddle can take slightly (25%) longer, leave some contingency time
1:15	Main Beach	Unload Canoes	10 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
–		Return Gear	10 min	➤ We appreciate your student's help getting the gear back to the equipment shed
1:35		Closing Circle	5 min	➤ LPS Staff thank-yous/goodbyes done by 1:45.
1:40		Wrap-Up	–	➤ Teacher-led closing talk and/or activity

Generic Half-Day Secondary Schedule (3 hr)

LPS-led activities in green, Teacher-led in yellow

Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
10:30	Main Beach	Meet LPS Guides	15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome students/teachers after 9:15 ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS leads Opening Circle and housekeeping
–		Intro to The Day	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teacher lead introduction or activity, building on opening circle
10:50		Big Canoes 101	20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distribute PFD and paddle, safe handling of equipment
11:15		Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, ➤ basic safety and paddling skills
11:45	Comox Lake	Paddle	~ 45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LPS staff will lead but plenty of room for teacher collaboration
–		On-Water Activity	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If paddling more than 20 minutes, a short break is often needed. This is a good time for teacher lead learning.
12:30		Unload Canoes	10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unloading takes time!
12:45	Main Beach	Lunch	20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Movement and forest bathroom break ➤ Teacher-led activity/lesson
1:05	Main Beach	Return Gear	10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We appreciate your student's help getting the gear back to the equipment shed
1:15		Closing Circle	5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LPS Staff thank-yous/goodbyes done by 1:45 at the latest.
1:20		Wrap-Up	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teacher-led closing talk and/or activity