Outdoor School Funding on Track for Fall 2017

Due to our strong work in Salem this spring advocating for Measure 99 Outdoor School funding, we fully expect the Oregon Legislature to allocate enough of the state’s biennial budget to provide Outdoor School funding to all schools that apply, beginning fall 2017.

Further, lawmakers have provided assurance that they intend to allocate the full $44 million for Outdoor School in the 2019-2021 state budget. We recognize, however, the need for continued vigilance to protect the funding in years to come.

Friends of ODS will continue to lobby in Salem to protect current and future ODS funding, and to help OSU Extension with the planning and implementation of the new statewide Outdoor School.

Do you know a legislator? If so, please contact Kim Silva at kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org. She will assist you in calling or writing a statement in support of ODS funding.

Friends of ODS Welcomes New Board Members

In June, new faces joined our board of directors, bringing fresh perspectives and deep experience with Outdoor School.

Andy Lindberg is director of Namanu Programs & Facilities for Camp Fire Camp Namanu. Andy helped open the Namanu site for MESD Outdoor School in fall 1999 as Site Supervisor. He has also served as junior counselor, senior counselor, resource specialist and site supervisor for the MESD ODS.

Jen Grube is director of Philomath Outdoor School. Jen attended the program as a sixth-grader, served as a high school cabin leader, taught lessons as a college staff field leader, and was hired to direct the program in 2001. Her love of Outdoor School programming is boundless.

As Rex Burkholder, Jen Newlin and Amy Thomas come to the end of their board terms, we thank them for their years of devoted service to Friends of Outdoor School.
July 2016: Measure 99, the Outdoor School funding measure, officially qualified for the November 2016 state ballot. Friends of ODS announced a new partnership with Mazamas and opened the sixth summer of Adventure WILD day camp, debuting day trips to Mazama Lodge.

August 12: Friends of ODS and the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition announced the Outdoor Stories Project. Share your stories at OutdoorStoriesProject.com.

September: Portland celebrated the 50th anniversary of MESD Outdoor School at Terry Schrunk Plaza in downtown Portland.

October: NW Natural donated $15,000 to Friends of ODS as a way to thank its current, and newly-enrolled, paperless billing customers. Thank you, NW Natural!

November: Measure 99 wins! Oregonians made history by becoming the first state with dedicated funding for outdoor education. Friends of ODS joined together with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership to hold “Ecology Trivia Night,” raising more than $2,000. Photo of the Year 2017 was announced at Mazama's Portland Alpine Fest. Grand prize winner: Brit Laurenti for “The Mountains Are Aglow.” Friends of ODS began our ongoing support of OSU Extension’s preparations for the new ODS funding program.

December: For the sixth consecutive year, we joined 141 other nonprofits in Willamette Week’s annual Give!Guide, raising a total of $14,956.

February 2017: Friends of ODS was chosen by New Seasons employees to be one of the charity beneficiaries of their “Bag it Forward” program at FOUR neighborhood stores!

March: Once again, we helped bring the fun—and science learning—to more than 1,400 regional fourth-graders at the 24th Annual Children’s Clean Water Festival.

May: Friends of ODS launched a "team sponsorship" fundraising campaign for MESD ODS staff's 11th Annual Pitch n’ Putt F.U.N.draiser, totaling $4,646 in donations for Student Leader scholarships (see story, opposite page). OSU Extension selected the ODS funding program’s Advisory Committee and Work Group members; the first Advisory Committee meeting was held June 5 & 6. Friends of ODS began planning for its charter Alumni, Youth, and Business Associations.

June: Six $1,000 college scholarships were awarded to incredible, dedicated Student Leaders (see story, pg. 4).
Dan "Teal" Prince

THANK YOU for 25 years of service to MESD ODS and to the KIDS OF OREGON!
We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

On June 23, Dan “Teal” Prince stepped down as the head of MESD Outdoor School after 25 years of service.

“Dan was a pioneer in making Outdoor School truly life-changing for all involved,” said Ron Hitchcock, former MESD superintendent. Hitchcock witnessed Dan’s evolution from devoted young teacher to a highly experienced, visionary and politically sophisticated leader.

Dan loves and understands kids. He saw that the true magic of Outdoor School couldn’t be accomplished in just two or three nights. So, throughout his tenure Dan worked with hundreds of funders, officials and lawmakers to reach the goal of a five-night program for all students, culminating in the historic passage of the Outdoor School law.

“Dan would invite them to come onsite, eat lunch with the kids, and see what happens at camp for themselves,” said Hitchcock. “No one ever left thinking Outdoor School wasn’t incredibly valuable.”

Hitchcock credits Dan with creating a sustainable program that has generated thousands of young leaders, who in turn have gone on to make a difference in their communities. With the solid foundation Dan has built, Hitchcock has no doubt the program will continue its successful path for thousands more students, Student Leaders and staff.

As MESD begins the search for the next coordinator, Dan is exploring options for his next professional adventure.

“Just don’t say I’ve left to ‘spend more time with family,’” he winked. “Everybody will think I’m under indictment.”

1987 Received BA in philosophy (Whitman College)
1988 Hired as ODS Senior Counselor at Collins
1993 Received teaching certificate (Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks)
1995 Hired as Howard Site Supervisor
1998 Jennifer & Dan marry at Camp Howard
2003 Hired as Oregon Trail Site Supervisor
2005 Received MS in education leadership (PSU), hired as MESD ODS Coordinator
New Horizons for Friends of ODS

We've been busy! Friends of ODS is developing not one, not two, but three new programs: an ODS Alumni Association, a Youth Association and a Business Association.

We recently circulated a survey asking supporters what they would like to see in an alumni association, and boy, did they answer! We received a lot of valuable feedback and have decided to officially launch the program. Look for information about how you can join this fall.

Friends of ODS has also hired Gladys Ruiz, an environmental education and youth workforce development consultant, to conduct a “landscape scan” and submit recommendations for the planned Youth Association.

Lastly, we’re developing a program that will feature Oregon businesses that champion Outdoor School.

$4,646!

That’s the amazing amount that MESD ODS staff and supporters raised during the 11th Annual Pitch n' Putt F.U.N.draiser, an event organized each year by MESD ODS staffer Andrea "Coho" Hussey, to raise money for Student Leader scholarships (see story, opposite page).

This year debuted a new way that supporters could contribute: by sponsoring a golf team! Dozens upon dozens of you joined the online effort, surpassing our goal of $4,000.

Team "Sweet Kelly Wade" won the new G.L.O.A.T. award for highest total team sponsorships, while Team "The Women" took home the coveted Unity Award.

THANK YOU to all of our Pitch n' Putt supporters!
2017 Student Leader Scholarship Awards

Each spring, Friends of Outdoor School awards scholarships to high school students who have volunteered as Outdoor School or Oregon Trail Student Leaders for at least three sessions. This year, six recipients received $1,000 each toward their college education. Funding for the scholarships comes from sales of Outdoor School merchandise, direct donations, and the annual Outdoor School Staff Golf Tournament F.U.N.draiser (see story, opposite page).

Sierra “Nebula” Smith
St. Mary’s Academy
Nebula intends to study environmental science or environmental engineering.
“My ODS experience stands as a reminder to involve myself in the outdoors, to be a leader in my community, to listen and reach out, to be my best self.”

Jo “Orion” Butenhoff
Wilson High School
Orion will attend Western Washington University, and possibly graduate school.
“I’ve poured so much of myself into Outdoor School, and I’ve gotten even more back.”

Eliza “Chickadee” Enriquez
St. Mary’s Academy
Chickadee plans to attend a four-year college and to seek out opportunities in a classroom, the outdoors, abroad, and in human connection.
“I have found a passion for mentoring and teaching, and I intend on carrying these qualities in my tool box with me forever.”

Iris “Arpeggio” Cohn
St. Mary’s Academy
Arpeggio is considering attending Knox College in Illinois, and plans to study education.
“At ODS I found ... a version of who I am that I want to follow for the rest of my life.”

Darcy “Antler” Semler
St. Mary’s Academy
Antler plans to study forestry and natural resources.
“When I am ‘Antler’ I do not suppress who I am, and I work to show other people that who they are is beautiful.”

Elijah “YoYo” Tan
Cleveland High School
YoYo will attend the University of Oregon, majoring in Environmental Science and Chinese.
“ODS ... provided me with endless tools to be successful in life.”
Two Easy, FREE Ways You Can Support Outdoor School:

**Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of ODS at:**
FredMeyer.com/CommunityRewards

Every time you shop, you'll help Outdoor School earn donations! (You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates).

![Community Rewards Logo](image.png)

**AmazonSmile**
You shop. Amazon gives.

Earn donations for Friends of ODS every time you shop with Amazon.

Simply visit smile.amazon.com & select us as your charity. Bookmark the page!

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

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