

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS, DISTRICTS, AND ESDS

**OSU EXTENSION** is the institutional home of Oregon's Outdoor School program and holds fiscal, programmatic, and administrative responsibility for the program. The OSU Extension Service puts information and expertise within reach of all Oregonians so they may thrive in their communities, be lifted by growing economies, and share pride in the flourishing ecosystems of Oregon.

**NON-PUBLIC/PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The legislation governing Outdoor School funding (ORS 327.390) limits eligibility for Outdoor School Program grants to school districts and education service districts. Based on this provision and our understanding of the constitutional restrictions on the use of lottery funds, OSU Extension will not be able to approve applications that incorporate subgrants to or other contractual arrangements with private schools for the purpose of providing Outdoor School services to the private schools' students.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS SERVING CHARTER SCHOOLS:**

Public charter schools are eligible for Outdoor School program funding. Those interested in applying for funds should contact their sponsoring school district and request to be included in the district's application. Funding will flow through the school district to the charter schools. If a district is not submitting an application, a charter school may choose to work with their Educational Service District (ESD). The four state-sponsored charter schools can choose to apply themselves or be included within the District/ESD application.

*If you have questions or would like to discuss how you can help, partner, or support the statewide Outdoor School program, please contact us.*

## OSU EXTENSION SERVICE OUTDOOR SCHOOL

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# OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Learning in the world's best outdoor classroom

OSU Extension Service



Oregon State  
University

# OUT THERE. CHANGING LIVES.



No desks, walls, or dry erase boards, just students immersed in the world's best outdoor classroom: Oregon's amazing natural landscape. The outdoor school experience transforms the learning environment so students can learn from and create strong connections to the outdoors and with each other.

## LEARNING COMES ALIVE

Learning outdoors increases students' physical and mental health and social awareness. In the process, positive feelings about school and the outdoors grow.

*"Active learning and adventure outdoors introduces young people to the environment in a way which develops understanding, appreciation, awe, wonder and respect. It fosters sensitivity to the environment, helps young people to see themselves in a global context and helps to develop citizens with an awareness of the need for sustainable use of the world's natural resources."*

– *Outdoors Story Project*

## A TRUSTED LEADER

2016's Measure 99 designated funding for Outdoor School programming for school districts and education service districts to serve fifth- or sixth-grade students in Oregon. This makes Oregon the first state in the U.S. to fund outdoor school.

The 2015 legislature charged OSU Extension with administering the statewide program. With input from an advisory committee, OSU Extension works with districts to fund Outdoor School programs that meet the needs of students, teachers, and communities.

## SUPPORTING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Outdoor School integrates STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math), history, and social science lessons while providing equal access to natural science learning for all students. It reinforces and builds on classroom lessons, allowing students to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to the real world.

OSU Extension is committed to supporting Oregon's teachers with high quality Outdoor School curricula and activities that prepare students for outdoor school. This helps reinforce learning opportunities after outdoor school, and supports state educational standards as well as the specific goals of schools and teachers.

## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Situated, hands-on learning improves learning outcomes by making schoolwork more relevant and fun. Students see how their school lessons apply to the world around them.

Learning about natural sciences and understanding the relationship between water, soils, plants and animals (and people) creates an awareness that students are part of a whole ecosystem. Environmental literacy and a greater appreciation for the stewardship of Oregon's natural resources stems from the Outdoor School experience. Critical thinking and real-world problem solving, teamwork, a sense of responsibility and connection to others are qualities nurtured and supported in Outdoor School, skills valued by employers and essential to helping society solve complicated issues.

