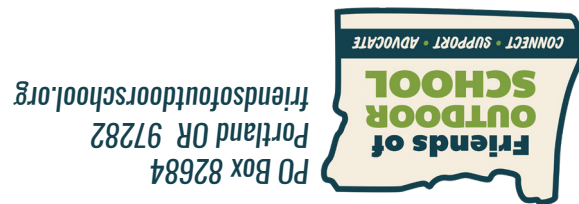


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Hike with Friends for Friends of Outdoor School

This Earth Month, we are participating in Earth Day Oregon, along with over 70 other nonprofits and countless business partners. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/EDO2022>

We invite you to Hike with Friends for Friends of Outdoor School this Earth Month! Join us by going on a hike with friends and try to win fun prizes all while supporting Outdoor School! You can start a team, join a team, donate, or learn more at: <https://bit.ly/HikeForFODS>



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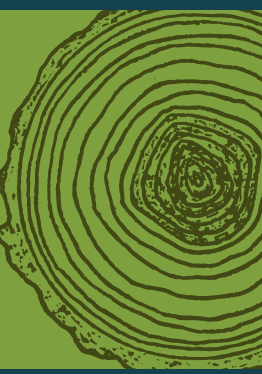
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Spring 2022



WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



Outdoor School Blooms Around the State

Northern

Tillamook County Outdoor School will be hosting 6th graders from Santiam Middle School and Tillamook's East Elementary School in May! They are excited to announce that students will be arriving on Monday and staying until Friday at Camp Meriwether on the Oregon Coast! Camp will be a little different--but all in all, they are back to normal!

Eastern

Wallowa County is finally returning to in-person Outdoor School! In addition to their normal programming, Wallowa Resources will offer a special week for kids that missed their Outdoor School because of the pandemic. Kids will attend for 4 full days at Wallowa Lake State Park learning forestry, cultural history of the area, animal adaptations specific to the Wallowas, fish biology, watershed science and more.



Central

In the Willamette Valley, Salem-Keizer Outdoor School Coalition will conduct its spring nonresidential Outdoor School in May. Students learn about common concepts across three different ecosystems at the Oregon Garden, the Oregon 4-H Center, and Minto Brown Park. They are looking forward to adding an additional day and site next year!

Southern

At The Crest in Southern Oregon, students will spend three consecutive days engaging in the dynamic, ongoing projects at Willow-Witt Ranch. Subjects such as the Native American seasonal round, farm systems, wetland ecology, and fire science take place on the ranch's 445 acres of biodiverse land within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Our Shared Vision: Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong.



Gathering the Outdoor School Community

Inspired. Motivated. Connected. This is how Outdoor School educators, camp leaders, program directors, and partners described themselves after the second state-wide Outdoor School Gathering in February. This conference, co-hosted by Friends of Outdoor School, OSU Extension Service Outdoor School, and Gray Family Foundation brought nearly 200 people together in an online community. By participating in learning sessions, keynotes, and workshops, attendees deepened their commitment to equity work in outdoor education, cultivated relationships with other members of the Outdoor School network, and engaged in professional learning.

Topics included trauma-informed care, inclusive instructional practices, operating Outdoor School programs and sites, integrating Outdoor School and the classroom, fire ecology, and much more. Through events like this Gathering and smaller state-wide and local meetings, Friends of Outdoor School supports a learning network working to ensure that Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong.

In February, we were excited to host our very first Fireside Chat. Falco, from Multnomah ESD Outdoor School, talked with us about their awesome new Summer Leadership Institute! Funded by state Outdoor School funds, MESD Outdoor School staff facilitated programming for over 250 students from high schools typically underrepresented at Outdoor School with a focus on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students.

You can read more about the summer leadership institute here: <https://bit.ly/3KzZnYx> or watch the recording of the Fireside Chat here: <https://bit.ly/3KzDIQm>

We'll be hosting Fireside Chats 4 times a year. These chats gather the Outdoor School Community Network to learn about the wonderful things happening at Outdoor School.

If you aren't receiving our Programs and Places Spotlight or the Fireside Chat invites, please contact sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org and she'll get you squared away!



Outdoor School for All

As you know, when we campaigned for state funding for Outdoor School, we intended for that funding to support all of Oregon's diverse students. Despite our advocacy efforts, some students have remained ineligible for state funding, particularly students attending independent schools. In partnership with OSU Extension Service Outdoor School and Multnomah ESD Outdoor School, we may have found a solution to the promise of Outdoor School for ALL!

In the coming months, Multnomah ESD is expected to pilot a program to provide access to Outdoor School for these previously excluded students. This is especially exciting given that, at its best, Outdoor School is a place where every child can meet and learn with children different from themselves, a place where every child can belong. We will share more with you about this pilot program as it progresses.

We are excited to share how programs and sites are using state Outdoor School funding to move closer to achieving our shared vision of a place where every child can belong:



Funding Supports Inclusion

Straub Outdoors is developing a workforce and teaching about nature in ways that reflect and are relevant to their students' diverse cultures.

Portland Audubon is dismantling bias in instruction and focusing their programming on 4th and 5th grade students preparing them for Outdoor School in 6th grade.

Camp Tamarack had an accessibility audit of the site, then built an ADA accessible dock and walkways to help each student fully participate.

Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou built all-inclusive, ADA-accessible tents and bathrooms to help students feel more comfortable while at Outdoor School.

Camp Fire Wilani secured an AdvenChair all-terrain wheelchair so that students with limited mobility are able to fully participate with their classmates.

Camp Arrah Wanna is rebuilding their Stearns Cottage to offer a safe, accessible, and secure space for Outdoor School's health care services.



Let's Celebrate Earth Day!

Check out the awesome business partners we're working with this Earth Month!

During April, anyone who donates to Friends of Outdoor School will receive a **25% off cupcake coupon from Honu's Wishcakes!** Honu's Wishcakes is owned and operated by former ODS staff member, Caleb "Boulder"! Order your cupcakes at honuscakes.com

We're also partnering with Campfire Coffee! During the month of April, you can buy Friends of Outdoor School Explorers Roast and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Friends of Outdoor School. Buy a bag (or ten) for yourself or an ODS friend here: welovecampfire.com/friendsofoutdoorschool

Warm your ODS loving heart by listening to Tyler John Hartman's new album "Dad Camp Covers"! All revenue from sales, streaming, and merchandise purchases from the "Dad Camp Covers" album will be donated to Friends of Outdoor School throughout April and all year long! Listen and buy at tylerjohnhartman-music.com

Our friend Tyler Koski, Principal Broker at Grand Union Real Estate, will **donate \$100 from every closing to Friends of Outdoor School.** Tyler is a life-long Oregonian and former ODS staff member! If you're thinking about buying or selling a home, contact Tyler at grandunionre.com

During April, when you order a pizza at Sizzle Pie, you can **add a sauce heart for \$1 which will go directly to Friends of Outdoor School!** Sounds like a good excuse to eat lots of pizza in April. Find a location near you: sizzlepie.com.

Foster Trees will **donate 5% of revenue from work booked in April to Friends of Outdoor School.** Foster Trees is owned and operated by a former ODS staff member! Book an estimate at fostertreespdx.com

