

# 2009-2010 Friends of Outdoor School *Year in Review*



## Your Impact, Over the Years

Did you know that, over the years, Friends of Outdoor School members have contributed over \$1 million to send kids to Outdoor School? Wow!

One million dollars provides:

- 1.2 million wood cookies – enough for 40,000 classrooms!
- 5,000 bus trips to and from Outdoor School – enough for 150,000 students!
- 2,000 Student Leaders, training and a week of service – enough to serve 7,400 6<sup>th</sup> graders!
- 1,000 weeks of a professional Outdoor School educator – enough to serve 150,000 students!
- 3,000 middle school kids to attend Outdoor School for a week!

Because of Friends of Outdoor School, millions of more dollars have gone directly to school districts and Outdoor School programs. In the last year, Friends of Outdoor School has helped schools and districts in the region secure \$239,000 in grants from the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. With the help of Friends of Outdoor School members letting their local Metro Councilors know of their support for the project, Outdoor School is moving into its second year of funding from Metro. This partnership is valued at \$1.4 million for the region. Although these big numbers are impressive, what is most important are the individual stories of how much Outdoor School means to individual students. You are making this happen!

I'm always proud to tell people what I do for a living. Who else is lucky enough to talk about Outdoor School for a living? I'm constantly inspired by you, those who care enough to make sure Outdoor School is available to all middle and high school students in the region. Thank you for your generosity and passion!



Students investigate carnivorous plants during field study.

*Letter from a parent, October 21, 2009:*

*My wife and I dropped off her son for his first year of college at University of Oregon last month. As we were driving back we were reflecting on how he had grown in the past few years. We remembered when he was a shy, quiet and unsocial young man early in high school and remarked that now he was a very mature, happy and well socialized young man.*

*We tried to determine what happened to cause such a positive change. Then we realized when the change happened - when he was a student leader at Outdoor School his sophomore year. I vividly remember picking him up from his first week. I expected him to respond when asked how his time was with some simple response like "ok." and that would end the conversation. Rather, I got an excited, "that was the best week of my life," followed by a vivid description of why it was such a valuable week for him.*

*He hasn't been the same since.*

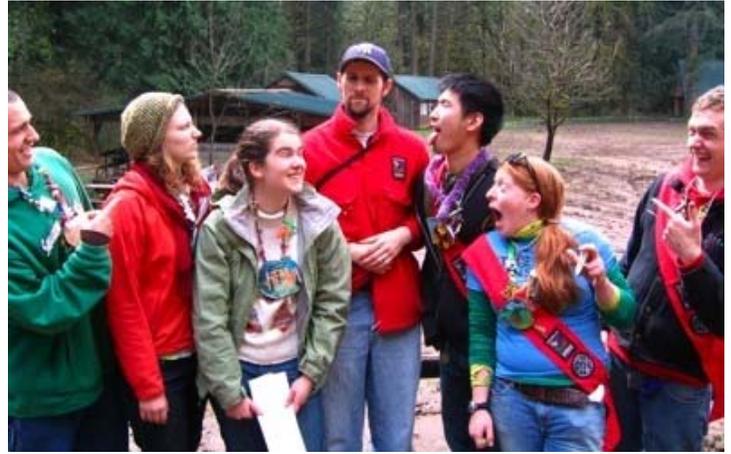
*Thank you Outdoor School! In my 31 years with Portland Public Schools, I have yet to see any organization do so much with so little for so many people. Nothing comes close.*

## Seasonal Environmental Educators Professional Group

This year, Outdoor School and Friends of Outdoor School helped create a professional group for seasonal environmental educators. The group is looking to share job and professional development opportunities, shared housing and transportation options, solve health insurance and retirement issues, and to work with Environmental Education Association of Oregon on advocacy for seasonal staff.

To join this network, visit:

<http://seasonaleducatorsor.ning.com/>



Camp Namanu staff take a moment to laugh.

## 2009-2010 Outdoor School Student Leader Scholarship winners!

Kella "Robin" Carlson from Sam Barlow High School and Camp Howard was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. Faced with her own learning challenges, Kella has a gift for connecting with struggling 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Outdoor School. Kella plans to follow in her parents' footsteps by pursuing a career in special education. Kella will attend Mt. Hood Community College, and then transfer to Western Oregon University.

Carlos "Eclipse" Jimenez-Canul from Sam Barlow High School and Camp Arrah Wanna was awarded the Margaret "Lorax" Eng Scholarship for \$1,500. Always giving from the heart, Carlos rallied his fellow students to raise \$500 to benefit the burned Marysville School. Carlos will attend Mt. Hood Community College to become a teacher.

Jeremy "Cous Cous" Hedlund from Central Catholic High School and Camp Howard was awarded the Friends of Outdoor School Scholarship for \$1,500. With a passion to "affect massive social change", Jeremy is an avid volunteer for local and international organizations. Jeremy plans to serve in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after attending Marquette University.

Lexington "Grizzly" Martin from Sam Barlow High School and Camp Namanu was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. An inspiration to children of all ages, Lexington is a baseball coach for a special needs team. Lexington plans to attend Western Oregon University to study education and sign language.

Caley "Luna" Gallison from Wilson High School and Camp Namanu was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. A leader with concern for global issues, Caley works to fight poverty through education and empowerment with the Wilson Global Citizen Corps. Caley plans to attend Colorado College, Whitman College, or University of Puget Sound then join Peace Corps.

Joellen "Golly" Sweeney from Cleveland High School and Camp Adams was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. An accomplished actress and singer, Joellen is able to make arriving sixth graders feel instantly at ease. Joellen plans to attend Willamette University to study education.

Nathan "Mars" Sany from Cleveland High School and all the Outdoor School sites (Yes! All of them!) was awarded the Outdoor School Staff Scholarship for \$750. Deeply committed to the success of his students, Nathan regularly missed out on his personal time at Outdoor School to spend more time with his 6<sup>th</sup> grade cabin group. Nathan will study anthropology at Whitman College.

Jessica "Trillium" Myers from Franklin High School, Camp Arrah Wanna and Oregon Trail was awarded a \$750 scholarship. Through her tireless, dedicated work with a special needs boy, Jessica was awarded Big Brothers Big Sister's prestigious 2009 Teen Big of the Year award. Jessica plans to attend a university and pursue a career working with children.

Ellen "Button" Claussen from Saint Mary's Academy and Camp Sandy River was awarded a \$750 scholarship. With a deep passion for the environment developed through her work at Outdoor School, Ellen will live in the very cool Environmental Sustainability Living and Learning community at the University of Denver. This Spanish-speaking nanny for a French-speaking four year old will major in anthropology or archeology and minor in Spanish.

## Outdoor School, The Epic

Village and Collaborative Skills by Tony Deis, Trackers NW/Trackers Studios on Jun 11, 2010

There is a place called "The Outdoor School". Officially, you could call it Multnomah Education Service District Outdoor School, but the reality is MESD Outdoor School is the spring from which all other Outdoor Schools flow.

Look around our town. A high quality of life, easy social lifestyle and an obsession with all things green blooms from a simple culture which Outdoor School created and brought forth almost half a century ago. Down potholed gravel roads leading into enchanted forests, through longhouse dining halls and rustic cabins, along the banks of the Sandy River and down the trails of blacktail deer, no other part of Portlandia's history is so essential to our identity. Don't believe me? Here's my linchpin...

Every 6th grader in Multnomah County has attended Outdoor School. They have spent six days in a world populated by epic landscapes and larger than life legends such as Digger, Teal, and a Jedi-like wizard named Shade. They have traveled down the trails of Pacific Northwest forests straight out of Middle Earth while learning about the gorgeous and complex living web by which we all thrive. It is a matter of fact, Portland is interesting because of Outdoor School.

In a world where everyone fears what will happen next, where people constantly rally over a broken government, where our institutions of four-walled education stopped working long ago and continue spiraling into dysfunction, Outdoor School has turned high school students into leaders empowered to make the world far more epic than our current culture's celebration of mediocrity! And, it has become a secret village that absolutely works for one magical week for every middle school kid in our idyllic Willamette Valley.

"The Outdoor School" has no superior, nor equal... and the awesome secret? It's the mettle and the heart of Portland's green blood.

To join the Trackers blog, visit: <http://trackerspdx.com/blog>

### *A Special Note from David Wierth, Jackson Middle School Science Teacher*

*I decided to take my students on an overnight field trip to Camp Kiwanilong about four weeks after our Outdoor School experience.*

*From the inception of the idea, my students, Outdoor School memories still fresh in their minds, began planning the entire two-day event. They planned the menu, cooked the food, planned and executed the duty schedule (dining room duties, kitchen duties, campfire prep...) and even taught the parent chaperones who came with us about symbiotic relationships and how each of the four field studies at Outdoor School are interconnected.*

*As we were at the beach, many kids climbed up on the sand dune and urgently called me up there. Thinking something was amiss, I scurried up the hill, only to see how excited the kids were to observe that the view revealed a distinct edge between four very different biomes. I was a very proud science teacher to see how excited they were to recognize powerful scientific concepts learned at Outdoor School then applied in a real world context.*

*ODS is by far the best program that I've witnessed for its ability to take students from all walks of life and immerse them completely in the content. In terms of authentic student engagement and enduring understanding of what they learn, nothing compares to Outdoor School.*

## PHOTO of the Year 2009



The Photo of the Year 2009 contest raised a record \$14,800 to send students to Outdoor School. Held at the Oregon Historical Society, the annual awards ceremony hosted 300 guests on January 23, 2009. This winning photo was taken in Nepal by Bryan Duevel.

## Friends Find Creative Ways to Support Outdoor School

This has been an exciting year of creativity and personal engagement from the Friends of Outdoor School community to support Outdoor School:

- **Jeff Hermens** hosted a poker tournament at his High Rocks Restaurant in March. The tournament raised over \$1,000 to send students to Outdoor School.
- Namanu site staff member, **Lafcadio Adams**, is offering note cards featuring her incredible photography as a fundraiser to send students to Outdoor School. To order a set of her cards, visit her Etsy shop: [http://www.etsy.com/shop/DaogreerEarthWorks?section\\_id=6677791](http://www.etsy.com/shop/DaogreerEarthWorks?section_id=6677791)
- Because they had such a wonderful time at Outdoor School, **Mrs. Smith's 6th grade class at St. Thomas More** raised \$111.21 with a penny drive to help other schools have their own Outdoor School experience.
- **Aj Staudt** challenged his Facebook friends to register for a special page he created. When 300 people joined, he donated all of his Christmas gift money, a total of \$300!
- **Two anonymous donors** offered \$400 total if Friends of Outdoor School Facebook friends would match their gifts. A total of \$960 was raised!
- Our partners at the **U.S. Forest Service** and the **Northwest Outdoor School** encouraged the **Oregon Youth Conservation Corps** to share conservation education interns with Outdoor School. Each site enjoyed an OYCC intern who was paid with Federal stimulus funds.



*Thank you for honoring me and supporting my future [with an ODS Student Leader Scholarship]. Outdoor School has shaped my life in ways that I didn't know it could...I am capable, competent and worthy of responsibility. Thank you for making the scholarship and the six most rewarding weeks in my life.*

*- Joellen, Student Leader Scholarship Winner*

## Other Interesting News

### How to Start Your Own Outdoor School Guide

We are working with the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation and O'Dell Communications to create a guide to starting and sustaining a residential Outdoor School program in Oregon.

### Friends of Outdoor School Finds Ways to Serve More Students

Since Friends of Outdoor School was founded in 2003, unrestricted donations have been shared only with Multnomah County school districts. As of July 2010, unrestricted donations will be shared with all the schools and districts that the MESD Outdoor School serves as long as those schools and districts attend Outdoor School at least 3 days and 2 nights. This change will help Outdoor School even more students!

Friends of Outdoor School is working with Northwest Regional Education Service District's Outdoor School and The Intertwine to secure more than a million dollars in Federal grant funding to help send Washington County students to Outdoor School. The project will compare the educational results over five years of students who do not attend Outdoor School, students who attend for a week, and students who attend for half a week. We expect the results to demonstrate that the Outdoor School experience sets the foundation for educational success in middle school and high school.

## Educating for Sustainability

### Sustainable Oregon School Initiative

In partnership with Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI), Outdoor School hosted a sustainability workshop for the Multnomah, Clackamas, Northwest Regional and Willamette Education Service Districts at Camp Angelos (affectionately known as Camp Sandy River). The two-day workshop funded by the Environmental Protection Agency included field study with several exceptional Student Leaders, information about green jobs and the greening of Oregon's workforce, education for sustainability, and a how to create a sustainability plan for each district.

For more information, a set of the workshop PowerPoint presentations is posted on the SOSI event archive webpage: [http://sustainableschools.org/about/past\\_events.htm#ESDWorkshops](http://sustainableschools.org/about/past_events.htm#ESDWorkshops)

### Metro-Outdoor School Partnership Award

On June 18, 2010, the Association of Oregon Recyclers named the Metro Waste Reduction Education at Outdoor School program (our Metro-Outdoor School partnership) the Education Program of the Year!



Because of this partnership, students are inspired to use reusable water bottles, carry lunch and snacks to school in reusable containers, borrow a library book instead of buying a new one, use reusable bags and cloth napkins, and to recycle when they must use something disposable.

Teachers continue to be enthusiastic about the partnership:

*It's nice to see conservation woven into field studies, mealtimes and overall conversation. Well done!*

*I think conservation at ODS makes it more meaningful for students*

*It is practical without being political. Great job!*

*So glad to see that it is happening and students/staff are being proactive about conserving resources!*

*The whole curriculum relates directly to conservation education - this is essential and effective for long term health.*



## No Oregon Child Left Inside Legislation Update

Friends of Outdoor School and Outdoor School continues to be involved with No Child Left Inside Coalition. An Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force has been assembled by the Oregon Department of Education to create an environmental literacy plan for Oregon schools. Once this plan is created, Oregon will become eligible for Federal monies to implement the plan. Because Outdoor School is the premiere program accessible to all students, we hope that Outdoor School will become a requirement for schools to fulfill their environmental literacy mandates.. In the meantime, President Obama has included environmental education wording in his blueprint for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act further supporting the need for environmental education.

For more information about No Child Left Inside and No Oregon Child Left Inside, visit:

<http://www.thefreshwatertrust.org/education/nocli>

<http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=687>



Current and former staff honor Bob's memory at a Camp Sandy River camp fire.

## Tree Planting Memorial for Bob "Mr. Bob" Burgess

Mark your calendars for a special tree planting to honor the memory of Bob "Mr. Bob" Burgess, co-founder of Outdoor School

Veteran's Day  
Thursday, November 11, 2010  
at the MESD: 11611 NE Ainsworth Cir, Portland

More information to follow.

*I always felt a little odd at school, but at Outdoor School, I am always awesome! In 6th grade, I felt like I belonged and was smart at Outdoor School. As an [Outdoor School] Student Leader, I've grown into a happy and strong leader.*

*-Julia, high school Student Leader*

Friends of Outdoor School is a program of the E<sup>2</sup> Foundation.  
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[www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org](http://www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org)



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