



2019-2021 ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESSES



Our Vision

Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong.

Our Mission

Friends of Outdoor School's purpose is to connect, support, and advocate for all of Oregon's diverse students to learn at inclusive and accessible Outdoor School programs that contribute to educational development, inspire youth, promote personal growth, and embrace justice.

Our Staff & Board of Directors

Sophia Anguilla, *Network Specialist*
Dan Prince, *Associate Director*
Kim Silva, *Executive Director*

Dave Eshbaugh, *Treasurer*
Jennifer Grube, *Board Member*
Andy Lindberg, *Secretary*
Gary Myers, *Board Member*
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Jennifer Satalino, *Board Chair*
Mary Thomas, *Board Member*

A NOTE OF THANKS



As our state works to respond to the changing landscape of the pandemic, I wish you health and well-being. I also share your hope for when students may safely return to Outdoor School in person.

The last two years have forced Outdoor School to adjust and adapt - first to rapidly expanding demand for Outdoor School, then a sudden change in demand when the pandemic closed schools. I have been inspired by Outdoor School's resilience, creativity, and always-present drive to make Outdoor School a safe, inclusive, and nurturing experience for kids.

At Friends of Outdoor School, we have been focused on gathering resources to keep Outdoor School programs and sites afloat, communicating with decision-makers about the ongoing importance of Outdoor School for kids and communities, proposing safe reopening guidelines that align with school reopening guidelines, and working with Outdoor School programs and sites to dive deep into equity and inclusion. We

believe that Outdoor School can transform education by creating a model of inclusion and student engagement. Our role is to connect, support, and advocate so that Outdoor School can be that outstanding model.

The last two years reminded me that thousands of people around the state make Outdoor School happen for Oregon kids – not just the staff and teachers, also people like you, the donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners who love Outdoor School. Our shared efforts to safely get kids back to Outdoor School, ensure that Outdoor School is funded at a level that provides an inclusive and welcoming outdoor education experience, and facilitate a meaningful and equitable experience for high school students who volunteer at Outdoor School are only possible because of your participation and generosity. YOU help to ensure that Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong. Thank you!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Silva". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kim Silva
Executive Director



Two years ago we envisioned a network of providers and sites that would be a community of practice focused on delivering Outdoor School programs where every child can belong. Before we had ever heard of a thing called, "Covid," our plan was to host a few regional gatherings and a statewide gathering, in person, to build that network. As we left the first-ever statewide Outdoor School gathering at Camp Tadmor in January of 2020, we sought to capitalize on the energy and connections created there. With Covid-19 calling the shots, we went online and hosted or co-hosted dozens of regional gatherings and multiple statewide meetings. As we became physically isolated from one another, an amazing thing happened - we became virtually connected.

As a result of a near-constant ability to connect virtually, members of the Outdoor School Programs & Places Network feel connected to one another and supported by one another. Programs have shared much more effectively



and consistently about challenges and solutions, ranging from the specific (what to put in a science kit for kids to use at home) to the strategic (how to organize programming that is supportive for teachers and students in a virtual environment).

Not only have Outdoor School providers and sites connected with one another, but they have also connected to Friends of Outdoor School in a stronger way. They are more comfortable and more likely to reach out to us for assistance, advice, or even just a listening ear. Now, Friends of Outdoor School is better equipped to connect them to resources they need, including resources offered by one another. We are not only becoming a network; we are becoming friends.

We've always believed that, by working together across the state, Outdoor School could be incredibly supportive of students and their learning. Responding, collaborating, and innovating together enables programs to deliver outdoor learning in a completely new way while planning for the return of in-person learning in a changed world. We hope the examples we share in this report inspire you in the same way they have inspired us.

Dan Prince
Associate Director



The Outdoor School Community Network has been around for years, but it wasn't until recently that we gave it a name. The Outdoor School Community Network consists of Outdoor School champions, students, staff, high school volunteers, teachers, donors, advocates, and parents; really anyone who loves Outdoor School!

Over the last two years, Friends of Outdoor School has been connecting and supporting the Community Network by hosting gatherings, both in person and virtually, to inform the Outdoor School community, advocate for funding, and celebrate successes. If you have attended an event or meeting hosted by Friends of Outdoor School, written a letter or a thank you note to your legislator about Outdoor School, testified on behalf of Outdoor School, made a donation to Friends of Outdoor School, or partnered with us in any other way, YOU are a part of the Outdoor School Community Network!

While Outdoor School looks very different in different places, the Outdoor School Community Network bridges those differences and comes together with a shared passion for Outdoor School and a desire to make it a place where all kids feel like they belong. We have lots of fun things planned for the Outdoor School Community network over the next couple of years and we're excited to have you on this journey with us!

Sophia Anguilla
Network Specialist



CONNECT

Outdoor School Programs & Places Network

Friends of Outdoor School works to connect Outdoor School providers and sites across the state via the Outdoor School Programs & Places Network. This network's focus is on providing great learning experiences for youth. Equity, diversity, and inclusion were centered in the work of this network over the past two years, with Outdoor School programs and sites across the state digging into the important work of justice and access.

January 2020 marked the launch of the Outdoor School Programs and Places Network with the first-ever statewide gathering at Camp Tadmor. Participants left this gathering more connected to one another and with skills and passion to increase access and inclusion at ODS.



Monthly virtual meetings gave programs and sites the ability to share ideas, collaborate on challenges, and build friendships and community in service to kids.

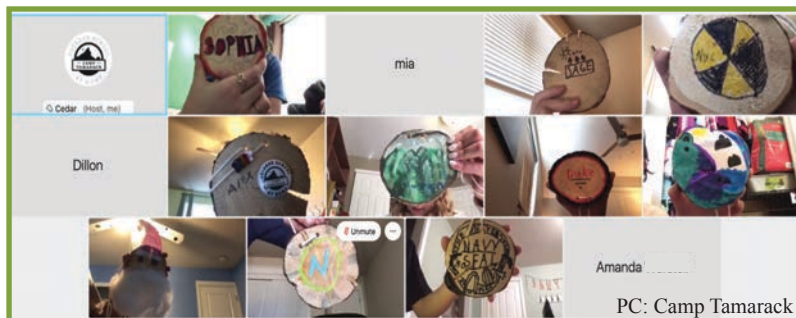
2021 marked the launch of the Outdoor School High School Leadership Roundtable to enhance the youth leadership experience at Outdoor School.

Outdoor School is becoming more equitable, more accessible, and more inclusive for all students.

Friends of Outdoor School launched the Outdoor School Staff Support Roundtables, working to make Outdoor School the best job ever!

We continue to work to connect resources for accessibility to schools, programs, and sites so that all children can fully participate. For example a powerful new consultancy, Empowering Access was launched to promote disability inclusion outdoors.

Outdoor School found a way to connect with kids, and kids loved it! This photo from Camp Tamarack captures the joy of learning and connection that Outdoor School programs brought to grateful students.





Outdoor School Community Network



The Outdoor School Community Network consists of all the advocates, volunteers, donors, staff, and Outdoor School champions that make the Outdoor School community in Oregon strong and connected. The Community Network shares stories, advocates for funding, and works to make Outdoor School a place where every student can belong. Friends of Outdoor School hosted two statewide virtual Community Network gatherings:

In December 2020 camps and communities from around the state shared songs around a virtual campfire! We look forward to when we can all gather around a real campfire! Special thanks to the participants: Camp Angelos, Camp Arrah Wanna, Camp Fire Wilani, Camp White Branch, Drift Creek Camp, Camp Elkanah, Grove Christian Service Camp, Pacifica, A Garden in the Siskiyou, and Camp Westwind.

In April 2021 Friends of Outdoor School hosted a heartwarming and inspiring Earth Month Celebration during which the Outdoor School community shared their stories. Special thanks to our event sponsors: Stumptown Coffee Roasters, Heritage Bank, OnPoint Community Credit Union, Vernier Software and Technology, and New Seasons Market.

STUMPTOWN
COFFEE ROASTERS



Heritage
BANK

Vernier

OnPoint
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

NEW SEASONS
MARKET

SUPPORT

Friends of Outdoor School supports the Oregon Outdoor School Network of programs and sites, their staff and volunteers, Oregon State University Extension Service, and schools--all to make Outdoor School the best possible experience for Oregon kids.

Northern Region

Researched grant opportunities for sites to address equity, diversity, and inclusion. Helped schools navigate transportation and staffing challenges.

Eastern Region

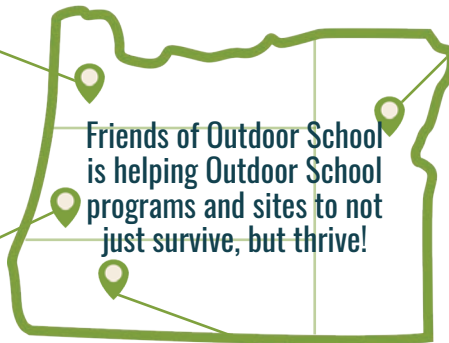
Helped Outdoor School providers navigate public health resources related to Covid-19, create field study equipment kits for remote learning, and access unique science equipment and expertise.

Central Region

Connected Outdoor School sites and programs with experts in inclusion and accessibility. Facilitated access to equipment to support full student participation.

Southern Region

Helped providers plan new Outdoor School programs including budgeting, staffing and hiring, operations, grant funding, and curriculum advice.



Supported a new partnership among Multnomah ESD, Northwest Regional ESD, Metro, Trash for Peace, Oregon Green Schools, and National Wildlife Federation on a youth leadership initiative in the Portland Metro area.

Co-facilitated a workshop for school districts in eastern Oregon on implementing Outdoor School during Covid-19 pandemic.
PC: Joe Whittle

Helped Camp Fire Wilani and a North Douglas Elementary School connect with AdvenChair for student access to Outdoor School.
PC: Elissa Kobrin

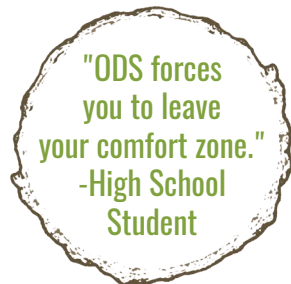
Served as the fiscal sponsor and planning partner for Rogue Outdoor School's successful new Outdoor School program in southern Oregon!



High School Leadership at Outdoor School

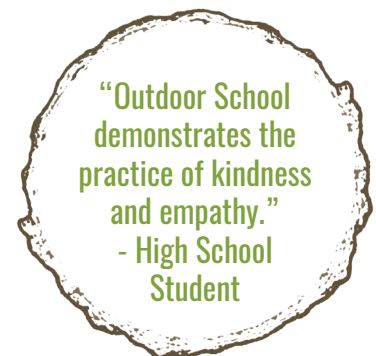


For many Outdoor School programs across Oregon, high school leaders are an important element of programming. Students who attend these programs form powerful bonds with their near-peer mentors, while the high school students themselves gain skills, confidence, and inspiration. This winter Friends of Outdoor School launched a statewide community of practice around supporting and developing the high school leadership program at Outdoor School.



Outdoor School providers are examining the questions: What are the benefits to high school students from participating in Outdoor School? How do we partner with high school administrators and teachers to encourage participation? How can we better support high school leaders before, during, and after Outdoor School?

One thing became apparent: We needed to hear directly from high school leaders themselves about their experience at Outdoor School. Happily, we were introduced to Catherine Malinis, an expert in engaging youth voice in program development at Education Northwest. Catherine led the group through training on youth voice and planning for hearing from a panel of youth. She then facilitated a deep and powerful session during which youth from multiple programs across Oregon shared their love for Outdoor School, some challenges they had faced, and recommendations for making the experience even stronger for future high school leaders.

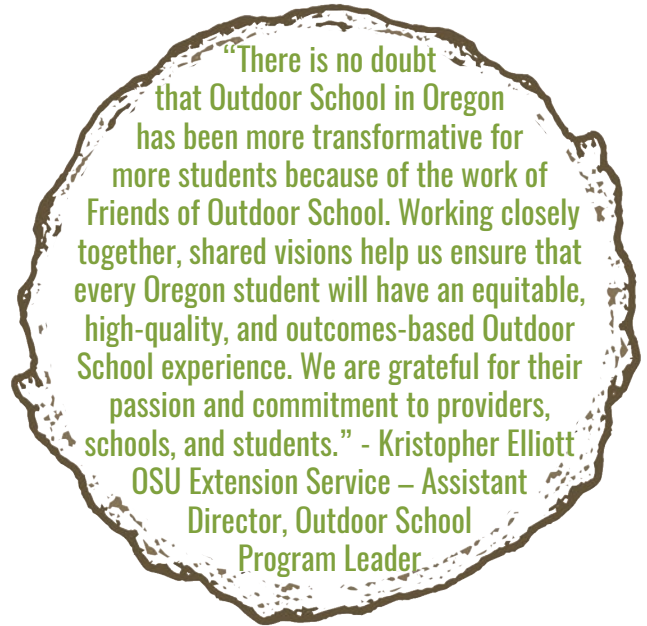


We look forward to the next stages of this roundtable to both incorporate more youth voice in program improvement and collaborate across programs to support Outdoor School as a valuable youth leadership experience.

SUPPORT

Friends of Outdoor School works closely with Oregon State University Extension Service Outdoor School to strive toward the promise of Outdoor School for All.

- Created a guide to help sites determine the true costs of hosting Outdoor School.
- Collaborated on professional development for school districts and their Outdoor School partners in implementing responses to Covid-19.
- Collaborated on research and evaluation spearheaded by Dr. Spirit Brooks and Dr. Steve Braun, showing the amazing positive outcomes students experienced from Outdoor School, while shining a light on where we can (and must) improve to realize the fully inclusive and equitable Outdoor School we work toward each day.
- Partnered with Drs. Brooks and Braun on a deeper look into how high school students benefit from participating in Outdoor School, especially in developing equity consciousness.
- Provided expertise and perspective on a variety of policy decisions.
- Championed the use of Measure 99 funds to support equity and inclusion grants for Outdoor School programs and sites. Project examples include:



Wheeler County: “At OMSI’s Hancock Field Station, renovating the restroom/shower house in North camp is essential. The upgrade will honor the rustic feel of the facility, while dismantling barriers by improving access for all people of all abilities, and creating a gender-inclusive, safe, and comfortable space for all to care for their most basic needs.”--Janet O’Hara, Hancock Field Station Manager

Lane County: “We welcomed Nick Daily, equity, diversity, and inclusion trainer from Los Angeles and OSU graduate for a second round of training and EDI goal setting. We tried out and then purchased an AdvenChair to help students with limited mobility access Outdoor School programs at Camp Wilani. We will conduct an accessibility audit with Empowering Access. Finally, we are making ADA improvements to our bathhouse and Health Center.” --Elissa Kobrin, Executive Director/CEO, Camp Fire Wilani



Lane County: “The grant funds helped complete a total renovation of the A-Frame bathrooms which made them ADA compliant and more accessible to all campers and guests. In addition, the grant funds were used to contract with the organization Empowering Access to conduct a full accessibility assessment of our site and programs. Their final report offers significant insights which shapes Lutherwood's future in being a more accessible place for people of all abilities and cultures.”

--Andrea Scofield, Executive Director, Camp Lutherwood

Union County: “Ascension School Camp and Conference Center was able to make critical improvements to its central dining hall. ADA parking and access was added as well as lighting around the exterior and on all sidewalks leading to the building, greatly increasing our service to people of all abilities.”

--Amy Jayne, Executive Director, Cove Ascension School

Lincoln County: “Westwind is completing a thorough equity analysis that will look at both operations and the facility. Ramps, lighting and sand-ready wheelchairs are examples of facility improvements, while the staff will work with an equity consultant to examine ways to support equity, diversity and inclusion.”--Andy Lindberg, Executive Director, Camp Westwind

Clackamas County: “Grant funding will begin the process of building more inclusive cabins in the four-season Sherwood unit at Camp Namanu. We have engaged focus groups with students, alumni and campers from trans/non-binary, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, neurodiverse, and disability communities. The initial work of planning and design is almost done, and Namanu plans to break ground as soon as fall Outdoor School wraps up.”--Janette Kunkel, Director, Camp Namanu

Josephine County: “Included in these upgrades are: making our much loved Powell Creek Trail smooth and ADA accessible; an ADA path and prefab ADA bathroom added to our tent site, along with level floors added to the tents; safety improvements to our main Cedar Center; and a new ADA ramp and dock for the pond. One of the favorite activities during Pacifica Outdoor School is fishing and aquatic insects...now we will be able to make this accessible to all.”

--Vanessa Redding, Education Director, Pacifica Garden

ADVOCATE

Advocacy ensures that all people who care about Outdoor School are able to share their voices with decision-makers. From people sharing their own personal stories to hosting tours of Outdoor School to working to improve local Outdoor School programming, many people across the state participate in advocating about Outdoor School for Oregon kids.



Collaborated with community experts, Oregon State University Extension Service, the Governor's office, and Oregon Department of Education to develop guidance to safely host Outdoor School.

Supported and coached Outdoor School sites in advocating for themselves with the Governor's office and Oregon Health Authority for safe reopening guidelines and relief funding.

Helped Outdoor School respond to community needs due to Covid-19, wildfires, and demands for racial justice. Outdoor School sites, programs, and supporters were called to respond to the challenges of the past two years. That is why we...

Encouraged community members to support organizations and communities disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, wildfires, the recession, and racial violence.

Engaged in constant advocacy and resource gathering for schools, programs, and sites to plan and implement inclusive, equitable, and supportive Outdoor School, especially for students from marginalized communities.

Helped Oregon State University Extension Service advocate for reasonable Covid-19 response strategies to allow schools flexibility in accessing Outdoor School funding.





PARTNERS

Each of you - donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners - is an important part of a strong and thriving Outdoor School community, a community that embodies Oregon's passion for Outdoor School. Your generosity to Friends of Outdoor School ensures that Oregon kids not only get to attend Outdoor School, but that once there, Outdoor School is a place where kids are nurtured, celebrated, and embraced as they learn. YOU help to make sure that Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong.

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SITES

Aldersgate Retreat Center • Baker City Outdoor School • B'nai B'rith Camp • Bar M Ranch • Biodiversity Arts • BSA-Cascade Pacific Council • Calapooia Watershed Council • Camp Adams • Camp Angelos • Camp Arrah Wanna • Camp Attitude • Camp Baker • Camp Collins • Camp Colton • Camp DeBoer • Camp Elkanah • Camp Fire Wilani • Camp Harlow • Camp Howard • Camp Kuratli • Camp Kiwanilong • Camp Lutherwood • Camp Magruder • Camp Myrtlewood • Camp Namanu • Camp Tadmor • Camp Tamarack • Camp Tapawingo • Camp Tilikum • Camp Westwind • Camp White Branch • Canby Grove • Canyonview Camp • Cedar Ridge Camp • Cove Ascension School • Curry Watersheds Partnership • Drift Creek Camp • Friends of the Owyhee • Gorge Ecology Outdoors • Great River • Grove Christian Service Camp • John Muir Outdoor School • Kellogg Springs Camp • Malheur Field Station • Klamath Outdoor Science School • Multnomah ESD Outdoor School • Molalla Retreat Center • Northwest Regional ESD Outdoor School • OMSI Outdoor School • Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center • Oregon 4H Center • Pacifica Garden • Perrydale School • Portland Audubon Society • Rainier School Outdoor School • Rogue Outdoor School • Rogue Valley YMCA • Salem Environmental Education • Siskiyou Field Institute • Southern Oregon University EE Masters Program • Straub Outdoors • The Crest at Willow-Witt • Triangle Lake Center • Twin Rocks Friends Camp • Wallowa Resources • Western Oregon Outdoor School • Whole Earth Nature School/Coyote Outdoor School





CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

3Degrees Group, Inc • Adidas • AdvenChair • Amazon Smile • Bonnie and Peter Reagan Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Caelestis Cellars • Cambia Health Foundation • City of Portland Water Bureau • Columbia Sportswear • Denise Carty & Roger Brown Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Doug & Katherine Storey Green Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Earth Day Oregon Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation • The Emily Georges Gottfried Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation • Evans Runyan Family Foundation • Fred W Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Gray Family Foundation • Gustafson Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • H William & Patricia J Gazeley Fund of Oregon Community Foundation • Harsch Investments • Henry & Mary Warden Foundation • Heritage Bank • Homelight • Hydro Flask • International Paper Company • Jailbreak PDX • Kaiser Permanente • Kroger • Lewis Charitable Fund • Little Bay Root • Lizard Lounge • Mary McKinney Ezell and Flay Ezell Fund of the Wentworth Foundation • New Seasons Market • Nike Employee Matching Gift Program • OnPoint Community Credit Union • Oracle Corporation • Oregon Community Foundation • Portland General Electric • Raymond James • Robert D & Marcia H Randall Charitable Trust • Rubi-nette Produce Market • SSOE Inc. • Stack Technical Services • The Standard • Thomas/Cooper Family Fund • Springwater Partners • Stumptown Coffee Roasters • Tom Dwyer Automotive Services • Vernier Software and Technology • WCR/Economy Data Foundation (HKM Fund)



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

1% for the Planet • Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum • Bend-LaPine School District • BlueGreen Alliance • Camp Waskowitz • Children's Forest of Central Oregon • Earth Day Oregon • Earthshare Oregon • Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors • Empowering Access • Environmental Education Association of Oregon • Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington • Give!Guide • Learning Landscapes Design • Mazamas • Metro • Mt. Adams Institute • Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (ONREP) • Oregon Department of Education • Oregon Forest Resources Institute • Oregon Outdoor Alliance • Oregon State University Extension Service • Oregon STEM Hubs • Portland State University • Rational Unicorn • Residential Outdoor Environmental Education (ROEE) • The College Place Oregon/ECMC • The Intertwine • The Nature Conservancy • Trackers Earth • Tryon Creek State Natural Area / Friends of Tryon Creek • Washington Outdoor School for All • Wind & Oar Boat School

SNEAK PEEK INSIDE OUTDOOR SCHOOL

“Since I came aboard last year, I have been highly focused on how our Outdoor School program can better serve the diverse needs of all students and staff by changing both how we deliver content and how our staff understands the ways that racism and oppression show up in our work. While I do not have personal experience with oppression based on my race, I am deeply committed to the notion that I/we cannot be fully free while any of us are oppressed. I do not see my work as “helping” others, but rather in collective liberation.”

- Lauriel “Sunshine” Amoroso from NW Outdoor Science School talking about diversity, equity, and inclusion in their program



“While virtual Outdoor School focuses heavily on learning about the environment where students live, it also strives to develop the celebrated sense of community famous to Oregon Outdoor Schools.”

-Camp Tamarack staff talking about pivoting to their Outdoor School at Home model during the pandemic

“Making the field bags for your students was a very special project for these women. Many of them are mothers who can’t see their children very often. Making the bags is one way they can give back to their community and help children at the same time.”

-Representative from Oregon Correctional Enterprises where inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility make bags for students at Straub Outdoor School to carry field study items



WHAT'S NEXT



Many exciting opportunities and important challenges are ahead for Outdoor School. Friends of Outdoor School is ready to support the Outdoor School network by:

- Helping Outdoor School providers navigate return to school and Outdoor School amid the continuing uncertainty of the pandemic.
- Continuing to work with communities to identify and remove barriers to full participation for all Oregon students at Outdoor School.
- Connecting Outdoor School providers to resources they need to be ready to support students returning not only to Outdoor School but to all aspects of life after the pandemic.
- Supporting Outdoor School programs and sites to engage in training and planning to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion at Outdoor School.
- Taking the lessons learned by summer camp partners to update Outdoor School reopening guidelines ensuring a safe return to in-person Outdoor School.
- Facilitating conversations between Outdoor School programs to improve recruitment, hiring, and supporting a professional workforce of educators and support staff.
- Working with current Outdoor School staff to make Outdoor School a more stable, inclusive, and accessible career.
- Connecting the Outdoor School Community Network to grow Outdoor School towards its fullest potential.
- Engaging legislators and other decision-makers with personal tours at Outdoor School and sharing stories of Outdoor School to continue full state funding.
- Documenting the benefits of Outdoor School to students, especially by gathering their stories in their own voices.
- Advocating for a statewide system for schools and the Oregon Department of Education to track Outdoor School participation.
- Collaborating on evaluation and research projects that examine the positive outcomes of Outdoor School while illuminating pathways for continuous program improvements.





CONNECT • SUPPORT • ADVOCATE

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