



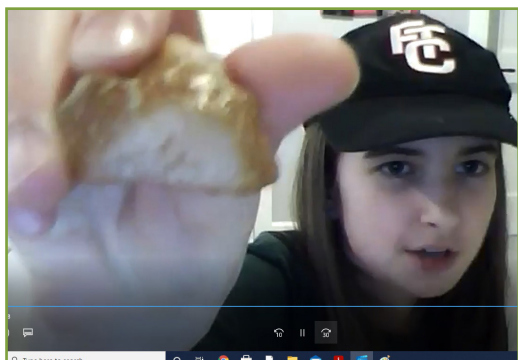
WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



With a New Season, Brings New Hope

A Note from Kim Silva, Executive Director



Virtual Outdoor School - Perrydale School District

Outdoor School instructors doing what they do best and the smiles on kids' faces during these lessons, no matter the format.

In the meantime, Friends of Outdoor School has been able to maintain almost all of the state Outdoor School funding to pay for these temporary remote or day-only programs. State funding has also granted Outdoor School programs the opportunity to dig into much-needed equity work and for sites to advance projects that improve accessibility and inclusion. We believe Outdoor School can transform classroom education by creating a model of inclusion and student engagement. The Measure 99 funding that you helped secure allows providers to design programs that welcome students of all races, physical abilities, and income levels. Historically, many BIPOC people have been made to feel unwelcome in parks and outdoor spaces. Through safe, inclusive, meaningful Outdoor School experiences, students can develop a comfort in, and a lifelong love for, Oregon's glorious natural environment and each other.

Friends of Outdoor School also worked with the Oregon Department of Education to finalize specific Outdoor School reopening guidelines and with OSU Extension

Outdoor School to ensure Outdoor School staff who will be teaching students in person have access to a COVID-19 vaccine. We are now focused on making sure that the Legislature includes FULL funding for Outdoor School in the 2021-2023 budget. Oregon kids need to get outside to learn! Oregon kids need Outdoor School!

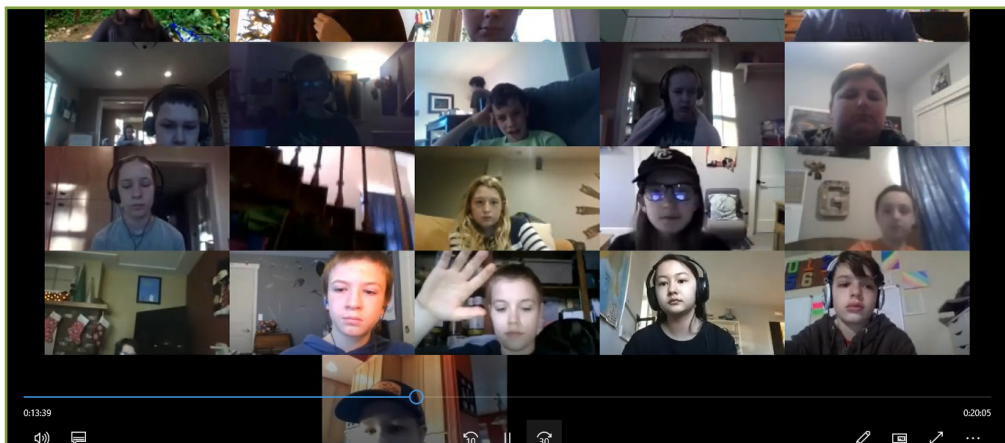
Things are moving forward, and with the blooming of spring, we are all feeling hopeful for the first time in a year. I hope you are feeling hopeful, too. Outdoor School has definitely suffered during this pandemic, but by working together, Outdoor School will come out stronger, better, and thriving for Oregon kids. I'm so thankful for your continued passion and support. I hope you find some time to get outdoors to enjoy the warming weather and to watch the blossoms and leaves return.

Do you have a Donor Advised Fund at a community or investment foundation? If you make a grant to us and commit to spending down half the money in your DAF by September 30, we'll be eligible to receive up to \$100K in matching funds. Details at halfmydaf.com. To make a donation to Friends of Outdoor School through your DAF go to <https://bit.ly/FODS-DAF>.

As I gaze out of my window admiring the sculptural beauty of the Ginkgo trees before the leaves take center stage, I'm reminded that spring is upon us. I'm grateful for the longer daylight and that nature is in a cycle of rebirth after a difficult year enduring a pandemic. I'm also deeply grateful that many Oregon students are getting Outdoor School this spring.

I think you'd be really proud of Outdoor School. Over the past year, everyone at Outdoor School has shown incredible creativity and flexibility. They've been adapting and adjusting in response to the pandemic by hosting remote Outdoor School. They aim to inspire kids to get off of screens and to move outdoors to explore nature wherever students are currently learning. Some students in some parts of the state are even getting to do Outdoor School in person this spring! It is so heartening to see

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



On Zoom with Dan Prince Dan Prince, Associate Director

One of the amazing qualities of Outdoor School in Oregon is how diverse the programming is. Since implementation is intended for local control, how Oregonians “do” Outdoor School here can look very different from one place to another. I consider this quality a strength, as it allows communities to engage students in outdoor learning that meets local needs and capitalizes on local environments.

As Outdoor School programs and sites continue to gather virtually to share ideas and challenges, this diversity of programming enriches the conversation in powerful ways. Each of us is presented with opportunities to learn from one another in continuous improvement.

For many students, a hallmark of their Outdoor School experience is the chance to work and live with high school leaders. Students benefit from this near-peer mentoring while high schoolers gain invaluable skills and experience in leadership and science. With so many schools doing Outdoor School in a virtual way, how to engage high school leaders has been a challenge.

As Jen Grube, director of Western Oregon Outdoor School (and Friends of Outdoor School board member) put it, “It became very clear that a missing vessel in the large heart of [virtual] Outdoor School was our high school leadership component.” Jen decided to build high school leadership into distance learning Outdoor School. High school leaders are “leading cabin activities that promote middle school social emotional reflection and growth. They will be making connections with younger students in their communities. They will be continuing a path of their own social emotional development as well as strengthened leadership skills. And they are SO eager and excited to do so. And I am too.”

All this year we are convening a High School Leadership Roundtable during which Outdoor School providers, community members, and high school educators gather to discuss how to best support learning and development of high school leaders during COVID and beyond. This statewide conversation aims to provide a space where folks can meet to further the goals of providing what, for many young people, is a life-changing leadership experience.



Celebrate Earth Day With Us!

Join us for our **Earth Month Celebration**, an evening of storytelling and family friendly-fun on **April 30th at 6pm!**

Sign up by April 15th to get one of 100 FODS Field Day activity kits.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3cO-2NYH>. Once you receive your kit, we encourage you to share projects from the kit with us on social media by tagging @friendsofods or by emailing us at sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org

Big thanks to our Earth Month Celebration Sponsors and Earth Day Oregon Business Partners for supporting our work.



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Make Your Voice Heard

The Oregon Legislature's session is in full swing. By last count, more than 2,400 bills have been introduced for 2021. Our hope is that the Legislature finds success in advancing policy that provides relief to the many who have been affected by COVID-19 and fall wildfires while making meaningful progress toward racial equity and social justice.

We continue to meet with legislators to support funding for Outdoor School as voters intended with the passage of Measure 99. Governor Brown included full funding of Outdoor School in her budget proposal, and our meetings with Legislative leadership indicate there is strong support for full funding in that body. We will continue to take the opportunities we get to meet with legislators to share the important work that Outdoor School providers are undertaking for kids.

In particular, the deep work Outdoor School providers and sites are undertaking to advance equity, diversity and inclusion is noteworthy. Only by intentional, thoughtful and ongoing effort will we all deliver on the promise of a safe, affirming, inclusive and equitable Outdoor School experience for each and every Oregon student.

Do you want to know how you can help advocate for Outdoor School? Join us for a fun, easy, and interactive Advocacy 101 training on April 21st at 6pm to take a tour through our Advocacy Toolkit and learn how you can reach out to your legislators about Outdoor School. Register here: <https://bit.ly/2QuW66h>

Check out our Advocacy Toolkit here: <http://bit.ly/FODSAdvocacy-Toolkit>

Share your Outdoor School story by going to <https://bit.ly/shareyourodsstory>

Summer Camp Update

The new Alliance of Oregon Camps is working with the Governor's office and Oregon Health Authority to update residential camp reopening guidelines, gain access to COVID-19 vaccines for summer camp staff, and secure emergency funding for struggling camps. As a member of their steering committee, we are excited to share our expertise and connect Outdoor School camps to this effort. To learn more about how summer camps are safely reopening email kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org.



Carol & Ray Haag in 2015
Hillsboro Tribune Photo: Kathy Fuller
<https://bit.ly/2PmBkoW>

It's with great sadness that we share the loss of an incredible light in the Outdoor School community. Ray Haag, lifelong educator, passed January 1st, 2021. Ray was a teacher in Hillsboro schools, principal at Forest Grove High School, and superintendent at NW Regional Education District. He established what we now call NW Outdoor Science School and was a passionate advocate for students learning in the outdoors. Ray will be greatly missed. To plant a tree in his memory, please visit <http://bit.ly/3bAlzSG>.

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Donate While You Shop

Purchase Stumptown Coffee Roaster's [Holler Mt. Coffee](#) between April 22nd and May 22nd and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Friends of Outdoor School! Order your coffee here: <http://bit.ly/30V4n5f>

Do you always forget to shop through Amazon Smile? Use the free Smilematic extension on your browser that will redirect you to Amazon Smile when you go to shop on Amazon. Use this link to get the extension: <https://couponfollow.com/smilematic>

If you shop at Fred Meyer, link your Freddy's rewards card to Friends of Outdoor School. You support Friends of Outdoor School without losing your rewards points! Go to <https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards> to sign up.

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