

## Outdoor School Updates and Information #3

**April 10, 2017<sup>1</sup>**

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On November 8, 2016, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 99, which designated funding for outdoor school programming for every 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student in Oregon. This measure followed the adoption of Senate Bill 439 by the 2015 Oregon Legislature which directed Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and educational service districts to provide an Outdoor School program.

Following passage of Measure 99, OSU Extension Service began preparing to administer and implement the statewide Outdoor School program—in anticipation of the Oregon Legislature’s consideration of approving funding for the program to begin July 2017. External funding provided to the OSU Extension Service by private stakeholders, who support outdoor school programming, enabled Oregon State to employ Susan Sahnaw, leader of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program. In this role, Susan is coordinating early Outdoor School program efforts among stakeholders. A website (<http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>) was created to share information, solicit feedback, and provide resources.

### Highlights

#### Legislative update

- Measure 99 is statutory, not constitutional, which means next steps and funding decisions regarding this measure will be made by the Oregon Legislature. The final determination of funding for the Outdoor School Program for the 2017-19 biennium is part of the legislative budgeting process.

#### Progress to date and anticipated next steps:

- **January–February:** Stakeholders provided input regarding administration and implementation of the program. Input gathered on draft Advisory Committee and Work Group position descriptions.
- **February 21 - March 15:** Application period for Advisory Committee and Work Group members.
- **March:** 120 applications received and reviewed. Draft grant application process review launched.
- **April:** Advisory Committee and Working Group members notified. Membership lists of committee and work groups will be posted on Outdoor School website in late April. Anticipate posting job announcement for Outdoor School leadership position.
- **May 5–6:** Advisory Committee meeting.
- **June:** Anticipate interviews and selection of Outdoor School leader.
- **July:** Begin accepting applications from school districts and education service districts for Outdoor School programs for the 2017–2018 school year. (Grants to be provided dependent on the Oregon Legislature approving funding for Outdoor School to begin July 2017)
- **September:** If legislative funding is approved, students begin attending Outdoor School.

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<sup>1</sup> *Outdoor School Updates and Information* announcements are published monthly or as progress is made in development of the program. To be added to the stakeholder listserv and receive these announcements directly, send your email address to [outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu](mailto:outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu)