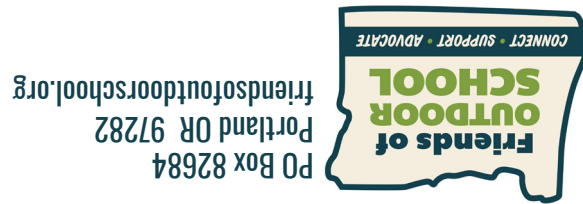


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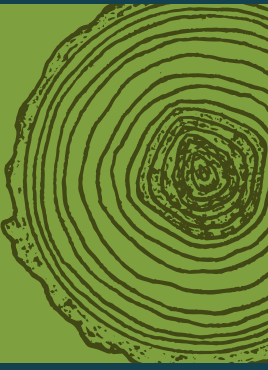


Spring 2020



# WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



## A Magic Penny For You

A Note from Kim Silva, Executive Director

Dear Outdoor School Friends,

How are you holding up? This is a scary and difficult time. My wish is that each of you and your loved ones are healthy, safe, and doing as well as possible. It is heartening to be part of a community like the ODS community, one that cares so much about each other and Oregon students. If we have to face this crisis, I'm glad we are facing it together.

Because of your generous support, Friends of ODS is stable for now. Each day, we continue to put your dollars to work to preserve ODS for Oregon students. Together, we will face whatever challenge comes our way, staying strong for ODS and the kids.

During this crisis, Friends of ODS is:

- Supporting efforts to provide options for this spring's students missing ODS in the wake of school closures.
- Advocating for programs and sites to be included in federal and state funding programs.
- Identifying and sharing emergency resources with ODS programs and sites.
- Preparing for the aftermath of the pandemic.

"I have been impressed with the help received from Friends of ODS...As always, I appreciate the way Friends of ODS cares so much for everyone in this, top to bottom. I feel such a partnership with you." -Camp Magruder

It is no surprise that shutting down schools means shutting down ODS. ODS programs and sites have taken a devastating financial hit and will continue to have losses as the year progresses. Since ODS will not happen this spring, employees have been laid off, and other income sources such as rentals and fee-for-service programming have been eliminated.

Each of us at Friends of ODS has committed to take a portion of what we receive as part of the Federal Stimulus Package and donate to an ODS site or program provider. If you have the means, will you join us? I encourage you to make a donation directly to your favorite program or site or designate a gift through Friends of ODS. If you need help identifying a program or site, please connect with us. Our ODS friends need this support very much.

For the long-term, please keep Friends of ODS in your 2020 giving plans. With a recession and the state looking to recover financial losses from this crisis, we will be forced to fight to

protect ODS funding in 2021. Advocating for students and ODS is our number one priority!

While you are at home, join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to connect with other ODS lovers, and share your ODS story. Please invite others to do the same. Your stories and a strong community are key to fighting for ODS funding.

How to help Outdoor School:

- Make a donation to your favorite ODS program or site.
- Keep Friends of ODS in your 2020 giving plans.
- Share your ODS story. Your stories and a strong community are key to fighting for ODS funding. Help us prepare now.
- Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to connect with other ODS lovers.
- Please invite others to do the same so that they too, feel the strength and magic of the ODS community.

As we navigate this shared unknown, please know that we are putting your gifts to work fighting to save the ODS system for Oregon kids. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to ensuring that ALL Oregon kids get a week of ODS!

## Resources

To provide information relevant to the Outdoor School community, we are keeping an updated list of resources. You will find important information from OSU Extension Service Outdoor School and the Gray Family Foundation, funding resources, and learning resources.

See resources at <https://bit.ly/FODS-COVID-19>

## Donate While You Shop

Shopping at Fred Meyer or on Amazon? They will donate to Friends of ODS while you shop! All you have to do is select Friends of ODS as your nonprofit partner and shop away!

Go to [www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4](http://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4) and click "link your rewards card now" then choose Friends of ODS!

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and sign in to choose Friends of ODS!

### FRIENDS OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL LEADERS

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- Sophia Anguilla  
Network Coordinator

CONNECT · SUPPORT · ADVOCATE

Our Shared Vision: Every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School.



**On the Road with Dan Prince**  
Dan Prince, Associate Director

In January over 175 folks in Oregon’s ODS community gathered at Camp Tadmor for a first-ever statewide conference to promote equitable, inclusive ODS programming for our diverse youth. This gathering launched the ODS Programs and Places Network, an ongoing community of practice that your support is making possible. The energy and enthusiasm of participants and presenters from across Oregon is inspiring us to continue the work of strengthening this network.

We especially would like to acknowledge and thank members of the business community who shared their expertise with ODS providers pro bono! Geoff Babb at the Onward Project shared his AdvenChair, an all-terrain wheelchair made in Oregon. Jaime English of Learning Landscapes Design led a tour to create accessible ODS sites. Rachel Plasse of RP Integrated Marketing shared an approach to community outreach and marketing. With their help and your support, we can continue to work together to deliver on the promise of ODS that is truly for all! Thank you to Friends of Outdoor School donors, OSU Extension, Gray Family Foundation, Vernier Software & Technology, and Heritage Bank for making this gathering possible!



Soil field study at Namanu, Fall 2019

**Three Cheers for ODS High School Students**

Will Deniston, a sophomore at Franklin High School thinks ODS is a magical place. Will, who goes by Post at Outdoor School, attended Arrah Wanna Outdoor School as a sixth-grader and now attends Namanu Outdoor School as a high school student leader teaching soil field study.

Outdoor School was one of the first times Will was away from home and his family for an extended period of time. During this time, he learned to appreciate the outdoors and found a sense of independence. Will couldn’t wait to volunteer as a student leader once he got to high school.

Over the 2019 holidays, Will’s grandparents encouraged him to raise money for a cause that he supports to give back to his community. Will took this opportunity to raise funds for a cause close to his heart: Outdoor School.

Will reached out to friends and family who were eager to donate to Friends of Outdoor School in his honor. Will’s grandparents generously matched his efforts and Will’s contribution to Friends of Outdoor School totaled \$1,000!

At Outdoor School, we learn about a lot of big issues in the world around us and making a difference can feel like a daunting task. Will demonstrates to all of us that anyone can make a difference! Thank you Will for your commitment to Outdoor School!

If you’re interested in setting up your own fundraiser, contact [kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org](mailto:kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org).

**“I learned things about myself, like the fact that if you’re confident in yourself enough, you can do anything. I will always remember my Student Leader for the rest of my life.”**  
— Sixth-grade student



**Earth Day Oregon 2019**

This year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Friends of Outdoor School is among 22 nonprofits and 84 business partners working together to amplify Earth Day and create a more sustainable Oregon. Big thanks to our Earth Day Oregon Business partners!

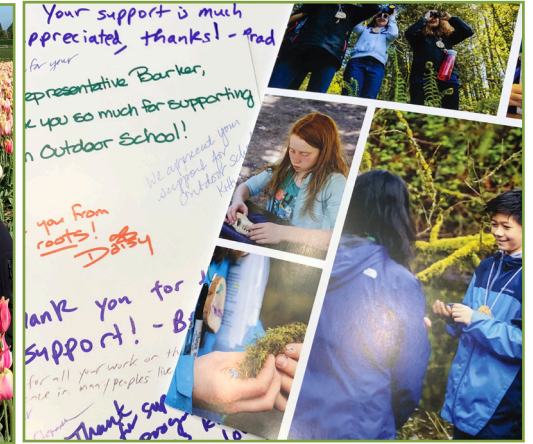
When you book Andy Lindberg as the auctioneer for your upcoming in person or online event, Arisan Auctions will donate \$100 to Friends of Outdoor School!



**My ODS Story**  
Blueberry

ODS has meant a great deal to me over the years. I attended this program when I was in sixth grade and it opened my eyes to learning outside of the classroom. When we are young we are full of questions and are inquisitive on how the world works. As we grow up we learn different views and sometimes forget to ask the simple questions. I had an amazing time getting that hands-on learning experience of the different adaptations of a Ghost Shrimp or a Beaver. These were things I could see up close and ask questions about instead of just looking at a picture.

ODS has so much to offer. Not only does it get kids out of the classroom in fifth or sixth grade but it also gets high school and college students back into nature. It is incredibly important for people to make a connection with nature and get away from technology for a while. There’s something magical about the ability to play in the mud, and then learn it’s not just mud - it’s a material that many animals use to survive. ODS has the opportunity for people to find a place to belong, a place that feels like home, a place to learn in a new way, and a place for people to become connected with nature.



**We want to hear from you**

Now, more than ever we want to hear your Outdoor School stories. We are working hard to advocate for continued funding for Outdoor School and one of the best ways that we can communicate the impact of Outdoor School to legislators is through your stories.

These stories may be ones of the joy you’ve experienced at Outdoor School or the sadness you or your student are facing from not being able to attend Outdoor School this spring. These stories might also describe the effects that canceling Outdoor School this spring has had on your site or program.

Your story can take many different forms. It could be a written story, a video, a piece of art, whatever reflects your true voice. We also have volunteers who will write your story down if that’s what you prefer.

We appreciate your support in advocating for Outdoor School and demonstrating the importance of this lifechanging program. You can submit your story at <https://bit.ly/shareyourstory> or email [sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org](mailto:sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org).