

# OREGON OUTDOOR SCHOOL

LET'S GET STUDENTS **OUT THERE**



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Outdoor School



All outdoor  
education takes  
place on Indigenous  
homelands



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# What we believe

## **Mission:**

Together, we empower and support inclusive, impactful and high quality outdoor school experiences for Oregon's youth.

## **Vision:**

Oregon outdoor school will be the most successful high-quality outdoor education program in the nation.

## **Values:**

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, relationships, innovation, integrity, and quality are central to how we approach our work.



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# Impacts of State-Wide Funding

- **43,600 students over biennium (92,000)**

- Support for ALL students and schools
- High quality, inclusive programming
- Support for better educational experiences
- Statewide provider capacity
- Value added educational benefits to K-12
- Oregon outdoor economy career pathway
- High school student involvement & support



- **\$3.45 million in leveraged funds (*first biennium*)**

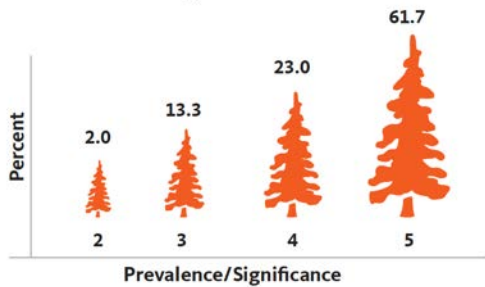
- **Partner Support – *Oregon State Parks, Gray Family Foundation, Friends of Outdoor School***



# Outdoor School First Biennium

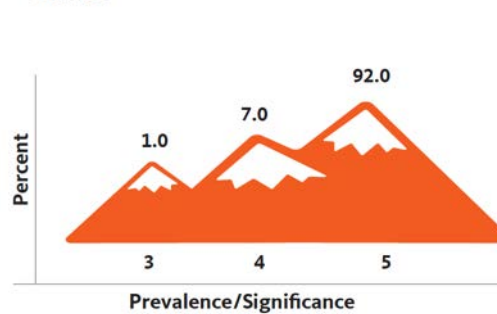
- 130 new schools
- 14,000 new students

Student Leadership, Critical Thinking, and Decision-Making



When asked to rate the development of students' leadership, critical thinking, and decision-making skills, early 85 percent of schools rated this a 4 or a 5.

Science



92 percent of schools reported that their outdoor school curriculum and content significantly addressed science.

## BY THE NUMBERS

CATEGORIES	2017-2018 <sup>1</sup>	2018-2019 <sup>2</sup>	2018-2019 <sup>3</sup>
School districts receiving funding	128 of 197	146 of 197	147
Schools funded	385	490	512
Number of students	30,739	42,456	43,643
Number of days outside	115,131	167,126	171,283
State sponsored charters*	2 of 4	3 of 4	3 of 4

\*All four participated in the first two years of the program.

<sup>1</sup>Actual participation for 2017-2018

<sup>2</sup>Applications as of July 31, 2018

<sup>3</sup>Applications as of January 1, 2019



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# Funding Distribution Process

1. 5 year Inter-governmental Agreement
2. Application (new Salesforce version)
3. Approved Work Order
4. Transformative ODS experience
5. Complete Report (evaluation of program)
6. Receive funds



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# Approaching our work through an equity lens



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# Reaching All Students: Equity, Diversity, Access, and Inclusion in Outdoor School

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are foundational (Equity Framework)
- Student-Centered
  - Additional funding for gear (coats & boots) & accessibility equipment
  - Support for translation of materials (9 languages)
  - Partnership Development - EDI (IRCO, Migrant Education, Juntos)
- Support for Educators and ODS Providers
  - Specific EDI training, professional development, and curriculum support
  - Support for High School Leaders





# Collaborative Partnerships and Equity, Diversity, Access, and Inclusion

- Equity Audits
- Culturally Responsive Research and Evaluation (Critical Participatory Action Research)
- Critical Orientations: Indigenous Studies and Outdoor Education Workshops: Partnership with University of Oregon
- Outdoor School Provider Accessibility Audits
- Staff and Educator Continuing Professional Development

Center for Diversity and the Environment

Racial Equity Institute

Center for Equity and Inclusion

Diversity Champions



# High Expectations & Training for ODS Providers

*Ensuring student success before, during and after their experience of Outdoor School*

- High quality curriculum
- Safe, equitable, inclusive and collaborative learning environment
- Flexible and responsive instruction & engaging teaching strategies
- Social emotional learning opportunities



# WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

[Outdoorschool@OregonState.edu](mailto:Outdoorschool@OregonState.edu)



<https://www.facebook.com/OROutdoorschool/>



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# Outdoor Education Policy Recommendations



Oregon State  
University



# Outdoor Education: Outdoor School and Beyond

1. Develop statewide framework and funding for K-12 Outdoor education learning (build upon Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, Academic Standards, and Outdoor School)
2. Continued funding for Statewide Outdoor School Program



# Extended Policy Recommendations



Oregon State  
University

# Outdoor Recreation: Extended Access

1. Continue effort to develop ONE PASS system for Oregon public lands and parks (National Agenda as well)
2. Develop plan and target dates for gender neutral restrooms in state facilities (ands provide guidelines for local agencies)
3. Fund strategic plan and timeline for translation of trail head information, publications, safety information, guides and websites



# Outdoor Recreation: Extended Access

4. Provide EDI training program for state recreation/lands/parks employees (public interaction, policy makers, planners)
5. Develop plan with local tribes for land acknowledgement and history at all public parks, lands, facilities (signage and history) and establish task force to evaluate existing information for bias or erasure (decolonize the story)—guidelines for local agencies





# Outdoor Recreation: Extended Access

6. Evaluate all public parks/lands/facilities for accessibility, prioritize needs, and launch (and fund) plan to upgrade facilities to ensure equitable access for all—better publicize current accessibility of sites and progress of upgrades
7. More state support for Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) for marginalized communities





**WHAT QUESTIONS ARE  
THERE?**



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