The Fight for Outdoor School State Funding Continues

Due to the state's $1.6 billion budget deficit, the Oregon Legislature Ways & Means Budget Committee recently completed a seven-town listening session to listen to citizens' opinions on how to bridge this gap. So, we asked our Outdoor School supporters to attend and publicly advocate for keeping the program's hard-won new funding.

In addition, Friends of Outdoor School and the Gray Family Foundation have engaged Thorn Run Partners. This Salem lobbying firm is working with lawmakers to keep full Outdoor School funding in Oregon's biennial budget, and negotiating to ensure that the Legislature releases funding to OSU Extension in July, which would allow it to begin official work on developing the funding program.

Last November, voters passed Outdoor School state funding (Measure 99) into law by a wide margin. But because Measure 99 is statutory, not constitutional, the Legislature has the power to alter, delay or repeal the measure.

Since the election, we've been working closely with Extension to support their research and outreach needs as the program moves forward. (see pg. 2 for more information on these efforts.)

Defend ODS Funding in 5 Minutes!

We’re confident the Legislature will honor Oregon voters’ choice to fully fund Outdoor School — but only if you remind them of your vote.

We need to deluge the Budget Committee with brief, personalized letters from you, the voter. A personalized letter makes a big impact and helps to ensure that the Legislature remembers how many of us support state funding for Outdoor School.

Follow 4 steps and in 5 minutes to make your voice heard. It’s the easiest thing you’ll do all year to support great education for Oregon kids!

Write Your 5-Minute Letter Now: tinyurl.com/ODS-letters

"Outdoor School gives children who struggle the chance for a fresh view of themselves and their age peers, away from the poverty, failure, mistrust, and impossibly difficult experiences as “different” or “odd” that they may feel in their local schools. For one week, all the participants are part of a cohesive community where they are accepted, challenged, and cherished for their potential. Every child deserves this experience in growth and renewal."

~ Jean Josephson, educator
OSU Extension Outdoor School Funding Program Update

OSU Extension anticipates that at least a portion of the annual $22 million appropriated for Outdoor School will be available July 1, 2017. OSU cannot utilize state funds for the Outdoor School funding program prior to that date.

To assist OSU Extension until state funding is received, Friends of Outdoor School, the Gray Family Foundation and others have been providing significant support via research, outreach to camps, program providers and schools.

With the help of supporting organizations and individuals statewide, an Advisory Committee and six Work Groups (Camp Facilities; Curriculum; Research, Evaluation and Assessment; Onsite Activities and Programming; Professional Development; and Thinking Forward) are forming. These committees will bring together deep expertise and diverse viewpoints to create a funding program that best meets the needs of ODS programs and schools statewide. The application period for membership closed on March 15, and applicants will be notified April 3-5. The first Advisory Committee meeting will be held May 5-6 (Work Group meeting dates to be announced).

If funding is provided by the Legislature on July 1, the timeline is as follows:
- April/May: Develop OSU Outdoor School Director position description and Year 1 application process to fund school districts and ESDs for fall Outdoor Schools.
- June/July: ODS Director interviewed and selected; funding available for fall Outdoor School is identified and communicated to stakeholders and grant applicants.
- Sept/Oct: Students attend Outdoor School through funding from OSU Extension.

For more information, visit: oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool. To be added to the OSU Extension funding program email list, send your name to: outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu

Free Family Estate Talk

Brought to you by Friends of Outdoor School

Save your Green: The Busy Parents’ 10 Most Common Estate Planning Mistakes

Presented by Michelle-Shari Kruss, Attorney

This St. Patty's Day, don’t leave your family's future to luck. If you have children of any age, you’ll hear invaluable advice from family estate planning attorney Michelle-Shari Kruss. All attendees are offered a free initial consult ($300 value)!

Details & RSVP: tinyurl.com/Krusslaw

Friday, March 17th
9:30-10:30 am
True Brew Coffeehouse
3370 SE Milwaukie Ave.
truebrewcoffeehouse.com
**Hurray! ODS Spring Session is Here**

Eleven new NWRESD staff members are joining 32 veterans this year, as NWRESD welcomes 6,580 students to Cedar Ridge, Trickle Creek, Magruder and Westwind sites between March 13 and June 2.

The program is still working to recruit more Student Leaders this spring, but they hope to have more than 800 high school and college students participate.

NWRESD also recently welcomed a new administrative assistant, Amanda Hampton!

“Like all programs around the state,” said John Jackson, NWRESD Outdoor Science School Supervisor, “we’re anxiously watching the goings-on in Salem and hoping that the Legislature does not reduce or eliminate Measure 99 funding. It’s been difficult to plan for next year in any great detail without knowing what the funding picture will look like. Fingers crossed.”

MESD Outdoor School expects to welcome about 3,200 sixth-graders and 3,000 fourth-graders this spring, at five Outdoor School and two Oregon Trail sites. They’ve hired approximately 20 new staffers from around the country to make both programs a success this spring.

As part of its ongoing goal to reflect and support diverse perspectives, MESD is currently working with a community group to update its Oregon Trail curriculum to more accurately include cultures and races, such as Native Americans and Chinese, that were just as important to the history of westward expansion as white settlers.

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**Adventures WILD**

**Summer Day Camp**

Early-bird: $35 off until April 1

Mazama Mountaineering Center
SE Portland
Ages 4-10, 9am - 5pm

AdventurerWild.org

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

Shop at the New Seasons Hawthorne & donate your 5-cent bag refund to help send kids to Outdoor School!

4034 SE Hawthorne Blvd

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**Come eat with us!**

**20% Goes Back to ODS**

Restaurant Fundraiser
Wed, March 22
4:30pm-9:00pm

RSVP: GroupRaise.com/events/21758
(At least 20 diners must RSVP)

Wild Abandon
2411 SE Belmont St.
Thank You

Your vigorous participation in the following winter 2016 fundraisers gave more students the opportunity to attend spring Outdoor School:

During our sixth year as part of Willamette Week’s Give!Guide, we raised more than $14,000!

Hopwork’s Community Tap Partner program donates 1% of all pint proceeds raising $1,223 for Friends of ODS during the month of December!

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### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>NWRESD ODS Spring Session opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Free talk: &quot;Save Your Green: Busy Parents 10 Most Common Family Estate Planning Mistakes&quot; 9:30-10:30 am (see pg. 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Fundraiser Dining Night – Wild Abandon, SE PDX, 4:40-9 pm RSVP groupraise.com/events/21758</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Last Day: $35 off Adventure WILD camp</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Nike Family Resource Fair, 3:30-5:30 pm (visit our booth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>MESD ODS/Oregon Trail Overnight Spring Session opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Earth Day, Arbor Day celebration, Mt. Scott Park, 10:00 am-3:00 pm (visit our booth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Leach Botanical Garden Children’s Fair, 10:00 am-2:00 pm (visit our booth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Oregon State Legislative Session closes: state budget announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Adventure WILD! opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 12</td>
<td>Last day of Adventure WILD!</td>
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www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org

For more information, contact Kim Silva at Kim@FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org or 503-277-1774