



Teacher Resource Lesson #6

Guardians of the Coast: The Next Generation of Stewards

Coastal Insights: Eyes on the Coast

www.raincoast.org/coastal-insights/



Info on our guest speakers

Mercedes Robinson



Photo: Doug Neasloss

Mercedes Robinson grew up in her home territory of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation alongside grizzlies, black bears and spirit bears in the Great Bear Rainforest on the Central Coast of British Columbia. At the age of 19, Mercedes has already interned with the Spirit Bear Research Foundation conducting non-invasive bear research, guided international tourists at the world-renowned Spirit Bear Lodge and was featured in the Great Bear Rainforest IMAX movie that has been viewed by audiences around the world.

For more information on Mercedes Robinson and her work:

[Coastal First Nations Spotlight on Mercedes Spirit Bear Research Foundation](#)

Robin Buss



Robin Buss is from the Hwlitsum First Nation and an honorary member of the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN), a community in which she grew up. Growing up in TFN territory has allowed Robin to immerse in her culture through ceremonies, community gatherings and fishing with family. More recently, Robin has realized her passion for stewardship and the importance of cultural connections to place which led her to work with Raincoast and help pilot and lead a local TFN youth stewardship program on TFN territory.

Review and discussion questions

As a follow-up to the session, below are some suggested review questions and discussion points to go over with your groups.

1. How did Mercedes and Robin begin on their paths to becoming stewards?
2. At what age did both Mercedes and Robin start their paths in stewardship? At what age do you think one discovers their passions?
3. Discuss how Mercedes and Robin have incorporated the Two Eyed Seeing Approach (traditional knowledge combined with research-based science principles) into their work in conservation.
4. What advice did Mercedes and Robin offer for young people who are considering a career path in conservation?
5. What are some leadership skills that you think would be important to cultivate?
6. What are some things you can do to help you figure out your passion and path?
7. What are some of key takeaways you got from hearing Mercedes and Robin's stories?
8. What are some steps you are taking to learn more about your interests and opportunities?

Resources and links

Print and media

[A Spotlight on Youth Leadership](#): A Coastal First Nations Article featuring Mercedes Robinson. (June 2020)

[A Q&A Session with Mercedes Robinson](#) reported by Nature United (March 2019).

A Raincoast Blog Article written by Robin Buss (January 2020)
[Robin Buss: Bringing a Stewardship program to my home community-](#)

Program Links

[Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards Program](#) (SEAS)
[Tsawwassen First Nation](#) website
[Kitasoo/Xai'xais](#) website