



WOODCOOKIE

a newsletter from Friends of Outdoor School



OPB PROFILES THE CLASS OF 2025 AT OUTDOOR SCHOOL



One of the sites visited by OPB to check on the Class of 2025 at Outdoor School

Rob Manning, a reporter from public radio station OPB, recently visited several Outdoor School sites and wrote an inspiring radio article detailing the experience of kids in the Class of 2025. Beginning in 2013, according to his report, “OPB has been tracking a group of students since they were in first grade, as a way of examining Oregon’s goal that all students achieve a high school credential, starting in 2025.”

Now sixth-graders, Manning wanted to see how the students in the 2025 cohort were doing at Outdoor School, recently expanded from a three-day/two-night educational experience into a six-day/five-night program due to Measure 99 funding. He visited several sites with classes from Ron Russell Middle School in SE Portland, where, he said, “More than 80% of students...are from low-income families, and half come from families in which English isn’t their first language.” The OPB

PORTLAND WATER BUREAU & FRIENDS OF ODS = FIVE YEARS OF COLLABORATION



It began in 2013, according to Penny Milton, Residential Water Efficiency Coordinator at the Portland Water Bureau (PWB). PWB is committed to educating youth about where drinking water comes from and how to be good stewards of this critical resource. Recognizing that their program goals aligned, PWB began funding water education at Outdoor School (ODS). This partnership creates the opportunity for PWB to provide locally-relevant content to ODS field instructors to expand their understanding of water supply and efficiency issues. This relationship helps more than 5,100 middle school students and 1,000 high school student leaders in PWB’s service area learn and teach water curriculum during field study, clean up, and mealtimes each year.

For many students, the water curriculum is one of the first times they are exposed to water conservation in a hands-on way. They learn that water is precious and supports all life as an integral part of a larger ecosystem, including fish, plants, and our economy. In addition, kids see water as a field of study with job potential. Milton personally became interested in water at Outdoor School, cajoling her little brother to help her do her own water studies after returning home. She eventually went on to pursue environmental studies before working in the water industry.

Thank you, Portland Water Bureau!

story reported that, among other outcomes:

- *Outdoor School staff felt that the longer program provided a better chance for social-emotional learning*
- *Teachers formed better connections with students*
- *Parents noticed increased confidence in their kids*
- *Students learned a lot about science, appreciating being “outside, rather than cooped up in a classroom.”*

Read the article: <https://tinyurl.com/ycuu3glb>

“Working with Friends of ODS is a great way to enhance the bureau’s education program. Through this partnership alone, we reach over 6,000 kids a year with water education and efficiency messages. Our tagline, ‘From Forest to Faucet,’ becomes tangible in the residential outdoor setting—students see the resource right there in front of them during their onsite field study. It’s a powerful way to make the connection to drinking water.”

Penny Milton
Residential Water Efficiency Coordinator
Portland Water Bureau



Camp Gray, OMSI Coastal Discovery Center Outdoor School site

On the Road with Prince Dan Prince, Associate Director

This month found me visiting with Outdoor School providers from the Columbia Gorge to Newport. Folks have so much energy to engage in providing Outdoor School programming to students across the state, and Friends of Outdoor School is able to help connect them to information and resources to realize their goals. Next month, Friends of ODS board secretary Andy Lindberg and I will gather with participants in the American Camp Association conference to present about statewide Outdoor School and continue to learn how best to help sites across the state connect to Outdoor School.



Camp Gray, OMSI Coastal Discovery Center Outdoor School site. The tool is a soil auger, used to extract soil samples for study.



2nd Annual Ecology Trivia participants enjoy the evening

Show Your Trivia IQ! December 4, 2018

Join us at Ecology Trivia Night! Come on down and “get your ecology on” at the 3rd Annual Outdoor Trivia Contest, hosted by Outdoor School’s Andy “Walrus” Lindberg! The fundraiser benefits Friends of Outdoor School and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for food, fun, and fellowship with your favorite Outdoor School friends; trivia challenge begins at 6:30 p.m.

Food, drink, and raffle tokens are available for purchase at the event—or save time and purchase them online now! Enjoy Lagunitas beer, cider, soft drinks, pizza, and Great Harvest cookies.

Purchase tickets at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yak6ahsw>

Keep your Rewards points AND earn money for Friends of Outdoor School!
Sign up @ fredmeyer.com today!



Legislative tour of an Outdoor School site

Networking with Sparks Wendy Sparks, Statewide Community Organizer

After hosting seven state legislators on tours around the state, we’ve made it to the end of our annual legislative tour season. Tours are a way for state representatives and senators to better understand what ODS is all about as they meet outstanding student leaders, experience immersive and beautiful facilities, connect with knowledgeable and compassionate staff, observe engaging curriculum, and—best of all—meet kids!

Many legislators have questions about Outdoor School and tours help answer their questions, as we visit an Outdoor School site and observe kids in action. Their questions are a friendly, intensive trivia challenge of sorts. We draw from the expertise of our tour support team, including staff from OSU Extension, Friends of Outdoor School, and program providers to answer questions as they arise. Below are the ten most common questions. Visit our website and click Trivia Tour to view the answers and see if you are a Legislative Tour Trivia Master!

The Ten-Question Fall 2018 Legislative Tour Trivia Challenge follows; see how many you get right!



Sixth graders are masters of puns. At Camp Trickle Creek, students used their geology field study to showcase their skills in both building earthquake-resistant structures out of mud and sticks and pun generation, with clever comments such as:

“Stop mucking things up!”

“This is a sticky situation.”

“We’re really muddying the waters on this one.”

Photo from Camp Trickle Creek, November 1, 2018



BEETLES Training: March 3–8, 2019

BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning, and Expertise Sharing) Institute will bring together leaders of Outdoor School programs from across Oregon for a week of professional learning, expertise sharing, community building, discussions, and thoughtful reflection. Gray Family Foundation is proud to bring this training to Oregon in partnership with OSU Extension Outdoor School. This Institute is a rich experience and a unique opportunity to meet with other leaders and discuss ideas for how to make your program the best it can be.

Upcoming Gray FF Grant Deadlines

- Launching an Outdoor School Program LOI Deadline: Next rolling deadline is Jan. 15, 2019
- Environmental Education Program Application Deadline: Dec. 3, 2018

Gray Family Foundation has merged their online application system with The Oregon Community Foundation’s MyOCF online system. Once you click on the “Apply” button on the Gray Family Foundation website, you will be taken to the MyOCF homepage. After logging in, select “The Gray Family Foundation’s Environmental Education Program” and proceed with your application.

For more information on these opportunities, visit: www.grayff.org



Kim Silva, Executive Director

Silva’s Notes: Message from the Director of Friends of ODS

What is our best news? With Measure 99 funding, 15,000 MORE Oregon kids are going to Outdoor School! This incredible accomplishment is due to YOUR commitment to, and investment in, these students. A magic penny to each of you. **Thank you!**

Now that the new statewide program has been launched, we are focusing on these priorities:

- Working with Oregon State University Extension on securing full funding of \$22 million/year for the 2019-2021 budget biennium
- Networking ODS camps and programs with each other
- Engaging the thousands of people around the state who love ODS.

There is still a lot of work to do, but together, we can create a robust, rigorous, and meaningful ODS system for each and every student. We appreciate your commitment and passion to ODS! You truly make a difference for Oregon kids.

THANK YOU! YES, YOU!

Your support makes our work—advocating for funding and providing access to excellent Outdoor School programs—possible!

- How do public schools, home schools, and charter schools obtain Measure 99 funding?
- What are the options for students in private schools?
- What happens if a student does not own boots or a sleeping bag?
- How many students participated in Outdoor School last year?
- How many new schools participated in ODS last year?
- What’s a Student Leader?
- Do schools get to choose their Outdoor School site?
- How does ODS accommodate students with specific needs?
- How long is Outdoor School?
- What do kids do at Outdoor School?

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Mark Your Calendar & Join Us!



Come play trivia and support Friends of Outdoor School and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership! Enjoy pizza, beer, soft drinks, and kombucha with family and Friends. See you at 7:00 p.m. in the Lagunitas Community Room, 237 NE Broadway St. #300, Portland, OR 97232! This event is 21+.

To volunteer, or for more info, contact Wendy Sparks at: wendy@friendsofoutdoorschool.org

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