“Coming Alive” at Outdoor School
Jess “Tumi” Faunt

Six girls and I sat in a circle silenced by the invisible barrier of language... In previous weeks, I have tackled the timid first-hour-as-a-cabin phase with an arsenal of “get to know you games” that involve speaking and sharing, but I could tell this group was going to need a different tactic to prompt interaction. I returned to cabin time that evening carrying pens and stacks of paper. After lining the girls up heel to toe, I asked the girl at the end of the line to draw a picture... [and then] the rest of the girls passed this image down the line by tracing their finger on the person’s back in front of them.

What was supposed to be a picture of a flower turned out to be a crazy array of lines and swirls. A game that started in silence ended in a fit of giggles. Soon they were volunteering to draw the picture and were reorganizing themselves in the line near people they had not spoken to before. Though the exchange of words was minimal, there were shared jokes and experiences all the same... At Outdoor School my potential is limitless and I discover the best version of myself. My goal after every week and as I move forward in the world is to remember the person I am at Outdoor School: someone who is selfless, positive, confident and aware of other’s needs, and take that person back home...

Moving towards college and beyond I not only bring with me a redefined sense of myself, but the recognition that I need to find a purpose outside of myself to feel satisfied. Howard Thurman writes, “Don’t ask what the world needs, ask what makes you come alive. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive.” Outdoor School makes me come alive. And everyday I search to find ways to bring that same sense of fulfillment into my life; and the search for this feeling will be my navigation into the future.

SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Town Hall on 10/30

On October 30th from 9am to 10am we'll be holding a virtual Conservation Education Coalition "Town Hall" meeting over the phone. This is the next step for our Legislative work and it is your chance to be at the ground level of building a formal Conservation Education Coalition to support conservation education in Oregon.

And ANYONE is welcome to listen in! Those interested in joining the call should RSVP to Kim Silva at kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org with their name and contact information. Kim will send details of the agenda and how to phone in as the date gets closer.
HUGE THANKS TO NW NATURAL!

With the help from all our amazing supporters we won the Paperless Billing campaign challenge this summer! NW Natural chose us, Audubon of Portland, Oregon Zoo Foundation, and SOLVE in Oregon to encourage our networks to sign up for NW Natural’s paperless billing program and then new enroller’s got a chance to vote for us to win a portion of $25k!

All four organizations won part of the money but after a tight race we came in first and won $8k to send students to Outdoor School! That’s enough to send a full classroom of students to three days and two nights of Outdoor School; or for 15 student leaders to attend training and week of service! We are overjoyed!

THANK YOU to all those who voted!!"
The second summer of Adventure WILD Summer Day Camp, a benefit for Friends of Outdoor School, was a hit during all six weeks!

And get ready to plan for next summer because our Chinook Book coupon just got even better! Check out the 2014 Chinook Book for $50 off a full-week of full-day camp!

(Contact kate@friendsofoutdoorschool.org to buy your Chinook Book and/or mobile app and have your proceeds donated to ODS!)

www.facebook.com/AdventureWILDdaycamp @AdvWILDdaycamp www.adventurewild.org

Looking for Ways to Support Outdoor School?

Why not join your company’s Workplace Giving program? We are currently listed in the Combined Federal Campaign (#47206), Portland Public Schools (look for emails and materials coming soon), PGE, The Standard, Kaiser, Regence, and more!

Workplace Giving is easy and simple. After signing yourself up to donate an amount YOU determine, it will automatically withdraw from your paycheck every month.

Monthly giving is low impact for you but high reward for Outdoor School! Just $5 a month can supply a weeks worth of food for a student at Outdoor School.

If your office isn’t involved yet, please contact Kim at (503)257-1774 to see how you can enroll. Or, contact your HR department in your office!

“We the mentors I had at ODS pushed me to become the man I am today, and the scientist and teacher I never knew I was capable of [being].”

—Former ODS staff & current NASA employee

We’re in the Willamette Week’s Give!Guide again!

The 2013 guide will be included in the November 6th Willamette Week publication and will feature over 100 local nonprofits. The goal of the Give!Guide is to encourage year-end giving habits and specifically targets individuals 35 and younger. You’ll find Friends of Outdoor School and dozens of our partners listed in the guide.

We are SO excited to be included again and encourage you all will keep an eye on the Give! Guide’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GiveGuide) to see when the guide is offering it’s “big incentive” days!

Art Made at Adventure WILD!

Both these red and green pieces were made by 5 year-old Hugh during his week at Adventure WILD this Summer!

These pieces were made with recycled materials, leaves, and other bio-materials found around camp! With this project our campers were encouraged to notice their ecological footprint through art.

Wonder Learning Imagination Discovery
Fall 2013 Outdoor School Schedule

Week One: 9/29 - 10/4
Week Two: 10/6 - 10/11
Week Three: 10/13 - 10/18
Week Four: 10/20 - 10/25
Week Five: 10/27 - 11/1
Week Six: 11/3 - 11/8

Do you know a potential donor who would appreciate a tour of one of our Outdoor School sites? Contact Kim at (503)257-1774 to coordinate a visit!

All student leader visitors should contact the site directly to coordinate their evening visits to site. Howard: (503)695-2470, Sandy River: (503)695-5388, Arrah Wanna: (503)622-2619

Donate AND Save!

Buy your own 2014 Chinook Book and/or mobile coupon app (available for Android and iPhone) from Friends of Outdoor School and half your purchase will be donated back to us!

Chinook Book: $20
Mobile App: $15
Combo pack: $30

Contact Kate at kate@friendsofoutdoorschool.org or (503)257-1640 for more details, or to buy your own copies!