



WOOD COOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



Camp Profile: Camp Fire Wilani



Elissa Kobrin, Executive Director
Camp Fire Wilani

After Elissa Kobrin attended Camp Fire Wilani as a kid, working at Wilani became a lifelong dream. Elissa attributes where she is now to the caring adults at Wilani who valued and included her.

Founded in 1910, Camp Fire was the first multiracial organization that gave girls a safe space to experience camp the same way boys did. In 1975, Camp Fire became co-ed and in 1993, added sexual orientation to its official inclusion policy. Camp Fire Wilani was founded in 1958 - one of the three Camp Fire "councils" in Oregon. In the 1980's, the once-thriving program endured a series of financial difficulties. During this time, Wilani had to sell off parts of the property. Eventually, Ecotone Projects, LLC, an ecological restoration organization, bought the core area of the camp to help bring it back to its former glory. Elissa found her way back to Wilani as Executive Director a little over a year ago. Camp Fire Wilani now partners with Ecotone Projects, LLC to provide outdoor education and adventure programs as well as restoration and conservation efforts. Ecotone Projects, LLC has also helped

restore Wilani to the beautiful 219-acre camp it is now.

A grant from the Gray Family Foundation allowed Elissa to implement the BEETLES learning model to start Outdoor School at Wilani. The first session was spring 2019 with 2 schools doing a 3-day non-residential program. Elissa expanded the program in the fall to educate over 400 students for a 3-day residential program.

One of the many things that make Wilani ODS special is that student groups have the same trail instructor for their entire stay. This allows students to build deep relationships with their trail instructors who are able to adapt to students' needs on the fly. Students focus on a three-step discovery process - discussing one thing they notice, one thing they wonder, and one thing it reminds them of. This helps them connect back to things they have learned in class. Wilani curriculum is tailored to what students are studying in the classroom and is designed to be presented in small groups and to enhance the learning experience by helping students discover their local ecology. Elissa hopes to serve more schools as she grows her program. Congratulations, Elissa!

Updates

Want to include Friends of Outdoor School in your Year End Giving?

- Donate in honor or in memory of a loved one and get a printable certificate! Visit <http://bit.ly/2qBHB3O> to donate.
- Donate just by shopping at Fred Meyer. Just link your rewards card with Friends of Outdoor School! Sign up at fredmeyer.com today!
- Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at amzn.to/2XGn1vy, AmazonSmile donates to Friends Of Outdoor School?

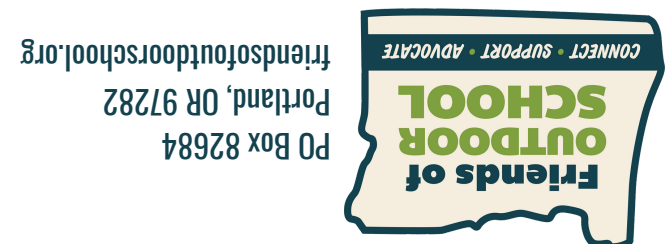
Your Gifts at Work: 2017-2019

You can find our two-year report at <http://bit.ly/2QPrcUp>

OSU Extension ODS Advisory Committee Applications Now Open

Visit <https://outdoorschool.oregonstate.edu/about-us/> or contact Kris Elliott at kristopher.elliott@oregonstate.edu, or (541) 737-4567 for more information. Deadline for applications is December 31st.

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Join us for an ODS Reunion in the Portland Metro Area

December 3rd from 4-6pm at Lucky Labrador 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR 97214
Not in the Portland area? If you'd like our help in coordinating a get-together in your area, contact us!

Find us at <https://giveguide.org/#friendsofoutdoorschool/>



Give Guide's Upcoming Big Give Days

Check out <https://giveguide.org/#friendsofoutdoorschool/> to see the Big Give Days for a chance to win some awesome prizes like a Trex FX 1 Commuter Bike from Bike Gallery or an #ExploreOregon Vacation Package.

FRIENDS OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL LEADERS

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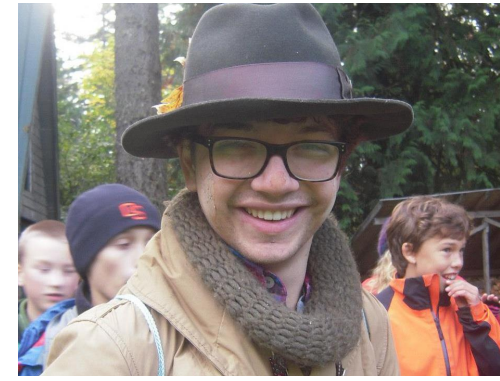
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Network Coordinator

CONNECT • SUPPORT • ADVOCATE



PC: Brian Black

Thank You for Another Amazing Year - Kim Silva

With your gifts to Friends of ODS, 2019 has been busy:

- Met personally with ODS programs & sites to learn about their challenges & needs, planned premier ODS Programs & Places Network conference, Jan 2020.
- Gathered ODS lovers in Portland & Bend to help identify the most pressing needs for students, programs, & sites in those communities, began to work together to find the resources & relationships to fill those needs.
- Made connections within the ODS community: programs to schools, sites to programs, schools to programs, etc.
- Investigated why 5th/6th grade & high school students aren't attending ODS so that we may explore resources to make attendance possible.
- Worked to secure full funding for ODS, hosted tours to demonstrate the value of ODS to decision-makers, & created a strategy how to keep state funding long-term.
- Continued to support the growth of the Oregon State University Extension Service Outdoor School program.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to ODS and for your investments in Friends of Outdoor School! A magic penny for each of you.

On The Road with Dan Prince

This fall I was fortunate to enjoy the cooling weather and bright sunshine of Eastern Oregon. Partnering with Sophia from FODS, Nell from Gray Family Foundation, and Sarah from OSU Extension Outdoor School allowed me to meet dynamic leaders in ODS in Wallowa, Union, and Harney Counties.

Wallowa Resources ODS connects students in Wallowa County with public & private lands to help them better understand the local natural resources & the stewardship that landowners are conducting. Cove Ascension School is embarking on an 80 acre restoration project with student involvement. Camp Elkanah continues efforts to hone their curriculum to create a cohesive, thematic experience with strong ties to what students are learning at school. And Malheur Field Station is exploring ways to connect students to the incredible landscapes of Steens Mountain, Diamond Craters, and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to these trips east, I had a chance to visit Twin Rocks Friends Camp on the North Oregon Coast, where students are getting hands-on experience with marine science. Rounding out the fall was a tour of Cedar Ridge ODS with

Meet our new Network Coordinator Sophia "Pippa" Anguilla

Growing up in Portland, OR, I went to ODS as a sixth grader at OMST's Camp Hancock and went on to volunteer with MESD ODS throughout high school. This led me to pursue a degree in Justice, Community, and Leadership at St. Mary's College of California. While I was there, I focused heavily on service work and continued to volunteer at MESD ODS when I was able. After college, I moved to Bend and embraced the incredible outdoor lifestyle learning to snowshoe and paddle board while taking in the beauty that is the Central Oregon outdoors. I continued to volunteer in my community while working in real estate since I've lived in Bend. Working as Network Coordinator at Friends of ODS allows to me to get back to my roots and be a part of a program that gave me so much.

On The Road with Dan Prince Cont.

the board and superintendent of Northwest Regional ESD.

I continue to be inspired by the diverse and impactful programming across our state, and look forward to helping forge connections among those doing this important work.

Your Letters of Support Making a Difference

It's because of ODS folks like you who wrote letter of support to legislators for Outdoor School that ODS is fully funded! Thank you for your continued passion and support for ODS!

"I'm here to tell you that I likely wouldn't have gotten to see this day without Outdoor School. In sixth grade, I stepped off the bus and was greeted by adults and teens who saw me for my talents, for my personality, for the person I was and would become. In high school, I was reminded time after time, week after week (I donated five weeks of my life over three years) that my perspective was valuable and that I had something important to share with the youth I mentored. I do not believe I would have survived my youth without the empowerment that Outdoor School gave me, and the voice that it reminded me I have."

-Alex "Panache" Horsey

How Outdoor School Grows with Andy Lindberg



One of the challenges to getting more Oregon students to ODS is finding a place to get outside and learn. Friends of ODS has launched a project to help determine how new and existing sites can work together with ODS providers. FODS board member Andy Lindberg has been traveling the state meeting with existing and aspiring ODS sites that do not currently provide their own ODS programming. He hopes to better understand their needs and what barriers exist to developing a thriving rental relationship. If you are connected to a camp that does or would like to rent to an ODS provider and are interested in being involved please email Andy at andy@friendsofoutdoorschool.org.

Thank You for honoring us NW Regional ESD!

We are honored to be recognized by NW Regional ESD as their October Valued Partner in Education "*Friends of Outdoor School is the glue that brings together schools, outdoor school programs like ours and facilities operators. As a nonprofit, Friends of Outdoor School can advocate for increased funding and visibility in a way that we cannot. This group has stepped in on numerous occasions to keep Outdoor School alive when funding was scarce, and now that Measure 99 is fully funded, they are working to expand capacity across the state so that more students can attend Outdoor School. We are really grateful to have Friends of Outdoor School as a partner and advocate.*"

Thank you, NWRESD!

What We've Been Up To & What's Next

Over the past few months, Friends of Outdoor School staff and the OSU Extension Outdoor School staff have had the pleasure of hosting legislators at different ODS sites around the state. This is a great opportunity for legislators to get a feel for what ODS looks like in their area and the impact that it has on students. It also shows legislators the significance of their vote and their continued support of Outdoor School.

What's next: We continue to collect and share stories, experiences, and insights from community members statewide that will build long-term support for Oregon's Outdoor School programs. We are also working to promote equitable access to Outdoor School by helping schools and programs analyze attendance, outreach efforts, and programming with an equity, diversity and inclusion lens.

"The Outdoor School leaders taught me you have to be positive in order for people to realize the real you. They also taught me being yourself can make you feel better."

—6th Grader