



### Earlham Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Trips

# Kayaking at the Gateway to the San Juan Islands

**Organized by:** Sue Gilbertson '81

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360-814-3925

**Location:** Anacortes, Washington

**Dates:** July 14 to July 17 – Sign-up by April 15, 2021

**Cost:** Cost for food, wet suit and neoprene bootie rental (about \$52 for 4 days), perhaps dry bag and water bag rental (\$10-\$20), \$50 towards the use of the kayaks. Total should be max around \$200 each.

#### **Difficulty:**

Level of fitness

Easy (No sweat, no hurry)	Moderate (Active lifestyle)	Strenuous (Regular vigorous exercise)
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Experience level

No experience necessary	Some experience with this type of trip	Significant experience required
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Adults experienced with multi-day canoe or kayak trips. You must be able to sit upright with legs stretched out and paddle for 2-3 hours at a time and up to 14 NM in one day and be able to help carry boats up onto the beach. Hiking can be optional but bring a good book if you want to spend the day at the beach.

#### **Itinerary**

We will leave midday on Wed July 14 from Anacortes paddling north 7 nautical miles (NM) to Pelican Beach on the northeast end of Cypress Island. This will be our base camp for 3 nights. On Thur. July 15 the currents are favorable to help push us around Cypress Island, an all-day trip, 12 NM. Friday we will spend on Cypress Island exploring the numerous trails and lakes. We could cover 10-14 miles ending our evening on Eagle Cliff overlooking the San Juan Islands. On Sat, July 17th we will pack up camp and head back to Anacortes arriving 6 pm at the latest after 14 NM max.

I can take 4 participants. A kayak club friend who has 8 years of ocean kayaking experience in the northwest and has led trips for several years, has agreed to lead this trip with me. Another couple, experienced in expeditions with double kayaks will lend us their kayaks and may join us. I have limited the total number of kayakers to 8. We will travel in single kayaks and will have participants using double kayaks. Doubles are more stable and safer in our cold waters.

#### **Role of participants**

Bring your own small tent, sleeping bag and pad, smaller dry bags if you have them, water bags to carry 12 liters of water. I do have one extra tent for two people and 4 large dry bags which can fit in double kayaks. We use dry or wet suits to protect ourselves in case of a capsizing in 57 degree water. Bring one if you can. We will discuss all this per email as well as how we will coordinate food and cooking gear. Bring compact but sturdy shoes for hiking. We will do some

kayak safety practice on July 12 or 13 at a nearby body of water and do a practice pack as kayaks have limited cargo space. At the end of the trip we will work together to clean and return all gear borrowed. I suggest arriving in Anacortes by July 12 or even earlier. There are plenty of wonderful places to see and hike. I can provide some lodging at my home, there are also many Airbnb options in Anacortes. Plenty of good restaurants and my deck with a grill all provide good culinary options.

#### **Biography of the organizer**



Sue participated in SWFS in 1979 and then was an instructor on Water Wilderness in 1981. Since then she has been about 8 times to the BWCA in northern MN on 4-6 day canoe trips with family and friends. While living in Germany she organized and led a couple of canoe trips for the German Quaker youth group. She began kayaking in 2018 after moving to Anacortes, WA and joined a local kayak club who's mission is to promote safe kayaking trips in these northwest waters. This past summer she co-led 5 small group overnight trips in the San Juan Islands. She is an RN and works in Anacortes in Oncology.