



WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



Science in Action at Outdoor School

Outdoor School, while being full of stories about personal growth, community, and emotion, is at its core a science education program. This month we would like to share about some exciting activities our young scientists are doing at Outdoor School around the state. Because of your help to continue to secure stable funding for Outdoor School, programs and schools have the capacity to collaborate and learn together in order to improve their hands-on, meaningful, engaging science activities for students.



Picture above of Beach Debris Field Study from OMSI's Camp Gray.

In Lincoln County, Outdoor School students at OMSI's Camp Gray are involved in citizen science. In an activity called "Beach Debris Field Study," students use the protocol from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program to collect human-made debris that has washed

up at the local beach and record that data into a NOAA database. The data is used to guide and evaluate marine debris prevention policies.

In Klamath County, on the shores of Lake of the Woods, students use homemade clinometers to estimate the height of the giant conifers at YMCA Camp DeBoer! Students love walking backwards to sight the tippy top of their tree through a straw attached to the hypotenuse of this tool. When the attached string hangs vertical, they know the bottom edge of the clinometer is parallel to the ground, and they can then measure the distance to their tree which equals the tree's height.

Picture below depicts a pocket clinometer provided by YMCA Camp DeBoer.



Picture above depicts students learning on the banks of the Grande Ronde River at Camp Elkanah.

Union County students attending Outdoor School at Cove Ascension School and Camp Elkanah engage in watershed monitoring while learning to see themselves as scientists and life-long stewards of the environment. Qapqápnim Wéele means the "Cottonwood Stream" in Cayuse Nez Perce, and the Qapqápnim Wéele / Grande Ronde Community Science Project integrates Indigenous ways of knowing with Western science practices. For example, using Cayuse Nez Perce names acknowledges the stories behind those names, a key part of understanding them more fully. This community science project is a program of the local watershed council, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and collaborates with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, various local, state, and federal agencies, regional schools, and Naknuwíłama Tiičámna - Caretakers of the Land.

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



Portland Metro STEM Partnership & Outdoor School

This year Outdoor School (ODS) educators from around the state have been gathering with other STEM educators to learn strategies to improve science, technology, engineering, and math education programming using an equity lens. The Portland Metro STEM Partnership (PMSP) provides these trainings as part of their STEM Equity Ally Workshop Series. What began in the fall with a few ODS educators bloomed to nearly 40 in a recent workshop in February.

Workshops help educators develop caring relationships, communicate high expectations, and create inclusive learning environments. STEM education has traditionally not served students of color and girls well. This workshop series is an effort to correct that by equipping STEM educators with instructional strategies that validate diverse students' experiences, cultures, and strengths.

In the most recent workshop, educators explored ways to promote "science talk." Also known as "discourse," the ability to use scientific

vocabulary, communicate ideas, use evidence and data, and explain phenomena - all key skills students need to succeed in science. At ODS that might look like a student explaining to their classmates why they think a bird they observed was defending territory, or describing in detail the patterns of a leaf so that others can help identify a plant.

Friends of ODS has been a key partner of the PMSP since its inception in 2011. ODS programs have benefited from connecting to science experts through the STEM hub, and partnered on projects around evaluating student learning and building a network of educational programs dubbed "The Collaboratory."

One of the most important "connecting" Friends of ODS does is between ODS programs and resources that help them achieve their goals. In this case, PMSP is helping bring high quality science education to students at ODS - education that inspires and affirms every student. And that helps deliver on the promise of ODS for ALL.

Outdoor School Funding

We are well into the legislative session and there's lots happening. First, Outdoor School is in the Governor's budget for full funding, \$56.6 million! The next step is for Outdoor School to be in the Ways & Means budget, hopefully at the same amount as the Governor's budget.

So, what happens after the Ways & Means budget comes out? Depending on how much the Ways & Means budget allocates to Outdoor School, we may need your help writing letters of support to your legislators telling them how amazing Outdoor School is. If the budget includes full funding, we will need your help to say a BIG thank you!

Expect a message from us in the coming weeks asking for your help. We will want you to share what Outdoor School means to you. Here are a few ideas to get the juices flowing so you are ready to write!

- ODS changed my life because...
- ODS influenced my career by...
- Going to ODS taught me...
- ODS is important for Oregon because...



Outdoor School Data Bill

Last year, 35,367 of the 42,000 5th or 6th graders in Oregon attended Outdoor School. What about those other 6,633 students who didn't attend? Why aren't they attending? Do they have needs that aren't able to be met at Outdoor School or are their families uncomfortable with them attending an overnight program? There is no data, so we don't know!

This year, in addition to funding, Friends of Outdoor School is advocating for the passage of HB 3037. This bill will provide a way for schools to report whether or not a 5th or 6th grade or high school student attends Outdoor School.

This important legislation will create a way for us to better understand participation and provide support for schools to ensure that every student in Oregon has access to Outdoor School. It will also provide important data to OSU Extension Outdoor School for evaluating the benefit of Outdoor School programs for students. Recently the Oregon House Committee on Education held a hearing on HB 3037, and the testimony was inspiring. Watch at: <http://bit.ly/3ZwJpXm>



Earth Day Oregon

It's spring which means that Earth Month is around the corner! Earth month starts April 1st and we are excited to be a part of Earth Day Oregon again this year. This Earth Month, we are celebrating by hosting two hikes on April 22nd! We will have one hike in the Portland area at Oxbow Park hosted by Dan Prince and Kim Silva and another hike in Central Oregon hosted by Sophia Anguilla and the Camp Tamarack Team.

Please join us to hike with the Outdoor School Community Network. Bring your friends and family to come reconnect with Outdoor School friends or make some new ones while enjoying time outside! Each hike will have a drawing for a fun Friends of Outdoor School prize pack!

- Sign up for the Portland hike at: <https://bit.ly/PDXEDO23>
- Sign up for the Central Oregon hike at: <https://bit.ly/COEDO23>



We have some wonderful partners supporting us during Earth Month and beyond!

Grand Union Real Estate continues to donate \$100 from every home sale to Friends of Outdoor School. Looking for a realtor or just have questions about the real estate market? The team at Grand Union Real Estate is ready to help! GrandUnionRE.com

Dobbes Family Estates will be donating 10% of the sales from a featured wine to Friends of Outdoor School all year long! The featured wine this quarter is the Amelia Rose Cuvée Pinot Noir and you can buy yours at <https://bit.ly/Dobbes> or visit 240 Southeast 5th St. Dundee, OR 97115. Our friends Heritage Bank, the nonprofit banking experts, are stepping up again to support the Outdoor School community. HeritageBankNW.com

We're excited to partner with On-Point Community Credit Union! OnPoint has been a longtime supporter of Friends of Outdoor School and is known for supporting the Oregon community, especially teachers! OnPointCU.com

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- Round4Good is a platform that rounds up each purchase on your debit card to the dollar and donates that change to Friends of Outdoor School. Learn more about Round4Good and sign up at <https://bit.ly/Round4Good>.
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