



Outdoor School Funding Update

As you're undoubtedly aware, the Oregon Legislature is facing extremely difficult choices due to the state's budget deficit of \$1.6 billion. Some of you have been concerned that the new Outdoor School (ODS) state funding, passed in last November's election, may be in jeopardy.

There is sobering but positive news! The recently published preliminary legislative budget documents from the Ways and Means Committee do not plan to repeal or even delay ODS funding. These draft recommendations allow for funding to be available beginning fall 2017, as anticipated!

Outdoor School is a newly-minted state program (just savor that phrase for a moment!). As such, we recognize that difficult cuts are likely for virtually all state programs; this is also an undeniable reality for the 2017-2019 budget for Outdoor School.

Nevertheless, we believe that delaying or completely cutting ODS funding would pose a critical risk to the momentum we've created, and would be a tremendous loss to next year's sixth-grade students. Early indications are that the Legislature will allocate sufficient funding to keep the program moving forward and to send kids to ODS starting this fall.



Gray FF Hires Researchers to Learn about ODS in Oregon

In the wake of the passage of Measure 99, Outdoor School for All, which designates that Oregon lottery funds be allocated to Oregon State Extension Service to fund schools/districts to send their students in the

5th or 6th grade to a full week of outdoor school, Gray FF is interested in determining the number of Oregon schools and students currently participating in Outdoor School prior to the roll-out of this state funding. We have hired researchers David Keyes and Phil Bieber to gather this information. [If you work at a camp or a school\(district\), you may be receiving a survey, phone call, or other communication from David & Phil to help us complete this work.](#)

OSU Extension Updates + ODS Program Leader Position Posted

OSU Extension Service publishes regular communication updates to inform the public on the progress of the Outdoor School Program. You can find the April 2017 communication update [here](#).

The Division of University Outreach and Engagement at Oregon State University (OSU) is seeking an Extension Service Assistant Director, Outdoor School Program Leader. This is a full-time 1.0 FTE, 12-month, fixed term professional faculty position. The closing date for this position is May 15, 2017.

[Learn More & Apply Here](#)

Free Workshops Offered to support 5th & 6th Grade Teachers whose Students Attend Outdoor School

A one-day workshop, "Making Outdoor School an Integral Part of the Learning Progression," will be offered at six sites across the state to teachers whose students attend Outdoor School. All workshops are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., are free, have lunch provided and offer one credit from Southern Oregon University at an additional cost.



[Read more & register](#)

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

We currently have no open grant cycles.

Applicants in our January 2017 grant cycles will receive notifications in May.

[View the grants calendar](#)



appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of a child's education. By supporting programs such as Outdoor School, geography education and professional development for teachers, we seek to give Oregon students a greater understanding of the world outside their classroom. Learn more at www.grayff.org

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