March, 2014
Friends of Outdoor School
Spring update

Outdoor School Donors Making Education Real For Kids!

“One a scale of 1 to 10, I would give my Outdoor School experience a 10 because I really learned some new things about myself and about other people in my class. I also met some new people who are now some of my closest friends. It was an amazing experience, and if I had the opportunity to do it again, I would do it again and again.

Now that I’m back at school I really miss experiencing the different kind of educational atmosphere that is the chance to go outside and learn about the beautiful outdoors that surrounds us.

My attitude about Outdoor School would have been very different if we only went for three days because I would have felt like I didn’t get the chance to “soak it all in” and really learn about the plants, soil, water, and animals.

My understanding of nature has definitely changed since I went to Outdoor School. The amazing education that this program provides is so powerful that it has caused me to have more respect for nature, and it has shown to me incredible things that I never would have guessed about the plants, animals, water, and soil around us.”

-Collin (sixth grade student)

“To rate Outdoor School on a scale of 1-10 it is a 10! My experience there was super special and I will always remember it. Bonding with people from schools we have never heard of was really fun and learning outside was the best of all.

I really miss always being in and around nature and learning first hand, doing experiments and actually seeing the lesson right there in front of me.

If I had gone for three days I’m pretty sure that I would have had less fun and not have learned as much. My six days at Outdoor School were some of the most special I’ve ever had.

My view of nature shifted a lot after learning at Outdoor School. I think that if everyone in the world could see what [Outdoor School is like] then the world would be a much better place.”

-Sara (sixth grade student)
AmazonSmile

Love to shop online? Now you can donate to Friends of Outdoor School while you buy those cute boots or cell phone case you’ve been eyeing. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know with the same products and prices—but with one BIG difference: AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% percent of your eligible purchases to us when you register your account with Friends of Outdoor School.

Register now at https://smile.amazon.com and search for Friends of Outdoor School in the list of charities. Then whenever you visit Amazon be sure to start with the https://smile.amazon.com and shop like normal!

Tickets FORE Charity

There’s still time to get your tickets to the 2014 inaugural WinCo Foods Portland Open at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club this August 18th-24th.

And when you use our special URL (below) 100% of your ticket sale will be donated to Outdoor School!

Ticket packages start at just $25 with free admission to youth under 17 years old. Use the following link to check out prices and buy your tickets now:


Fred Meyer Rewards

Calling all Fred Meyer Rewards cards holders! Now when you shop at all local Fred Meyer stores you can earn points for your family as well as donations for Friends of Outdoor School!

Simply register your card (link below) and continue using your card as you normally would at checkout. **Whenever you use your card you’ll be helping earn donations for Friends of Outdoor School while still earning your own rewards points, fuel points, and rebates.**

Register your card now and start donating while you shop!

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

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**“My understanding of the environment has dramatically changed since Outdoor School because... everything was super clear and easy to learn.”** — Livi, sixth grader
Legislative Update From Rex Burkholder, Friends of ODS Board Member

On President’s Day, more than 20 supporters of Outdoor School and conservation education went to the State Capitol to tell the story of how important it is to connect children with nature as well as the value of learning science in the field. We met in the Capitol Rotunda only to discover that the power was out! But that didn’t stop this determined group. In the course of the day we met with almost 40 Senators and Representatives. Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer introduced us on the House floor (her staff had helped us immensely in setting up this day of advocacy). Most legislators know and value Outdoor School but have no idea how it is slowly disappearing.

This was the first of many actions that the new Oregon conservation education coalition will be organizing. We are going to be meeting with the Governor to ask that full funding for ODS be included in his next budget and then go to the Legislature next year to make sure it happens.

There are hundreds of great conservation education programs around Oregon but all are facing funding shortfalls. For example, less than half of Oregon 6th graders attend any kind of outdoor school. We are creating a voice for all brands of conservation education so that our leaders will hear of the great work going on and the need to make sure all children and adults get the chance to experience and understand the natural world. Currently, this effort is being housed at the Friends of Outdoor School.

The next meeting of this new Coalition will be April 16th at the Oregon Community Foundation. For more information or to get involved, contact Kim Silva of Friends of Outdoor School.

coalition@friendsofoutdoorschool.org

Online Raffle—Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

When the snow and ice forced us to cancel our Winter Party in February we decided to take the opportunity to try our very first online raffle! Tickets are just $5 each (and you can purchase as many as you’d like). Our raffle items include:

- An Outdoor School swag bag (including t-shirt, water bottle, and other small goodies)
- Bottle of local, Orchard Heights Silver Medal winning Pinot Blanc
- And a Canon PowerShot S120 digital camera donated by Pro Photo Supply (valued at $449.99)!

To buy your raffle ticket be sure to visit our website and use the PayPal button that says “Donate Now” on our homepage: www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org

On Friday, April 11th we will be pulling the button from our website and using a random number generator to pull the winning “ticket”. Visit our site now for your chance to win!
Congrats to Sandra Valentine of Vancouver, WA for winning the 2013 Photo of the Year contest with the photo above. Congrats to all our category winners and runners up, as well! Thanks to all those who participated. We couldn't host this contest without you and our amazing sponsors!

For more information, contact Kim Silva at Kim@FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org or 503-257-1774
www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org • www.Facebook.com/FriendsOFODS • @FriendsofODS