Outdoor School in Oregon

OSU Extension
Service Role
First Outdoor School: 1958 by Margaret Milliken of Oregon State University and Austin Hamer of the Oregon Game Commission in Crook County.

Believed children were spending too much time indoors and needed exposure to Oregon’s natural areas.

1970’s approximately 80% of Oregon School Districts participated in Outdoor School
Today?

- Our youth spend less time outside than at any time in our nation’s history. From 1997-2003, the number of children ages nine to twelve engaging in outdoor activities declined 50%.

- Outdoor Education in schools has declined – Only about half of Oregon students attend a minimum of 1-2 nights at Outdoor School.

Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition (OOEC)

Secure and expand outdoor education throughout the state so that every Oregon student has the knowledge and perspectives to make responsible choices about natural resources.

Starting with securing permanent public funding for every Oregon 5th or 6th grade student to experience a full week of Outdoor School.

http://www.outdoorschoolforall.org/
Senate Bill 439

The Oregon State University Extension Service shall assist school districts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs.

The Oregon State University Extension Service shall provide assistance by administering a grant program, providing program leadership and providing program maintenance.

https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB439/Enrolled

Note: No Funding Included
Next Steps for OOEC

- Secure funding through Ballot Measure in fall 2016.
- Continue to promote outdoor education across Oregon.

Next Steps for OSU Extension

- Draft implementation structure.
- Engage partners in planning efforts.
OSU Implementation

• Create model Outdoor School curriculum consistent with statewide education requirements (including the Next Generation Science Standards and Smarter Balanced).

• Provide support for Outdoor School setup.

• Provide support for Outdoor School programming.

• Oversee distribution of state funds to qualifying programs.

Convene an advisory committee made up of educators, Outdoor School providers, outdoor educators and others.
OSU Draft Implementation Structure
(with full funding)

OSU Extension: Oregon Environmental Literacy Program

- Outdoor Learning
  - Outdoor School (Director)
    - Advisory Council
- Curriculum & Resource
- Business Manager
  - Program Coord.
    - Eval, Design, Programming
  - Professional Devel.
    - Teacher & ODS educators
- Regional Coord.
  - Regional Coord.
  - Regional Coord.
  - Regional Coord.
Outdoor School is still based on the founders’ original idea – that **outdoor learning is an invaluable and irreplaceable experience for our students.**

Outdoor School – Oregon’s legacy