Outdoor School Funding Measure Headed to Voters this November

On July 25, the Save Outdoor School for All campaign officials announced that petition signatures have officially been verified by the Secretary of State’s office, and that the measure will be on the November 2016 Oregon ballot.

The campaign ultimately collected more than 140,000 petition signatures, far surpassing the 87,213 signature requirement needed to qualify.

The Save Outdoor School for All measure will allow voters to decide whether to dedicate permanent, long-term funding for Outdoor School – a 50-year Oregon tradition of hands-on field study for fifth- and sixth-graders.

“We’re thrilled by the outpouring of support we’ve received. Community leaders and citizens are stepping up to show how much they care about making sure that future generations of Oregonians are strongly connected to our natural resources and what makes Oregon, Oregon,” said Jackie LaFrenz, principal of Powell Butte Community Charter School in Crook County.

“Outdoor School gives sixth graders a light to carry them through the dark years of middle school. It gives high school students the opportunity to find out what it means to be looked up to. And it gives everyone who passes through the program the opportunity to be loved truly for who you are and not just for what you have to offer.”

- Tana "Aloe Vera" Barnett, at press conference

Questions about the Outdoor School law & funding measure?
The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition has answers.

Visit the FAQ online at: OregonOutdoorEd.org/FAQ
From a pool of 53,000 applicants, Ariadna “Buttercup” Falcon Gonzalez was selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar. The 2016 class of 1,000 outstanding students of color will receive scholarships toward undergraduate and graduate programs, plus leadership development opportunities, mentoring, academic, and social support.

At Reynolds High School, Ariadna was president of Latino Club, National Honor Society council member, Key Club member, and on the honor roll every year.

Ariadna volunteered as a Student Leader at Arrah Wanna for three sessions, and logged over 400 hours of community service hours through organizing dances, revitalizing parks, and spending time at nursing homes. Attending Lewis and Clark College in the fall, she plans to major in English and minor in environmental science, with the ultimate goal of becoming a teacher.

“Outdoor School has been my favorite part of high school. It really helped me realize what I wanted to do in the future. My experience teaching during field study has also opened my eyes in regards to teaching all different types of students.... Outdoor School made me feel accepted when I went as a sixth grader, and I have tried to provide the same support for kids (as a Student Leader) at Arrah Wanna. I feel so happy when the kids write me little notes at the end of the week telling me that they had fun in field study with me or that I made their week unforgettable.”

2016 Student Leader Scholarship winners

Tana “Aloe Vera” Barnett
Centennial High School
$2,000 Lorax Scholarship

Gretel “Lumas” Baur
Lincoln High School

Olivia “Toasty” Bozarth
Grant High School

Alex “Hedgehog” Grejuc
Madison High School
$750 Scholarship

Kennedy “Flurry” Hedges
Cleveland High School
$750 Scholarship

Sofia “Jasper” Kahler-Quesada
Reynolds High School
$1,000 Heather Schoeck

Christian “Rialto” Krantz
La Salle Catholic College Preparatory
A Donor Story: Amit "Zodiak" Patel

"I attended ODS in 1993 as a sixth grader in the Parkrose School District. Before this, I had never had an opportunity to truly experience and learn about nature and the outdoors. ODS not only provided me an appreciation for these things, but also gave me some of my fondest grade school memories that still vividly stick with me today.

My incredible ODS experience led me to become a Student Leader when I was in high school at the very same camp I had attended in sixth grade (Eagle Fern). Just as it did back then, ODS created a lasting impression on me and I returned multiple times as a Student Leader. Nature is boundless – and I learned something new or saw something in a different way each time I visited.

However, ODS is not just about outdoor education; it’s also about relationships and memories made while at resource, mealtime, or campfire. After all, this is what inspires me to support and give through the Friends of Outdoor School. It is my sincere hope that all sixth graders get an opportunity to experience Outdoor School and create their own memories.

While I now reside in Dallas, TX, Outdoor School continues to be a part of my life. I regularly sing the campfire songs I learned at ODS with my two-year-old son, who can’t get enough!"

- Amit "Zodiak" Patel

Wow! Donate your New Seasons Bag Refund to Friends of ODS!

At one of THREE local New Seasons stores, and you can now skip the paper bag and donate your 5-cent bag refund to help send kids to Outdoor School!

Shop at these New Seasons stores
Aug. 10 - Feb. 10:

Mountain Park (Lake Oswego)  
Grant Park (NE Broadway & 31st)  
Seven Corners (SE Division & 19th)
A Look Back at the Year...

March 5: The 50th anniversary of MESD ODS kicked off with a party at Camp Angelos/Sandy River attended by more than 300 staff members and families.

July 2: The Oregon Legislature made history by passing the Outdoor School bill into law!

September: Students in Reynolds and Portland Public School Districts returned to a full week of Outdoor School! YES!

October: MESD ODS and Mazamas launch Mazamas Science School for fifth grade students (see "MESD Highlights" for details).

December: For the sixth consecutive year, we were chosen for the Willamette Week Give!Guide, which raised $21,101!

March 5: The 50th anniversary of MESD ODS kicked off with a party at Camp Angelos/Sandy River attended by more than 300 staff members and families.

January: Julian Montoya won the 2015 Photo of the Year, our first year as an online-only contest.

February 9: Board member Rex Burkholder speaks at TEDx Portland, earning wild applause for ODS.

February 20: Outdoor School for All kicked off their funding measure campaign with a signature-gathering launch party at North Star Ballroom, with nearly 350 supporters in attendance.

May: ODS staff held their 8th Annual Pitch n' Putt FUNDraiser and collected over $2,000 for their “ODS Staff” Student Leader scholarship!

May: CommunicaCare’s Girls Inc. team awarded Friends of ODS $1,000.

June: Outdoor Project and Base Camp Brewery’s third annual Summer Solstice Block Party raised $3,000 for the ODS for All Campaign (see photos at Summer-Solsticepdx.com)

We also participated in Portland Arbor Day, Leach Botanical Garden Children’s Nature Fair, Earth Day, The Standard Volunteer Fair, Children’s Clean Water Festival, and more!

NW Natural will donate $5 for each customer who enrolls in paperless billing by August 30

- Sign in/register at nwnatural.com
- Choose "Go Paperless" then enroll
- Start receiving your gas bill online!

Earn us donations every time you shop with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer Community Rewards donates $2.5 million per year to NW nonprofits.

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of ODS at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

You keep all of your Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates
The program launched their new website with more teacher, staff, and parent resources—and even more updates to come!

Visit at mesdoutdoorschool.org

MESD Outdoor School Highlights

This year, 77 adults volunteered with MESD ODS to work one-on-one with a student with specific needs—that’s 6,545 volunteer hours!

MESD ODS programs had a total of 12,320 participants this year, including students, volunteers, student leaders, and teachers.

Their partnership with Mazamas grew with the introduction of Mazama Mountain Science School. This three-day, two-night outdoor school program immerses classrooms of fifth-graders in ecology, weather, climate, geography and math, all in the unique alpine environment. MESD completed three weeks of programming this winter and further honed the curriculum and program.

MESD ODS worked with their advisory committee to align their curriculum with new Oregon Science Standards (NGSS). You can view alignment documents here: www.mesdoutdoorschool.org/next-gen-science-standards.html

MESD ODS also honored 78 high school students who completed a total of five to six sessions as Student Leaders.
It's AdWILD's Fifth Summer!

This year, we welcomed our fabulous new camp manager, Casey "Lichen" Newman (pictured below), to the AdWILD team.

We've also expanded our camp offerings to include field trips to Mazama Lodge on Mount Hood and officially made the Mazama Mountaineering Center (SE 43rd and SE Stark) the camp's permanent home!

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