Our Shared Vision: Every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School.
Friends of Outdoor School is dedicated to increasing student access to Oregon Outdoor School programs that contribute to educational development, inspire youth, and promote personal growth.

It’s true! You can earn donations for Friends of ODS at Freddy’s just by shopping with your Rewards Card! To link your card, just log into your online account, choose Community Rewards, and link your Rewards Card to Friends of Outdoor School with the organization number KQ435. At the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer makes a donation to us based on the accumulated spending of linked Rewards Customers. It’s fast, it’s easy and it ADDS UP! Rest assured that you still earn and keep all of your Rewards points. But, when you link, Friends of ODS benefits, too. Thank you!

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!

WORKPLACE GIVING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE, LITTLE BY LITTLE, ALL YEAR LONG!

With fall employee charitable giving campaigns just around the corner, here’s a quick reminder about one of your options this year: EarthShare Oregon. An environmentally-focused workplace giving federation, EarthShare works with more than 100 environmental nonprofits that advocate for healthy rivers, clean air, and protected farm and wildland. Good news: *Friends of Outdoor School is an EarthShare partner!* If EarthShare is an option in your workplace, you may be able to support all of EarthShare’s partners, or designate Friends of Outdoor School directly, with your workplace gift.

Payroll deduction is one of the simplest, easiest ways to support Friends of Outdoor School. By spreading a gift among several smaller monthly payments instead of a one-time donation, many people find that they are able to give a bigger gift and create a greater impact. It’s a budget-friendly approach for both you and Friends of ODS, as monthly gifts help us plan our expenditures. In addition, many employers match employee gifts, enabling you to significantly increase your donation!

Outdoor School, supported by Friends of ODS, teaches children and teens (and their families!) to safeguard our natural legacy for future generations. Giving to Friends of ODS at work allows us to partner with you to continue this important effort. Thank you!
Friends of Outdoor School representatives proudly volunteer on OSU Extension’s Outdoor School Advisory Committee, which provides recommendations to the Director of the OSU Extension with regards to Outdoor School in the following areas: funding; communications; curriculum; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); resourcing; and outcomes tracking, among others.

At a recent meeting, committee members, including Dan Prince, who attended on behalf of Friends of ODS, received a Welcome and Tour from Tamastslikt Cultural Institute Museum. The group also:

- Framed values and beliefs around DEI
- Discussed participation data from year one
- Discussed student outcomes based on assessment and evaluation tools in the pilot year
- Gave feedback on professional development and curriculum priorities
- Gave feedback on regional coordinator positions and priorities
- Updated the asset map of the Advisory Committee to identify current assets and desired assets for the committee

We are pleased that Friends of ODS can provide valuable feedback during statewide program development!

Legislators who participate in the tours are forging deep connections with Outdoor School and learning why all Oregon kids benefit from this unique and shared experience.

In addition to attending the Oregon Science Teachers Association conference in Newport on October 12-13, where she and Dan Prince connected science teachers from around the state to Outdoor School resources, Wendy was also present at EEAO’s conference in Canby on September 29th to network with Outdoor School providers. Please reach out to Wendy to explore how you, too, can become an advocate for Outdoor School during the upcoming legislative session.

“Outdoor School educates children with the power of nature instead of being cooped up in a classroom all day for six hours. You learn how to survive in the wilderness with sticks, branches, and trees and stuff. You learn how to become independent with your journal writing. You also have to know where to go and when to be there, which helps your time management. The 'overnight' is a great experience for fifth-graders.”

Noah M.

Noah M.
Mark Your Calendar & Join Us!

Dec 04

ECOLOGY Trivia Night

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!

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

FRIENDS OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL LEADERS

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Dave Eshbaugh

Jen Grube

Andy Lindberg
  Secretary/Treasurer

Jennifer Satalino
  Chair

BOARD EMERITUS

Rex Burkholder
  Liz Fouts
  Katie Newcomb
  Jen Newlin
  Amy Thomas
  Kelly Wilson

STAFF

Kim Silva
  Executive Director

Dan Prince
  Associate Director

Wendy Sparks
  Statewide Community Organizer

Michelle Crimmins
  Donor Relations Officer

ENGAGE • SUPPORT • ADVOCATE
Friends of Outdoor School is dedicated to increasing student access to high-quality Oregon Outdoor School programs, which contribute to educational development, inspire youth and promote personal growth.

The support of individuals, community organizations, businesses and partners allows Friends of Outdoor School to:

- Advocate for Outdoor School funding and development
- Gather resources to support programs, providers, facilities and schools
- Engage the community with Outdoor School in the state

Please join us! On behalf of Oregon’s children—our future—help Friends of Outdoor School achieve our shared vision: that every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School.

Friends of Outdoor School: Your statewide information hub for Outdoor School support and networking.

BAKER CITY, RURAL DISTRICTS (CON’T FROM PAGE ONE)

...the chance to experience a four-day, three-night program!

Now, for the first time ever, students lived at camp, took part in evening team-building activities and campfires, and learned from six additional lessons. The extra time allowed instructors to focus on a theme: salmon. Students learned the life cycle and path of local fish through the watershed. Proximity to the watershed was a bonus: Meadow Creek flows onsite, subsequently running into the Snake River and the Columbia River before reaching the ocean. A member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla discussed the importance of the fish to the tribe and culture, showing the dried salmon made earlier that week. A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative engaged the students in a fish survey.

Due to the needs of the new format, Eastern Oregon University education students, who were preparing for student teaching, were tapped to help instruct and supervise at ODS. In keeping with the tradition of making Outdoor School relevant to each place it is held, Baker County Search and Rescue spoke to the group about wilderness survival skills.

Volunteer Outdoor School coordinator Dorothy Mason, retired wildlife biologist and manager at the Bureau of Land Management, noted, “We really try to incorporate applicable take-home messages into our lessons, so students really see how the information they are learning makes a difference to their lives and their forest.” Dorothy continued, “Measure 99 has opened up opportunities for rural school districts to explore programs they could not have considered before statewide funding was available. Not only has Baker City gone from a day camp to an overnight program, but La Grande has resumed ODS after a hiatus and North Powder has launched their own Outdoor School, a totally new program for them.”
On the Road with Prince

Dan Prince, Associate Director, has been busy meeting with Outdoor School providers and sites to help build the connections that will ensure Oregon students have great learning experiences in beautiful, safe, and inspiring locations across Oregon. He toured two camps currently hosting ODS programs, Bar M Ranch in Pendleton and Camp Elkanah in La Grande, as well as two facilities in the Columbia Gorge that are interested in hosting ODS, Camps Wa-Ri-Ki and Arrowhead. In Lane County, Dan consulted with Camp Lutherwood about how to get more schools into their open weeks. Due to the connections that Friends of ODS helped make, they were successful!

Outdoor School not only educates students and fosters development for teen leaders, these programs provide excellent job opportunities. However, this is not an aspect of Outdoor School often considered, so Dan includes this topic in his outreach efforts. Last month, he spoke with Camp Arrah Wanna staff about job skills gained by working in residential outdoor education and also met with Stephen Hatfield of Travel Oregon and Hugh Morrison of Oregon Outdoors Coalition to connect about rural economic development and how ODS can help bolster a region’s job pool.

Families Support ODS Funding

“I still have my wood cookie.” It’s a statement we’ve heard hundreds of times. For many, the ODS experience was so transformational that they took time during the summer to advocate for it. Through letters, photos, testimony to the Joint Committee on Student Success, and sharing memories (www.outdoorstoriesproject.com), families are working hard to ensure that all Oregon kids will be able to attend.

As a hands-on, place-based experience, Outdoor School partners with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning communities in Oregon, as both programs feature—in fact, depend upon—students actively participating in the educational process and applying what they’ve learned. Dan and Kim recently met with STEM Beyond School leadership to discuss how regional efforts align with the statewide ODS program and how FODS can support their efforts. Your generous contributions and commitment allow us to engage in this kind of work!

Networking with Sparks

Wendy Sparks has been busy identifying passionate Outdoor School advocates who are willing and able to attend the Student Success meetings being held across the state by the Oregon Legislature during the past few months, as legislators travel to learn the wants and wishes of Oregon parents when it comes to education. So far, she has attended four meetings in four regions with over a dozen supporters. Wendy believes that Oregonians have been getting the message across: We LOVE Outdoor School and want our students to reap the academic and social benefits of the experience! Supporters are reiterating, loudly and clearly, that full statewide funding per Measure 99 is necessary in order to accomplish this goal.

Wendy has also been leading tours of Outdoor School for legislators so that they can witness the transformational power of place-based field-science programs, in varied local forms, in person. The result has been powerful! From watching students observe ghost shrimp behavior at Camp Westwind in Neskowin to learning about the relationships between facilities and providers at Camp Tadmor, Oregon...