As another Outdoor School fall session ends and the holiday season begins, I am so grateful. Because of your efforts, your devotion, and your contributions, we were able to reach farther than we’d ever hoped this year. Thank you! Here’s what your gifts and support are helping to accomplish:

**ODS Funding Advocacy**
As you know, the Legislature cut state funding for ODS programs by almost 45%. Because of your gifts, we have the resources to press hard with our lobbying team in Salem over the next two years, fighting for ODS to receive the full $22 million yearly that Oregonians voted into law. Thank you!

**Supporting OSU Extension ODS Funding Program**
Friends of ODS is helping Dr. Kris Elliott and OSU Extension roll out the statewide program. We’re providing expert advice; answering questions from the community; supporting communications and administrative efforts; and exploring how to help ODS programs and camp facilities fill remaining funding gaps. You’re always invited to weigh in! Please feel free to email your ideas and comments to Brina at brina@friendsofoutdoorschool.org.

“The effects of Outdoor School and Oregon Trail on the students we teach are astounding. At camp, we may be teaching kids about environmental sustainability or American history, but more meaningfully, we foster a community of young minds and future leaders. These programs also offer an opportunity for students who may struggle in a typical classroom setting to realize that they, too, can learn and that it can be fun.”

- Vy Nguyen

**Building & Connecting the ODS Community**
During 2018, we’ll be planning a new online Friends of Outdoor School network, a business network, and a youth network. Look for more information on these groups in the near future; they will help connect you to ODS and each other. Thank you!

**New: Community Organizing Position with Friends of ODS**
Your donations will support a new position! The new community organizer will travel throughout Oregon to help build our networks, connecting volunteers and ODS advocates the old-fashioned way: in person. If you know of a good candidate, please contact Kim at kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org. Look for the job announcement by year-end. Thank you!

I never forget for a minute that YOUR support and donations make this work possible. Who would have dreamed that we’d be the first state in the nation to fund the entire ODS program??? You make it all happen.

With my warmest thanks,

Kim “Sierra” Silva
Executive Director

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**#ODSgiving Season**

FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org/ODSgiving
OSU Extension Ready to Award First ODS Funding, Hire Staff

Oregon State University Extension has officially launched its first-year funding application process! So far, 121 school districts and ESDs have completed, or are in the process of completing, their applications. We are all excited to see new districts apply for funding that have never partic-

ipated in ODS! Districts will receive funding allocation award letters in mid-December.

Extension ODS Team Quickly Growing

The assistant to ODS Program Leader Dr. Kris Elliott has been hired, and is set to begin work immediately.

Extension will soon be filling six more positions: Coordinator of Communications, Marketing, and Inclusion; Coordinator of Professional Development and Curriculum; Coordinator of Research, Assessment and Evaluation; and three Regional ODS Coordinators.

Extension has also contracted with a consulting team to quickly produce high-quality resources and other support to districts and ESDs by the end of Year One.

In addition to the first-year reporting data, the ODS Research and Assessment Workgroup is developing a pilot study to help provide data on the impact of Outdoor School on students and teachers.
The Golden Dragons PDX Dragon Boat Paddling Club gave Friends of ODS a surprise gift of $2,500, to be used as a 100% challenge match for all donations on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28!

The club’s commodore, JoEllen Marshall, said, "We’re honored to support Outdoor School. As seniors participating in regular outdoor activity, we recognize the beauty of nature, and want to help students develop their own powerful connections outside.”

The original Golden Dragons team had its start when Portland Parks & Recreation asked a group of its senior hikers to become volunteer paddlers in the 1996 Rose Festival dragon boat races.

"None of us had ever been in a dragon boat, and paddling those monsters for the first time came as quite a shock!” exclaimed original member Mary Milestone. “That year, we had a chance to paddle downriver toward the Steel Bridge,” Milestone continued. “The Navy vessels were lined up at the sea wall and we could paddle really close, the sailors lined up on the deck waving at us. Amazingly, the boats were really fun to paddle. What a hoot! I became a GD convert for evermore.”

The Golden Dragons are open to new members ages-50-and-better. Learn more at GoldenDragonsPDX.org.

Thank you, Golden Dragons!

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**Donate your 5-cent Bag Refund**

This past year, New Seasons Market has donated over $3,300 in customer bag refunds to support ODS!

Bring your own bags, shop at the Arbor Lodge store & donate your refund:

6400 N Interstate Avenue

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**NEW**

Use Your Mobile Phone to Download the Chinook Book App

**Just $15**

Friends of ODS earns 60% of every subscription or renewal

Use your phone to download the app:

chinook.co/friendsofoutdoorschool
Please Patronize These Oregon Businesses that Support Outdoor School:

Apple Inc.  KLE Construction LLC  Parkside Little League
Best Buy  Kroger Foods/Fred Meyer  Phoenix Flooring
Cambia Health  Les Schwab  Portland General Electric (PGE)
Chinook Book  New Seasons  Por Que No?
David Evans and Associates  Nike  prAna Women’s Wear
Dick Hannah Auto Dealerships  NW Natural Gas Company  REI
First Federal Bank  OnPoint Community Credit  The Standard Insurance
Golden Dragon PDX  Dragon  Company
Boat Paddling Club  ORAECOM  Wild Abandon Restaurant
Hopworks Urban Brewery  Organically Grown Company  Willamette Week
Intel  Outdoor Project: The Ultimate  Winco Foods
Kaiser Permanente  Adventure Guide

Learn more at: FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org/biz

For more information, contact Kim Silva at Kim@FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org or 971-303-8914
www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org