



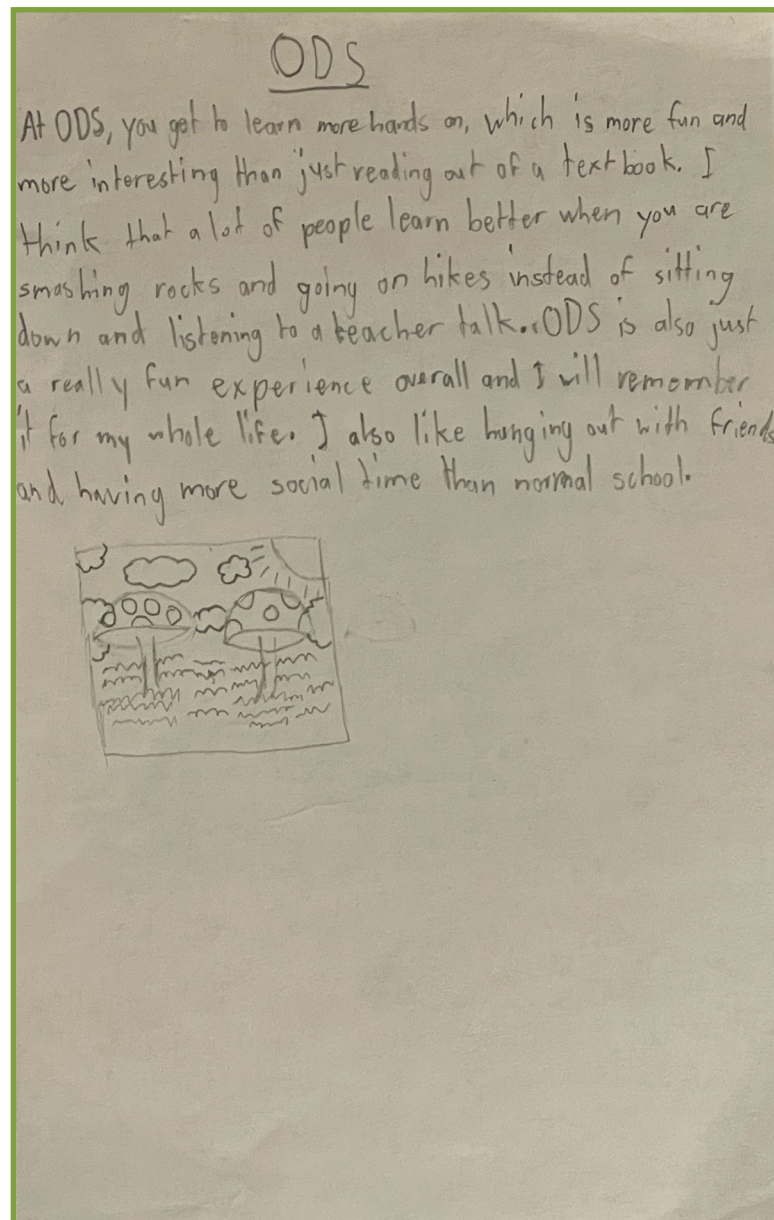
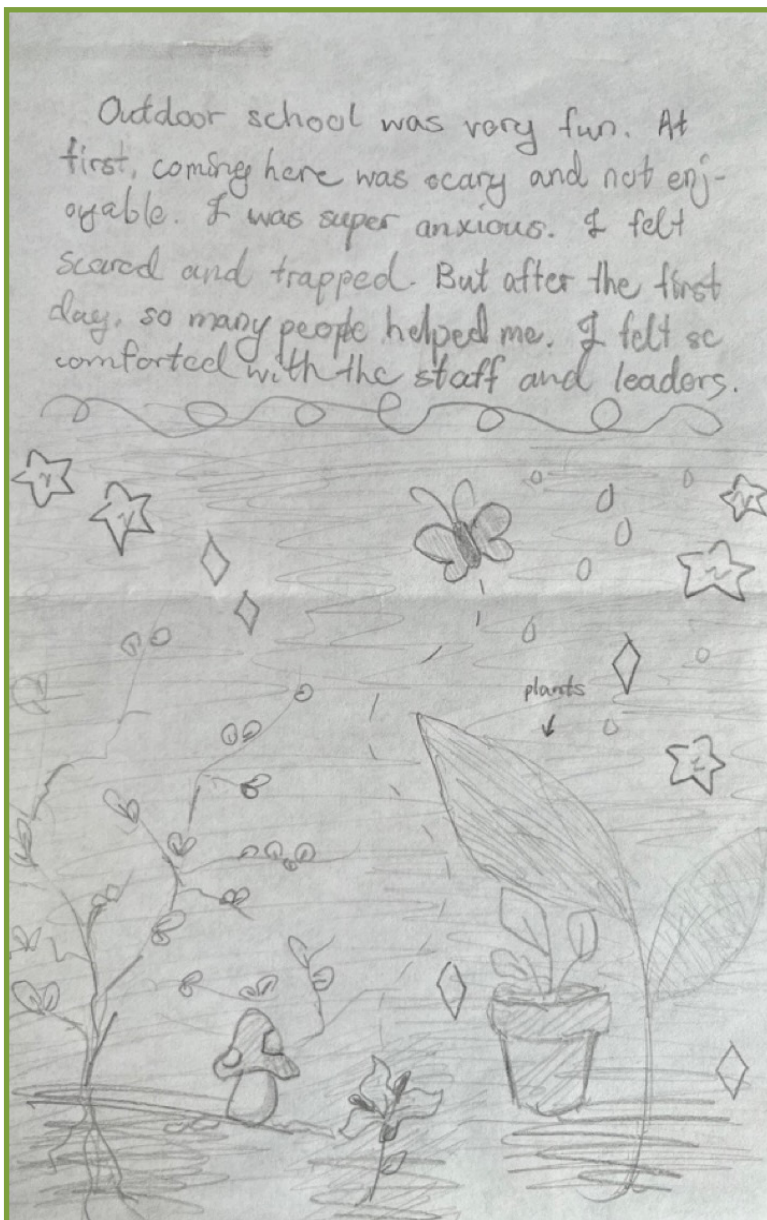
WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School

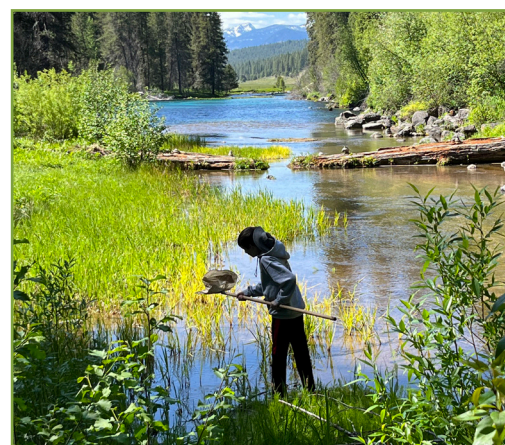


Kids Share Their Thoughts about Outdoor School

Hundreds of sixth graders attending MESD's Collins Outdoor School had a hand in program evaluation. On the last day they wrote and drew about their experience, provided recommendations for improvement to program leadership, and offered advice to younger students about what to expect. These are examples of their work.



CONNECT



On the Road with Friends of Outdoor School

This past school year saw a welcome and enthusiastic return of kids to Outdoor School programs across the state. Friends of Outdoor School was able to return with the kids, visiting sites and programs all around Oregon. What we saw was inspiring! Providers and schools have clearly been innovating, and all sorts of creative and unique activities were on display at Outdoor School.

Western Oregon Outdoor School partnered with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to offer their hunter safety course at Camp Tadmor. Students who chose this option had to complete online modules prior to Outdoor School, and did the field course as part of their field studies.

At MESD's Collins Outdoor School, students studying animals began the afternoon with an imaginative reflection activity adapted from the Land Education Dreambook. Experiencing the forest from the perspective of an old tree, they built empathy and connection to place before getting to know the animals living along the Sandy River.

At Lake Creek Camp, students from John Day experimented with making their own mosquito repellent. Then they tried their creations out on each other to see what worked best at repelling the abundant critters.

Pendleton students learned from Tribal scientists, meteorologists, search and rescue officers, and wildland firefighters, even getting a chance to wield a firehose.

At OMSI's Coastal Discovery Center at Camp Gray, kids utilized a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration protocol to collect, study, and record marine debris, adding their results to a NOAA database.

Neahkahnie students at Twin Rocks Friends Camp studied marine marvels such as sand dollars. One student showed us how they dissected a dead sand dollar and extracted teeth.

Elgin students contributed water quality data to the community science project headed up by Grande Ronde Model Watershed.

Students from Echo, Condon, and Sherman County learned about work opportunities in the US Forest Service, some of which they could start in high school.

At Klamath Outdoor Science School, kids explored first-hand how state foresters are managing forests to reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfires in southern Oregon.

Equity and inclusion advocates at Northwest Outdoor Science School provided extra support for students so that they could fully participate in Outdoor School.

Camp Tamarack embedded social emotional learning experiences into their science field study activities to teach the whole child.

Our hats are off to the people who continue to go all in for kids. Even after 66 years of Oregon Outdoor School, educators are continuing to improve, innovate, create, and inspire.

HB 3037 + FULL
FUNDING FOR ODS
PASSED OUT OF
THE SENATE!



Success in the Legislature!

We are thrilled to let you know that the Oregon Legislature has passed two bills that are critical for the success of Outdoor School.

HB 5025 is the budget bill that contains Outdoor School funding. This bill just cleared the Oregon Senate and is headed to the Governor's desk for signing! The budget includes \$56,406,064 in lottery dollars for the Outdoor School Education Fund. That's full funding for the next two years of Outdoor School!

HB 3037 passed the Senate on June 21st with a unanimous vote, following an earlier unanimous passage in the House. We've been calling this our "data bill," and it will direct OSU Extension Service to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Education to collect student data about Outdoor School attendance. This is crucial for delivering on the promise of "Outdoor School for All."

A Note of Thanks!

We couldn't have had this success without the support of so many of you in the Outdoor School community. Many of you testified, wrote letters of support, communicated directly with your representative and senator, or made donations to support this important work. Every one of these actions contributed to the success of the data bill and to a renewed commitment from the legislature for full funding of Outdoor School--for the third biennium in a row!

We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Our Children Oregon, who not only provided important support for our legislative agenda, but also works tirelessly to support policy to help children in Oregon thrive.

Please consider taking a moment to send a thank you to your legislators. You can find tips for how, and other useful advocacy information, here on our website:

<https://bit.ly/FODSAdvocacyToolkit>

Grateful for our Partners

We are lucky to work with wonderful business partners all year long! Here are two of our partners who do great work in the community.

Tyler "Sage" and Crosby "Tomatoe" both got their start at Outdoor School at Camp Howard and now work in real estate! The Grand Union Real Estate team helps families all over the Portland metro area find and sell their homes. They also met with Outdoor School staff to discuss pathways to home ownership. They generously donate a portion of each home sale to Friends of Outdoor School and Proud Ground.

Dobbes Family Estate donates 10% of each quarter's charity wine to one of four charities. We are excited to be one of their benefiting nonprofits this year along with AHIVOY, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and Oregon Food Bank. This quarter, the charity wine is the 2021 Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir. Give it a try at the Dobbes Family Estates tasting room!

We're looking forward to some fun partnerships throughout the rest of the year. If you or a business you love is interested in partnering with Friends of Outdoor School please reach out to Sophia at sophia@friendsofoutdoorschool.org





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Upcoming Community Events

- Our friends at Camp Fire Columbia are celebrating Camp Namanu's Centennial! Many of us have fond memories of Camp Namanu. Camp Fire Columbia will be holding events celebrating the centennial through September 2024. Check out all of the events at: <https://www.campfirecolumbia.org/namanu100/>
- Klamath Outdoor Science School will be hosting a family camp in October where you can watch the eclipse! The path of annularity goes right over Koss camp! Learn more at: <https://www.klamathoutdoorschool.org/events>
- Camp Lutherwood is having a Harvest Homecoming on October 1st! Learn more at: <https://event.auctria.com/1c3175e9-f37e-4fd7-8210-da6edd2d8bca/>

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