Our Shared Vision: Every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School.

Student Leader Scholarships Awarded

For many Friends of Outdoor School supporters, the highlight of the year arrives with the awarding of Student Leader Scholarships, $1000 gifts of support for higher education to those who earn the distinction.

On June 7, Multnomah Education Service District and Friends of Outdoor School joined the family and friends of some of Portland’s most dynamic high school students to celebrate these teens, whose work, example, and presence at Outdoor School as volunteers has made a difference—not only to the students they mentor and lead, but also to the teachers, staff, and other adults present.

To be considered, Student Leaders submit an application which includes an essay indicating how they intend to apply their experience as a student leader to their future plans. Students outline how their experiences in the role shaped their goals and how they will use the knowledge and skills they gained in future endeavors.

A scholarship committee is selected from community members with ties to ODS. Committee members score each application on: essay quality; impact of ODS; evaluations; and recommendation letters. Input on applicants is also submitted by the site supervisors. Finalists are then interviewed by a panel of committee members, including the ODS Program Coordinator. The number and amount of scholarships depend on a combination of funds available and number of finalists. Named scholarships are matched to personalities, goals, and accomplishments of the finalists.

Congratulations, scholarship winners! Thank you for your significant contributions to Outdoor School. We wish you the best of luck in your future studies!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED:

Outdoor School Staff Scholarship: Awarded to a finalist who has participated in ODS and Oregon Trail programs at a variety of different sites. This year’s winner: MAYA

Friends of Outdoor School Scholarship: Awarded to a finalist whose current accomplishments and/or future goals align with those of Friends—bringing the experience of outdoor education to all students. This year’s winner: OLIVIA

Heather “Woodstock” Schoeck Memorial Scholarship: In honor of a beloved staff member who passed away. Heather was a free spirit who brought joy and music with her to ODS. Awarded to a finalist who possesses these same qualities. This year’s winner: ELLEY

Margaret “Lorax” Eng Honorary Scholarship: In honor of the former Supervisor Consultant of the ODS program. Lorax developed curriculum and particularly loved the science and teaching parts of Outdoor School. Awarded to a finalist who possesses these same qualities. This year’s winner: SPENCER

Dan “Teal” Prince Honorary Scholarship: In honor of the former Coordinator of the ODS program. Informally called the “Heart of Gold” scholarship, this scholarship is awarded to a finalist who embodies the nurturing community aspects of Outdoor School. This year’s winner: ZOEY

Congratulations, scholarship winners! Thank you for your significant contributions to Outdoor School. We wish you the best of luck in your future studies!
SONGWRITER AND MUSICIAN PAUL SIMON DONATES TO FRIENDS OF ODS!

May 31, 2018
Friends of Outdoor School
Kim Silva, Executive Director
PO Box 82684
Portland, OR 97282
Dear Kim,

As I’m embarking on my Farewell Tour and playing in these cities for what will be the last time, I felt strongly that I’d like to be able to, in a sense, say thank you to the people and communities who have supported me and my music for all these years. The conclusion I came to was that I could define one, or a couple, organizations doing work on the ground in each place I visit on tour, and offer some financial gift that will hopefully have some lasting impact. Please accept this donation of $15,000 for Friends of Outdoor School to continue your efforts.

In each town and city, there are so many organizations doing great work, including the invaluable work you do. Keep it up!

Paul Simon

Letter announcing Simon’s gift

When twelve-time Grammy-winner and Rock n’ Roll Hall of Famer Paul Simon played his last tour date ever here in Portland on May 19, he didn’t just leave behind memories for the thousands of fans who came to the arena—he left behind a lasting legacy for Portland’s kids by making a donation to Friends of Outdoor School, as recommended by our local partner, The Nature Conservancy.

In a letter to Kim Silva, our fearless leader and Executive Director, Simon said, “As I’m embarking on my Farewell Tour and playing in these cities for what will be the last time, I felt strongly that I’d like to be able to, in a sense, say thank you to the people and communities who have supported me and my music for all these years. The conclusion I came to was that I could define one, or a couple, organizations doing work on the ground in each place I visit on tour, and offer some financial gift that will hopefully have some lasting impact. Please accept this donation for Friends of Outdoor School to continue your efforts. In each town and city, there are so many organizations doing great work, including the invaluable work you do. Keep it up!”

Silva, a fan as well as a thankful recipient, was thrilled to hear the news, saying, “When he played for the last time here in Portland, Paul Simon didn’t just leave memories for his concert-going fans—he left behind a gift for the thousands of children attending ODS each year. We are grateful for his generous support and vote of confidence in our work.”

Friends will immediately put the funds to use advocating for Oregon’s Outdoor School, sharing expertise with the community, and building networks that will support local Outdoor School programs and facilities—which unite Oregonians with a shared experience and connects kids to their land and heritage through residential, outdoor education—for years to come.

Thank you, Paul - we love you like a rock!

BRINA BOLANZ, LONGTIME EMPLOYEE, “RETIRES”

Friends of Outdoor School is saying goodbye to a valued employee and “Friend” after four years. Brina Bolanz was the marketing and communications coordinator for Friends. She played a large role in our operations and public outreach; was instrumental in updating our technology to better meet the needs of our supporters; actively engaged in the communications, promotion, and technology infrastructure for Adventure Wild; and coordinated and managed events, including Trivia Night. Brina engaged and worked with our wonderful volunteers and led our wGive!Guide efforts, too.

Best of luck, Brina - we will miss you!

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Best of luck, Brina - we will miss you!

Musician and songwriter Paul Simon

Friends of Outdoor School is very pleased to have been selected as the nonprofit partner for the upcoming CAMPOUT 2018!
SPRING OUTDOOR SCHOOL!

at Camp Angelos and Cedar Ridge

TRIVIA NIGHT RETURNS

On December 3, the 2nd Annual Outdoor Trivia Contest, a lively fundraising event to benefit Friends of Outdoor School and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, was hosted by Outdoor School’s Andy “Walrus” Lindberg and held in the Nonprofit Community Room at Lagunitas Brewing Company. Not only did juniors compete for the first time, but the contest went into triple overtime! Thank you, Lagunitas Brewing Company for providing the event space, the beer, and an amazing atmosphere. Come to the rematch: same time, same place on 12/04/18!

THANK YOU to our loyal and committed Friends of Outdoor School donors who make our work on behalf of Oregon’s students possible.

Your gifts make a positive difference in the lives of children!

Don’t forget to:

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Bring your own bags to the following locations and New Seasons will donate five cents for each bag to Friends of Outdoor School. Thank you, New Seasons!

Thru 07/18/18
Arbor Lodge • Raleigh Hills
Orenco Station • Progress Ridge

Ecology Trivia Night
Dan Prince, Associate Director of Friends of Outdoor School and former Coordinator of Outdoor School for Multnomah Education Service District, has been busy in the field meeting with Outdoor School providers and camp facilities.

One of the hallmarks of an Outdoor School learning experience is that students get to explore, investigate, and fall in love with their Outdoor School site. As the number of schools attending ODS continues to grow, the capacity to host ODS programming will also need to grow. Many locations would love to host ODS, but they may lack the facilities or staff needed for all students to sleep, eat, study, and live for a week. Schools may not know of a suitable place to hold the program that is either close enough or located in the part of the state they want students to study.

Friends of Outdoor School is committed to developing creative ways to help camp facilities across the state get prepared for kids. The first step is to find out what camps and programs may need, and to discover ways an Outdoor School facilities network could support meeting those needs.

Planned Giving: Leave a Legacy for Oregon’s Kids

We’ve all heard the stories: a sweet, humble elderly lady passes away and leaves a completely unexpected $4M gift to a local nonprofit. We think to ourselves, “How amazing...if only I could make such a lasting impact!”

Good news! Friends of Outdoor School is here to tell you that anyone can make a difference with a planned gift, which is a gift usually realized at a later date, such as at your death.

While not everyone may be able to save $4M, you can easily put any amount of money—or property, shares of stock, life insurance, etc.—to use helping Oregon students access excellent Outdoor School programs! Your planned gift will create an enduring legacy that reflects your values during your lifetime. Imagine students, generations into the future, exploring the Northwest’s forests, streams, and skies, discovering the wonders of nature, friendship, and themselves, all because of you.

A planned gift can establish your legacy, support Outdoor School students, and help you and your family avoid capital gains and inheritance taxes, too.

To learn more, contact Kim Silva at kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org.

This article is intended to share general information. For legal, tax, or other professional advice, please consult your professional advisor.

Spring Legislative Tours a Success

This spring, Oregon Outdoor Schools opened their doors to legislators for tours highlighting the impact of new statewide funding. Guests spent time at field studies, talked to students, and were updated on school participation. Staff at Camps Magruder, Cedar Ridge, Arrah Wanna, and Angelos, as well as leadership from Multnomah and Northwest Education Service Districts, led facility tours, discussed curriculum, and introduced legislative guests to students.

Tours demonstrated that ODS is an important part of what it means to be an Oregonian and engages students in a new, shared experience. Legislators were truly impressed by how students were able to collaborate, solve problems, and apply new knowledge within this outdoor setting, and praised camp volunteers and staff for their dedication to connecting students to the outdoors.

Special thanks to ODS staff who assisted, as well as legislators and staff who visited, including: Taylor Smiley Wolfe, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Tina Kotek; Rep. Susan McLain and Chief of Staff Nicole Stoenner; Sen. Chuck Riley; and Sen. Lew Frederick.
We are pleased to recognize The Standard as a longtime, committed “Friend” and sponsor of Friends of Outdoor School! This year, The Standard is helping us launch and build our statewide Outdoor School networks across the state in order to identify, recruit, organize, train and mobilize advocates to communicate with elected officials, and volunteers to support local Outdoor School programs and site facilities. These local networks will also connect those who love Oregon Outdoor School across all regions, as well as support OSU Extension and other partners. Thank you for your loyal support of Oregon’s students!

Pitch ‘N Putt for Student Scholarships Breaks Record!

Each year, Multnomah Educational Service District Outdoor School current and former staff, with support from Friends of ODS, hosts a golf tournament to raise funds for college scholarships for volunteer Student Leaders. Student Leaders are exceptional high school students that give a week or more of their time during the school year to teach, lead, and mentor youth at local Outdoor School programs. On May 11, the Pitch n’ Putt FUNdraiser Tournament was held at McMenamins Edgefield and raised $7,467, blowing past a $6000 goal and raising $2000+ more than last year.

Not only is the golf tournament a time to raise funds to recognize and support the college education of some excellent Student Leaders, the players have a BALL! Two awards are presented at the end of the day: a Team Unity Winner, which went to Team Survivor, and the GLOAT Award (for most money raised), which went to the Grass Holes team. Thank you to all who donated! If you missed the chance, and still want to support Student Scholarships, follow this link:

donate.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/putt

Oregon State University Extension Program Updates

Over 36,404 students attended Outdoor School in 2017/18. Now, OSU Extension is processing funding applications for the 2018/19 school year, giving priority to Districts that met the May 21, 2018 deadline. Extension will review the applications submitted after the deadline in order of submittal. For additional application information, visit: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/outdoor-school.

In addition, the foundation is accepting Letters of Interest for the Launching an Outdoor School grant program. Letters submitted by July 1 will generally be considered in mid-August. Program opportunities include planning grants for schools and districts, planning grants for outdoor school program providers, and program grants to schools or student groups currently ineligible to apply for OSU Extension outdoor school funding.

To learn more about opportunities through the foundation, visit: grayff.org/funding_category_cpt/outdoor-school

Gray Family Foundation

Founded on the belief that fostering an understanding and appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of a child’s education, the Gray Family Foundation is also a longtime supporter of outdoor education and Outdoor School.

Currently, the Gray Family Foundation is not only partnering with Friends of Outdoor School to develop statewide ODS networks, it is also offering grants to private schools, non-public charter schools, and other entities whose students may not currently be supported by statewide Measure 99 Outdoor School funds.

YEAR ONE: OUTDOOR SCHOOL BY THE NUMBERS
- $8.8 million in approved funding
- 121 school districts funded
- Number of students who will attend: 36,404
- That’s 75% of eligible students
- Total number of days students will get outside: 136,465
- Funding awarded to districts in all 36 counties
- 82 new schools attending Outdoor School for the first time

OSU Extension Service | Outdoor School

Team Survivor mugs for the camera

Survivor

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OSU Extension Service | Outdoor School
Mark Your Calendar & Join Us!

Testify for Outdoor School @ Legislative Student Success Forums!
July 11, 7 p.m.
Arts & Communication Magnet Academy
Beaverton, OR

Testify for Outdoor School @ Legislative Student Success Forums!
September 13, 7 p.m.
Ridgeview High School
Redmond, OR

If interested, contact Wendy Sparks at: wendy@friendsofoutdoorschool.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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