



WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



A Season of Gathering



Our vision is that Outdoor School is a place where every child can belong. This is an aspirational vision, and members of the Outdoor School profession are continuously improving their craft in order to ensure students have amazing learning experiences. Thanks to your support, Friends of Outdoor School has provided leadership for the recent success of two conferences: the Oregon Outdoor School Gathering and the Residential Outdoor Environmental Education Conference.

The Oregon Outdoor School Gathering is the second-ever in-person conference for Oregon Outdoor School. Nearly 200 people gathered at the Oregon 4-H Center for three days of learning at the end of January. Outdoor School professionals have always held a culture of continuous improvement, and they had ample opportunity to gain knowledge and skills to:

- Deepen our commitment to equity work in outdoor education
- Cultivate relationships and build community with other Outdoor School educators, programs, sites, and partners
- Engage in professional learning around best business management practices, curriculum and instruction, high school leadership programs, culturally responsive outdoor education, and more

From tools to make Outdoor School more accessible to helping youth at Outdoor School gain employability skills to creative wildfire curriculum, the gathering inspired the Outdoor School community to take an already amazing program and make it even better for kids.



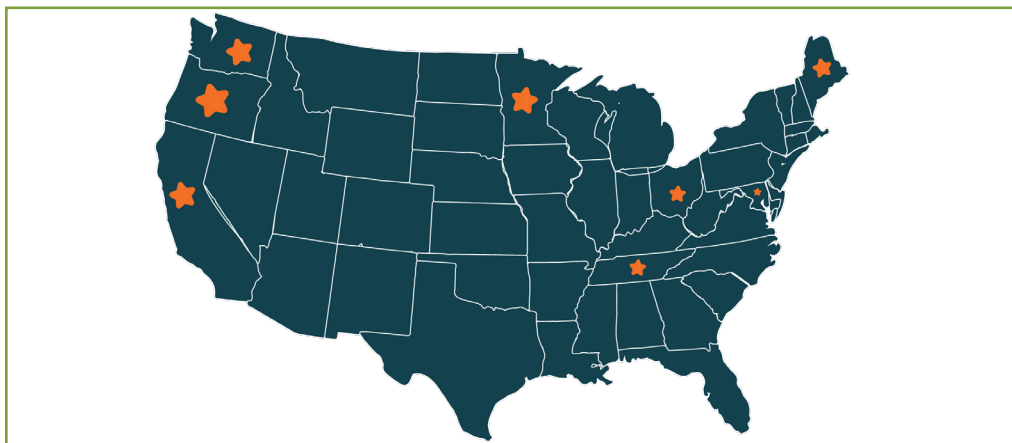
For many years, Friends of Outdoor School has supported the Residential Outdoor Environmental Education (ROEE) Conference. In February, Sophia attended ROEE at the Mt. Rainier Institute in Washington. This conference is an opportunity for educators from across the country to gather and share about successes, struggles, and celebrate the way that environmental education is moving forward.



This year was especially exciting because it was the first year back after a three year hiatus due to the pandemic. The team from Outdoor Schools Washington shared the progress they've made since they passed their state funding. Learning about how they are setting up their system slightly different from the Oregon network was truly fascinating.

Your continued support of Oregon Outdoor School shines a light on the importance of outdoor education for every child not only in Oregon, but across the country.

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



Supporting Outdoor School Nationwide

Oregon was the first state in the country to create a statewide, fully-funded program to provide Outdoor School for All. Guess what? Other states took notice. State legislatures in Maine, Maryland, and Minnesota are considering bills to expand access to Outdoor School for all youth in their states. Efforts in Washington created Outdoor Schools Washington, which targets funds to help under-served youth across the state access Outdoor School. And efforts in Ohio, Tennessee and California are also underway.

One thing has become clear: Friends of Outdoor School (that's you!) has been critical in the success we are seeing in Oregon. Having your voices, your stories, and your support has made all the

difference in creating and sustaining a statewide Outdoor School program; one which remains true to the foundation of a transformative learning experience outdoors for every student while ensuring that each community can create the program that meets their unique needs.

While Friends of Outdoor School remains focused on supporting Oregon Outdoor School, we now participate in the national Outdoor School for All conversation. By sharing our journey, successes, and lessons learned, we hope that youth in all of these states can soon experience the joy of living and learning at Outdoor School.

You can learn more about nationwide Outdoor School efforts at: <https://bit.ly/4980Stb>

"I had fun with my cabin and there were people I thought I would not talk to, but I did and they were really nice to everyone and my camp counselors they were really nice. And the people that cooked for us were nice enough to cook for the whole camp, and staff, and students and camp counselors."

-6th grade student

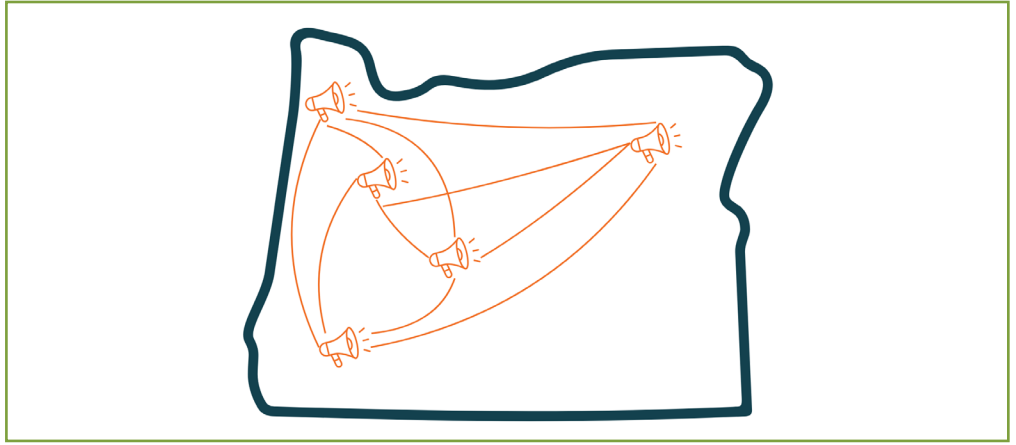


Sharing the Love

Friends of Outdoor School is excited to be participating in Earth Day Oregon again this year and we need your help! We are continuing our goal to share the love and we want to share a little love with Outdoor School staff this spring. We would love it if you would write a note to Outdoor School staff sharing your gratitude for what they do. Feel free to get creative with it. Once you write your note, you can send it to the Friends of Outdoor School team and we'll make sure it gets into the hands of Outdoor School staff this spring. You can mail it to:

Friends of Outdoor School
PO Box 82684
Portland, OR 97282

We'd love to give a big shoutout to our amazing Earth Day Oregon partners: Foster Trees, Grand Union Real Estate, Heritage Bank, Tacovore, and Habitat plants



Be a Part of the Ecosystem

This Earth Month we would like you to consider making a recurring donation to Friends of Outdoor School. Recurring donations help us know what to expect throughout the year. Unlike many of your other subscriptions, a recurring donation is easy to change or cancel if needed. Use the QR Code below, visit our website, or contact Sophia at sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org to sign up at: <https://bit.ly/FODSecosystem>



Many Voices Make for a Stronger Message

Engaging in advocacy is an act of hope. We imagine a time when every Oregon child is happy, healthy, and well-educated. While our focus is Outdoor School, we dream of a bright future for Oregon kids, one where barriers are broken, opportunities abound, and dreams are within reach. To share our influence for the children of our state, we participate in a variety of advocacy networks:

- Outdoor School for All nationwide: Sharing what we've learned with other states as they work to secure funding for their own students.
- Oregon ASK: Working together to secure funding for quality afterschool and summer programming.
- Children's Agenda: Helping to bring together a comprehensive legislative agenda focused on the well-being of children, youth, and families.

- Alliance of Oregon Camps: Championing funding and policy to benefit Oregon camps and the families they serve.

Advocacy isn't a solitary endeavor; it's a collective movement fueled by the passion and dedication of individuals who refuse to compromise. Together, we can inspire children to learn, grow, and connect to their education, our cherished places, and each other. Thank you for being part of the Outdoor School network and for advocating for Outdoor School!





PO Box 82684
Portland OR 97282
friendsofoutdoorschool.org

Upcoming In-Person Events

We are hosting an appreciation event for our network: yup, that's you! Join us at Tacovore in Portland on Wednesday April 24th from 3 pm-8 pm. Tacovore will be donating 10% of their proceeds to Friends of Outdoor school this day so stop by for a taco, a beverage, and time with your Outdoor School friends! Don't forget to wear your wood cookie!

We're also planning a campfire this summer with the help of our amazing friends at Grand Union Real Estate! If you are interested in performing at the campfire please fill out the form using the QR code or at <https://forms.gle/NcuypJ9v76sY5zWm7>



FRIENDS OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL LEADERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carla Coleman

Dave Eshbaugh
Secretary

Jen Grube

Amy Kepler

Andy Lindberg
Treasurer

Gary Myers

Paige Richardson

Jennifer Satalino
Chair

Gary Taylor

Mary Thomas

STAFF

Sophia Anguilla
Network & Development Manager

Dan Prince
Associate Director

Kim Silva
Executive Director

CONNECT · SUPPORT · ADVOCATE