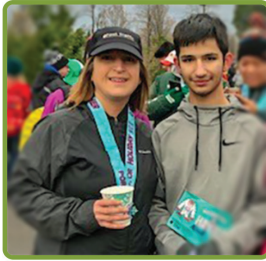


February 2019



NEWS

from Friends of Outdoor School



An Interview with Liz Fouts

Second Vice Pres. and Assoc. Counsel, Legal & Compliance, The Standard
Founding Board Member, Friends of Outdoor School

(pictured here with her son at the Holiday Half Marathon event)

"My main motivator, the abiding reason that I support Friends of Outdoor School, comes from my role as the parent of school-aged children. I want to ensure access to programs like Outdoor School for ALL children."

How long have you been involved with Friends of Outdoor School?

I have been working to support Outdoor School for more than a decade, even as Friends of Outdoor School has changed from a group that functioned primarily in the Portland Metro area to its current role advocating for increased access to excellent Outdoor School programs across the entire state.

"Through my service on the board, however, I began to focus more on the access and social justice piece... I learned that we can't expect kids to have an equal opportunity to compete and thrive in the world, if each child is not given the same opportunities to learn and succeed."

Why do you support Friends of Outdoor School as an individual?

Friends of Outdoor School works to not only help children and teen volunteers explore and enjoy the natural environment, but also to broaden these programs and include more students until our vision is achieved: that all kids attend Outdoor School for one week.

"The Standard works in many community areas, including the environment, and we have a special affinity for educational causes. Friends of Outdoor School sits at the intersection of several of these areas and we are glad to support its work!"

The Standard is a long-time supporter of Friends of Outdoor School. Thank you! Why?

The Standard has long been committed to our community. Our employees cite the company's community involvement as a reason to work at The Standard; it was certainly a very big draw for me when I joined the company eleven years ago.



You were on the Advisory Committee for the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition (OOEC), as well. What did this organization do?

The OOEC was a group of organizations (including Friends of Outdoor School) and community members that came together to advise and support people working for the passage of Measure 99, which established statewide funding for outdoor school across Oregon. Prior to this ballot measure, more and more schools were unable to attend Outdoor School due to budget issues. Some kids were getting to stay overnight at a program site for a week, others were only able to go during the school day, or for just two or three days; many were not attending at all. To me, and to many others, that situation was just plain wrong.

"Funding mechanisms were becoming more precarious from year to year; that model was not sustainable and kids in Oregon were being left out of an important, formative experience at Outdoor School. All kids should have equal access to engage in valuable outdoor educational experiences, regardless of their parents' income or their school/districts ability to pay."

Has your outlook on Outdoor School or outdoor education changed as a result of your work with FODS?

When I joined the effort to help Outdoor School through Friends of Outdoor School, I really wanted to support this program for its unique educational benefits and make sure that kids had a chance to attend if their school wanted to offer it. The chance to participate in Outdoor School had become inconsistent—and well-off students in larger districts had an increased chance of attendance. I realized there was a significant need to equitably expand these types of educational opportunities in general, and this program in particular, and that became the goal that drove me to participate and support Outdoor School.

"I am grateful for the opportunity I had to support ODS and pleased with the progress made to expand access to ODS for kids in Oregon."

Thank you Liz and The Standard for your longtime commitment to providing access to excellent outdoor school programs for kids!

With your help - and that of our other loyal supporters - we will realize our vision: that every student in Oregon attends a week of Outdoor School!