“Outdoor School for All” bill passed by Oregon Legislature!

Lawmakers overwhelmingly pass the historic Outdoor School Bill (Senate Bill 439), establishing for the first time a statewide commitment to Outdoor School.

What SB 439 does

SB 439 assigns to the Oregon State University Extension Service the responsibility to create model Outdoor School curriculum consistent with statewide education requirements (including the Next Generation Science Standards), provide support for Outdoor School setup and programming, and oversee distribution of state funds to qualifying programs. The OSU Extension Service will be assisted by an advisory committee made up of educators, Outdoor School providers, outdoor educators and others.

What SB 439 doesn’t do

It provides no new money for Outdoor School. Despite the high level of support and enthusiasm around the state, the Legislature did not approve funding for this work. The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition (OOEC) will ask for a small level of funding during the 2016 short legislative session to help OSU Extension Service begin the tasks set out in SB 439, but the real need for a stable, sufficient investment in Outdoor School is still unmet.

What’s next

The OOEC is actively exploring the best path to full, statewide funding. Members traveled across the state to meet with hundreds of supporters and polled Oregonians from all walks of life and all parts of the state. We Oregonians know the value of getting kids into nature to learn about the world and about themselves, and we’re confident Oregonians support Outdoor School for all Oregon children.

What you can do

Celebrate with us at the Portland Mercado this Sunday, Sept. 27! (see side bar). Visit OutDoorSchoolForAll.org and sign up to receive email updates, volunteer, donate, attend events and more.

Events Calendar

Portland Outdoor School Celebration!
Sunday, Sept. 27, 3-5pm
Portland Mercado
7238 SE Foster Rd.
Portland

Save Outdoor School Albany Fundraiser
Monday, Sept. 28, 6-7:30pm
Loft 44
442 West 1st Ave.
Albany

Save Outdoor School Bend Fundraiser
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6-7:30pm
Neil Kelly Showroom
190 NE Irving Ave.
Bend

To RSVP for events or volunteer for ODS for All, please contact:
Jillian@OregonOutdoorEd.org
Want to change a life?

MESD has a need for SNEEDS

MESD needs many adult volunteers (18+) to partner one-on-one with special needs campers onsite at Outdoor School. You’ll ensure your special student is able to fully participate in this transformative experience. Volunteers are needed for every week of fall session.

SNEEDS training
1-3pm, Saturday, Sept. 26th
MESD offices
11611 NE Ainsworth Circle
Portland

Contact Kitty Boryer
503-257-1607
kboryer@mesd.k12.or.us

We ❤️ our SNEEDS!

“If you were to ask me about my memories of elementary school, I would tell you in great detail about the week I spent at Outdoor School in Trout Creek.... I am 52 years old, and I still remember so much from that magical week with my teachers and classmates. In addition, I gained a lifelong love of the outdoors. I’m even still in touch with the teacher who accompanied my class. He went 17 times and I know he’d still be going at 80 if they’d let him.

“My daughter is a fifth grader this year... and we are lucky enough to attend a school where Outdoor School is highly valued. The three fifth grade teachers, plus many parents and volunteers, spend countless hours fundraising so that every child can go for three nights. It’s a wonderful gift and it makes me feel both grateful for the opportunity and sad that all Oregon children don’t have it.”

~ Diana Fingal
Eugene
To accommodate Portland Public and Reynolds School Districts’ exciting jump from two nights of Outdoor School to the full five nights/six days, MESD added two new camp locations to the roster: Canby Grove and Cascade. These new camps join Sandy River, Howard and Arrah Wanna.

“We've hired nearly 30 new staff members coming into the fall season,” said Dan “Teal” Prince, MESD ODS coordinator. “They’re great individuals who have tremendous energy, creativity and experience to bring to the program.”

Located along the Molalla River 24 miles southeast of Portland, 89-year-old Canby Grove has undergone significant updating recently and will host 28 weeks of ODS. Camp Cascade is located 40 miles east of Salem in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, along the banks of the Little North Fork of the Santiam River. Cascade will host 23 weeks of ODS.

Jennifer “Pheff” Basham has rejoined ODS as a site supervisor on special assignment, coordinating curriculum updates and alignment to Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core. Jennifer is also continuing research on academic outcomes for students and moving STEM assessment forward.

NWRES&D Outdoor Science School began with the usual whirlwind on September 21. Requests by middle schools to participate has jumped, but very low numbers of volunteer high school counselors meant that including more schools was impossible.

“The Smarter Balanced testing of 11th graders last spring really hurt our counselor participation,” said Chad Stewart, volunteers facilitator. “We didn’t have enough counselors then, and we don’t now.”

You can help!
Parents, want your child’s NWRES&D school to participate in ODS? Tell your local high school about the benefits of the counselor experience and ask them to help recruit their students. And don’t forget: high school graduates can be counselors too!

For more info: cstewart@nwresd.k12.or.us
My name is Michelle Crimmins and I am new in Stewardship, working hard to let you know how much we value your commitment to Friends of Outdoor School. Your support is positively impacting the availability of Outdoor School (ODS) for all kids!

Throughout the summer, I have been reaching out to introduce myself and personally thank you; I have also been able to ask many of you how you got involved with, and why you support, Friends of ODS. My questions elicited lightning-quick and enthusiastic answers.

I learned that you have very positive memories of your ODS experiences, getting your hands dirty while exploring the Northwest. Or of watching your Student Leader blossom in unforeseen ways, bringing that ODS joy and wonder to you as a parent. I heard from many people that the ODS experience was “profound” and “transformative.”

How often do we hear those words used?

“Kids learn so much here, even during meals. There’s social-emotional development and they gain confidence; even the ‘challenging’ kids do well. It’s even playing field for ALL!”

- 6th grade teacher

Others described how it propelled them (or a child) into an environmental or science career. That’s a program worth supporting, worth sharing, and worth saving!

As you know, schools don’t always have funds to send their students to ODS. Because of you, Friends of ODS helps to fill this gap, providing ODS to more children. Many kids would never get a meaningful outdoor experience otherwise.

Among other successes, we’ve not only secured $4M+ to send students in Portland Metro to ODS, but also partnered with the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition to sponsor and pass the Outdoor School Bill, and once again secured funding from the East and West Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

If you’re reading this, pat yourself on the back!

Please consider me your resource for information regarding current FOODS efforts from A to Z, including community activities and legislative work. I would also relish the chance to tell you how we’re stewarding your gifts. Thank you for the wonderful welcome; I look forward to meeting you on the phone, by email, or in person!

Michelle Crimmins
(AKA Pileated Woodpecker)
michelle@friendsofoutdoorschool.org
503-610-0914

“ODS cemented [my children’s] bond with Oregon in a deep way. It gave them a sense of place. They enjoyed leading and teaching younger kids.”

- parent of Student Leaders
A new partnership, a new hire
Mazamas on board for expanded youth education program

For the past four summers we've hosted our Adventure WILD! summer day camp at the Mazama Mountaineering Center in SE Portland. We knew a great fit when we saw one, so Friends of ODS and MESD ODS are teaming up with Mazamas to create and launch a joint, expanded youth education program.

We needed a special someone who understood outdoor education and each of our missions, and who could research and develop a savvy business and marketing plan. We found another perfect fit in Jenny Dempsey Stein, our new shared youth program development intern. She'll review successful camp models, conduct market research, interview stakeholders and research funding sources.

A Mazama member since 1998, Jenny has built a lifelong career in environmental education and natural resources stewardship. She got her start with Americorps, the US Forest Service, and outdoor education instruction. Jenny then moved on to Metro, where for a decade she served the public working with their Parks and Greenspaces and Open Spaces acquisition programs and Metro's Community Enhancement grant program, among other roles. More recently, she served as a research and writing consultant exploring Oregon Outdoor School best practices with Oregon Community Foundation. Jenny recently completed a graduate certificate in sustainability at PSU and is studying graduate ecopsychology at Lewis and Clark College.

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Are you an educator?
Will you give 15 minutes?

One hundred educators are needed to assess a newly created scoring guide for the Oregon Environmental Literacy Strand - Systems Thinking.

Both a practicing teacher and a researcher from Portland State University's Graduate School of Education cordially invite you to participate by scoring a project about salmon completed by middle school students. Your participation will be anonymous and take about 15 minutes. The researcher will use the scores to measure inter-rater reliability. Thank you!

To participate, complete the Google Form at goo.gl/3Egf5n
Upcoming Events Calendar

**EEAO Summer Soiree & Fundraiser**  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 5-8:30pm  
Oregon Zoo  
Tickets: $25+ www.eeao.org

**Outdoor School Tour @Camp Tamarack**  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 3-4:30pm  
Camp Tamarack, Sisters

**Student Leader Workshop**  
Friday, Sept. 26, 1-3pm

**ODS SNEEDS Volunteer Training**  
Saturday, Sept. 26, 1-3pm  
MESD offices  
Contact Kitty Boryer    kboryer@mesd.k12.or.us

**First Day of MESD Outdoor School**  
Sunday, Sept. 27

**PDX Outdoor School Celebration**  
Sunday, Sept. 27, 3-5pm  
Portland Mercado, 7238 SE Foster Rd, Portland

**Save Outdoor School Albany Fundraiser**  
Monday, Sept. 28, 6-7:30pm  
Loft 44, 442 West 1st Ave, Albany

**Save Outdoor School Bend Fundraiser**  
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6-7:30pm  
Neil Kelly Showroom, 190 NE Irving Ave, Bend

**Willamette Week’s Give!Guide opens**  
Tuesday, Nov. 4, GiveGuide.org

**2015 Photo of the Year Contest opens**  
Thursday, Oct. 15 - submit at PhotoOfTheYear.net

For more information, contact Kim Silva at Kim@FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org or 503-257-1774.  
www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org