



# WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



## A Gathering for Outdoor School Staff by Outdoor School Staff

We love Outdoor School staff, especially those that work directly with students every day! In September, Friends of Outdoor School hosted a conference for these talented educators.



A huge thank you to all of the folks who made this experience possible, including the ODS programs who supported their staff to attend. We look forward to supporting this awesome group of Outdoor School staff moving forward!



This gathering stemmed from the Student-facing Staff Roundtable that Sophia has been hosting for about a year and a half. The group examined issues they faced including the seasonality of the work, pay and benefits, and the desire for a more connected network of folks in their role. Thanks to a grant from OSU Extension Service Outdoor School, Friends of Outdoor School worked with seasonal and student-facing Outdoor School staff to put on a gathering that would meet their specific needs, be held at a time of year that was accessible, and broaden and strengthen the statewide network to support their work with kids.

Eighty staff members came together to learn and connect with each other. Attendees learned from mental health professionals who are part of the Outdoor School community about supporting the mental health needs of students and their own. Other experts led sessions on and examined how to support gender expansive students and Latinx communities in outdoor education. Attendees also taught one another about increasing student engagement and motivation, transitioning from the role of student leader to staff member, supporting others and caring for themselves, managing burnout, student leader recruitment, and their favorite recreation activities and field games. Some of the highlights included learning each other's Outdoor School stories and how Outdoor School has influenced their lives as well as connecting and sharing resources. We can't forget about the two wonderful campfires and lots of wonderful shared meals and social hours!

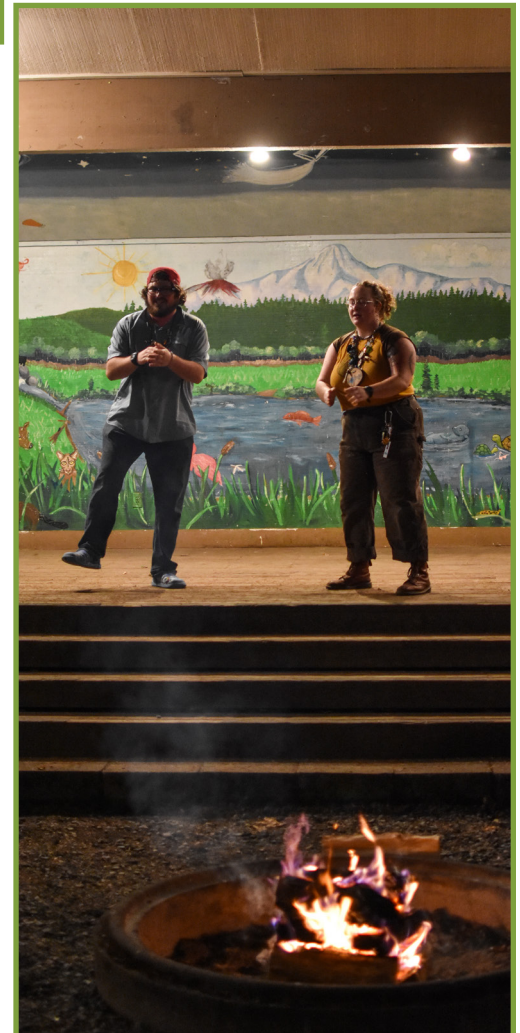


Photo Credit: Peter "Hogarth" O'Brien-Dunn

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

**Oakshire Inspires**

**\$1** FROM EVERY OAKSHIRE CORE PINT & **10%** OF BREWFARE FOOD SALES WILL BE DONATED TO:

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Support our mission at [giveguide.org](http://giveguide.org)

WILAMETTE WEEK'S **give GUIDE**

Sponsored by **MORELINK**

## Let's Get Together!

Join us Tuesday December 5th from 4pm-8pm at Oakshire Beer Hall in Portland for an Outdoor School get together! Our friends at Oakshire will be donating \$1 from specific pints and 10% of food proceeds to Friends of Outdoor School.

Need an excuse to reconnect with an old Outdoor School friend or just get out of the house and take a break from the holiday hoopla? We encourage you to bring your family and friends for a fun evening filled with Outdoor School friends, fun, food, and beer. There will also be some opportunities to win some fun prizes. We can't wait to see you there! Oakshire Beer Hall: 5013 NE 42nd Ave. Portland, OR.

Big thanks to our Friends Sage and Tomatoe at Grand Union Real Estate who will be joining us with some exciting surprises!



## It's Give!Guide Time

We are thrilled to be a part of Wilamette Week's Give!Guide again this year and have some fun stuff in store for you! We also want to give a big shoutout to our amazing partners who make all of this fun stuff possible!

- **Donate \$10** or more and you will receive a coupon for 60% off a COAST flashlight.
- **Donate \$15** or more and you will receive a buy one, get one half off coupon for Puffin Drinkwear.
- Vernier Science Education will match all gifts from donors age 35 & under up to \$2,500.
- The first 100 people to donate \$50 will have their donation matched by the Elizabeth Wake-man Charitable Foundation.
- **November 22nd:** Be the first person to donate \$250 each to both Rogue Farm Corps and Friends of Outdoor School on or after November 22nd and enjoy a 2-night stay at Maple Grove Hot Springs + Retreat Center, plus give \$10 or more and you could win 1 of 4 Cotopaxi backpacks.

- **December 1st-31st:** The first 6 people to donate \$100 or more will each get a wine tasting for 6 people from Dobbes Family Estate.
- **December 5th:** Be one of the first 4 people to donate \$20 and will get a set of North Drinkware Mt. Hood coasters or be one of the first 5 people to donate \$50 or more and get a North Drinkware Mt. Hood pint glass! Join us at Oakshire Beer Hall to pick up your coasters or pint glass and enjoy an evening full of friends fun, food, and beer benefitting Friends of Outdoor School.
- Refer a friend age 35 and under to donate to Friends of Outdoor School through Give!Guide and you'll get a coupon to Swing State Boxing Club, Habitat Plants, or Good Neighbor Pizza while supplies last thanks to our Friends at Grand Union Real Estate. The person you are referring must include your name, email/phone number, mailing address, and coupon choice in the notes section of their donation.





## Advocating for Change

Since its inception in 1957, Oregon Outdoor School has been an integral part of school. This has provided opportunities for teachers to connect the Outdoor School experience to students' learning to expand, amplify, and reinforce skills and concepts in the classroom.

Friends of Outdoor School has been working to support those connections through partnership with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Last month we had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Charlene Williams, the new Director of the Department, and Dr. Spirit Brooks, Director of OSU Extension Service Outdoor School. In a rich conversation we explored what drives us as educators, opportunities and challenges facing Outdoor School, and how Outdoor School supports key initiatives and priorities for ODE.

The pictures above are from a workshop put on by OSU Extension Service Outdoor School about integrating Outdoor School into the classroom in Bend, Oregon.

In particular, we talked about how learning at Outdoor School develops science literacy skills and how the Outdoor School network has been investing in supporting wellness and belonging for Oregon's diverse students.

Our partnership continues with ODE as we work on collecting data to evaluate the program, explore ways for high school leaders to build career skills, and help educators continually improve their craft.

“As a 6th grader ODS gave me a love for learning in and about nature.  
As a high schooler ODS gave me confidence and a feeling of acceptance.  
As a specific needs volunteer ODS gave me a deeper compassion, understanding, and drive to work with people of all abilities.  
As a program leader ODS gave me a love of teaching and community.”  
-Anna “Captain Pickle” Stout

## Welcome Amy!

We're excited to welcome Amy Kepler to our board of directors! Amy is a marketing leader with expertise in brand building, communications, and growth. She's currently the VP of Marketing at Future, a fitness technology company, and previously held senior roles at Cruise, Visa, and Goldman Sachs.

Amy was born in Portland, attended Camp Howard ODS as a sixth grader, and returned to Howard as a six+ time student leader during her high school years at St Mary's Academy. Amy graduated from Middlebury College, and holds an MBA from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. She lives in NW Portland with her husband and two daughters.





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## Give Through Your Workplace

There are multiple ways to give to Friends of Outdoor School through your workplace:

- Check the Double the Donation tool on our website to see if your employer will match your gift: <https://bit.ly/3tcar8c>.
- Check with your employer to see if they are a part of EarthShare - EarthShare connects businesses and environmental nonprofits to make giving to your favorite environmental organizations easier for you.
- Ask your employer to include Friends of Outdoor School on their workplace giving list.
- Do you own a business and have a love for Outdoor School? Contact [sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool](mailto:sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool) for more ways to support Friends of Outdoor School.

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