

2011-2012 Friends of Outdoor School Year in Review



This year Vs. Next Year

As you know, the 2011-2012 school year was challenging, but you brought success! The funding crisis has fueled ODS supporters. Without your help, Portland Public would surely not be attending Outdoor School at all next year. Instead, they'll join Gresham-Barlow, North Marion, and David Douglas for three days. Parkrose and Lake Oswego plan to attend for four days; while Corbett, Riverdale, and many private schools continue to attend for a full week. The districts will be fundraising through the summer and school year. Check our website to find cool upcoming events that support them:

- www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org;
- www.facebook.com/FriendsOfODS;
- www.facebook.com/ODSforDDS;
- www.facebook.com/groups/saveoutdoorschool; or
- Find "Outdoor School for Corbett," "Parkrose Friends of Outdoor School," and "Outdoor School for Gresham/Barlow" all on Facebook!

You're in The Intertwine

Access to parks and natural areas close to home and work has become increasingly important to our communities' health and well being. The Intertwine Alliance is a broad coalition of public, private and nonprofit organizations. We work in partnership to promote, protect and improve The Intertwine. The Intertwine Alliance has two major objectives: to ensure the region's network of parks, trails and natural areas are completed and cared for; and to help the residents of the region connect with nature and live active, healthy lives. Our very own Dan "Teal" Prince is serving on the Intertwine Conservation Education Leadership Council. The council is dedicated to providing support to the conservation education community. The goal is to bring more resources and a more coordinated effort to help our region's citizens learn about, care about, and care for natural areas. The opportunity to work together to leverage resources, expertise and support for conservation is exciting, and having ODS take on a leadership role is a great fit for our mission.

The minute I got on the school bus to head home [from ODS as a 6th grader] I knew I would be returning in high school as a Student Leader.

— Danielle "Butterfly" Lee, Student Leader

Portland Public Will Go to ODS!

With the help from the Portlanders for Outdoor School volunteer group, both the East and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the City of Portland, we can happily say that Portland Public School District will be attending Outdoor School in the 2012-2013 school year for half a week! Providing the critical mass, PPS ensures that all districts may attend Outdoor School.

BIG THANK YOU to all those involved in helping next year's 6th graders attend ODS!

ArtODS Insight from Jennifer "Jingo" Starkey

This past Fall and Spring, ODS has been running a pilot project to see what it would look like for more arts, visuals, and creative thinking to be a part of the curriculum at ODS, thanks to funding from the Gray Family Fund, the Starseed Foundation, and the Wieden Family Public Fund. Artist in Residence Hannah "Minty" Jickling and Art Integration Coordinator Jennifer "Jingo" Starkey spent Fall session on site working with the Howard ODS staff to develop lessons and experiences related to art in the outdoors. Using mapmaking, drawing, photography, video, writing, sculpture, and more, students learned about aquatic wildlife, habitats, plant communities, and soil layers. A book of sixth grade students' photography, as well as a book that documents the pilot project, will be completed late this summer.



2012 Outdoor School Scholarship Winners

Flannery “Lego” Bethel always has a great story for her students at Outdoor School—she can proudly tell them that she’s a “world champion in Lego robotics!” When she wasn’t working after school with the Cleveland High School Lego robotics team, she was studying for her AP classes and leading her student body as the 2012 Senior Class President. Between all her academics, she somehow still found time to volunteer at Outdoor School 5 times! She was awarded a \$1,200 Student Leader Scholarship and plans to attend the University of Oregon’s Clark Honors College in the Fall.

Emilie “Elf” Fisher was raised in a family full of architects and didn’t realize that she, too, could “be good” at science until she taught Soil field study at Outdoor School. She quickly fell in love with soil, and science in general, and decided she would one day become a pediatric cardiologist. Her passion for Outdoor School and soil field study spread through her many sixth grade charges during her 6 weeks at Howard. Emilie is a new graduate of Cleveland High School and her \$1,200 Student Leader Scholarship will surely aid her plans to attend Scripps College this Fall.



Chiara “Hyla” Forrester loves and believes in Outdoor School so much that she organized her own Outdoor School program for middle school students at her school, Pacific Crest. Hyla was integral in many Save Outdoor School efforts last summer and has often been the “face” of Student Leaders, representing the group at many events and award presentations. Her success at Outdoor School and in the “real world” has led her to receive the \$1,200 Heather Schoeck Memorial Scholarship which she undoubtedly will use this Fall when she attends Hampshire College to study Environmental Science and Education toward becoming a teacher.

Julaina “Jay” Montgomery so loves the name she chose for Oregon Trail that she uses it in her daily life. The Oregon Trail program taught Jay to not only teach 4th graders, but also gracefully handle their parents! She is the first student leader who has strictly gone to the Oregon Trail program and received a Student Leader Scholarship. Fittingly, she received the Lorax Scholarship, and now that she’s a graduate of Grant High School we’re sure she’ll use her \$1,200 to attend college this fall to study Psychology at George Fox University, and someday become a child psychologist to help at-risk youth.

Thuc “Alchemist” Vinh is a first generation student whose parents are from Vietnam. Alchemist was another strong leader in the Save Outdoor School movement last summer; and additionally helped save Benson High School (now his alma-mater) from being shut down. Alchemist volunteered 9 weeks total at the Arrah Wanna, Namanu, and Howard Outdoor School sites; and each set of staff members were continually impressed with his willingness to learn and grow as a leader and student. For that reason, Alchemist was awarded the \$1,200 ODS Staff Scholarship which he’ll put to good use studying Video Production at University of Oregon this fall.

Congratulations to our 2012 Student Leader Scholars and GOOD LUCK in all your future endeavors!

Counting the Rings

Don’t forget, you can still get your own copy of *Counting the Rings*, Outdoor School’s testimonial book, edited by Karen “Ocean” Nichols and Lafcadio Adams for \$15. Please contact Kate Schaeffer if you’re interested in purchasing one: kate@friendsofoutdoorschool.org or (503)257-1640

Thank You, Jeanne Roy!

When Portland Public School District Superintendent announced they would be cutting funding for Outdoor School, many parents, teachers, students and volunteers immediately asked “What needs to happen to save this program?” Jeanne Roy, Briggy Thomas, Celeste Lewis, and Brent Foster were no different. A group of dedicated volunteers and parents who decided funding wouldn’t be cut from PPS if they had their way, aptly named themselves “Portlanders for ODS.” The group was integral in the proposals to the East & West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Districts, as well as an appeal to the City of Portland, and the PPS board. Jeanne, in particular, wouldn’t take no for an answer. She and her team were the ones behind the rally at City Hall and spent countless hours emailing, calling, and scheduling meetings with everyone in their extended, powerful, networks. Without Jeanne’s help, PPS may have not been able to obtain donations from the East & West Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or to encourage the PPS board to put money in themselves. So, on behalf of the students at PPS, **thank you Jeanne and the Portlanders for ODS!! THANK YOU for helping save ODS for PPS!!**

What Else Happened This Last Year?

- Friends of ODS receives \$5,000 from the Portland Water Bureau to send kids to Outdoor School.
- Comcast SportsNet featured Outdoor School again on their Wild Life with Jeremy series.
- Willamette Week Give!Guide features Friends of ODS again, raising more than \$13,000—that’s \$4,000 more than last year!
- Photo of the Year celebrates it’s 10 year anniversary and hits more than \$100,000 total raised for Outdoor School.
- Friends of ODS partners with SharingSpree, CafeGive, CafePress, eScrip, and 1% for the Planet to support ODS.
- OPB radio interviews Dan “Teal” Prince.
- Friends of ODS joins the Portland Metro STEM Partnership to gain resources and collaborate on long term quantifiable research studying the effect of ODS on 6th grade education.
- PPS parents, teachers, and students rally together to keep a 3 day program for their district.
- Metro and the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation work in conjunction with Friends of ODS donors to keep ODS alive throughout the state.
- Friends of Outdoor School donors give at record levels.

THANK YOU!

Brand new Summer Day
Camp to Benefit Friends of
Outdoor School!



Go WILD for nature this summer at
Adventure WILD Summer Day Camp

- Staffed by Outdoor School educators
- PreK/K through 4th grade
- Located in Gresham

www.adventurewild.org

How Can I help Outdoor School?

People are always asking us how they can help Outdoor School, so we thought we’d share the easiest and most common ways to get involved. Feel free to use any of these tips and share them as much as you like:

- Make a donation yourself and ask everyone you know to make a one (both via www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org or contact Kim directly at (503) 257-1774).
- Include ODS in your estate plans; then ask others to do the same, so we can break out of this cycle of need.
- Vote in a way that supports education and outdoor experiences for children.
- Talk to your school board - if they don’t hear from parents and students, they don’t know you care.
- Talk to your elected officials about the importance of Outdoor School and environmental education and ask them to make decisions that support Outdoor School, education, and environmental education: School, City, County, Metro, State, and Federal.
- Attend an ODS event and bring friends. (Visit www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org & www.facebook.com/friendsofods for details.)
- Buy ODS gear and ask friends to do the same. (Visit www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/shop or call ODS at 503-257-1600).
- Purchase through CafeGive so that your online purchases benefit ODS. (Visit www.cafegive.com/causes/friends-outdoor-school.)
- Register your credit cards via eScrip so that ODS will get a donation every time you use them. (Visit www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/shop for a link.)

Everyone can make a difference! THANK YOU!

Tell us Your Favorite ODS Memory

Check out the new guestbook on our website
([www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/
Share_Your_Story.php](http://www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/Share_Your_Story.php)) and **share** your

favorite Outdoor School experience with us.

No registration required.

Your quote might end up in our next newsletter,
grant proposal, or brochure!

While you're at our site, don't forget to **listen** to our
radio PSA and **watch** our "Why Outdoor School"
video, both on our homepage and both courtesy of
Chelsea Sherier. Thank you, Chelsea!

www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org

Regional and State Update

Led by Metro Councilor Rex "Canoe" Burkholder, a group of dedicated community leaders have been meeting to strategize long-term, permanent funding options for ODS. We are planning the next steps toward a State-level approach to identify and secure a non-K-12, permanent funding source for ODS. This may include patch funding at the county level. The second step will be to provide non-K-12, permanent funding for State-wide environmental education for all ages. You may get a call from a polling company asking for your thoughts. Thank you for speaking with them. Questions? Jennifer "Pheff" Basham: 503-257-1621 or Jennifer@friendsofoutdoorschool.org.

Together, we can do this! Thank you!

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



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