



"Outdoor School for All" Bill Passed by Legislature!

Congratulations!

On Thursday, July 2nd the Oregon State House of Representatives unanimously passed SB 439 with a vote of 59-0, establishing for the first time a state commitment to outdoor school programs. The legislation had passed the Senate earlier in the week with only one no vote.



While there is no funding associated with SB 439, it is an important first step. It gives the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service the responsibility to develop model Outdoor School curriculum consistent with statewide education requirements as funding becomes available. Under the bill, OSU Extension Service will work with an advisory committee made up of educators, outdoor school providers, community members and others from across the state.

[Tell me more about SB 439](#)



Success story: Friends of Tryon Creek

During Saturday workshops, Friends of Tryon Creek hosts teachers at beautiful Tryon Creek State Park in Portland. With funding from the Gray Family Foundation, the workshops, which are called Connect2Science Through Nature, have guided more than 30 teachers to take fun outdoor lessons back to their own classes.

[Read the full story>>](#)

Outdoor School Research Released

The Gray Family Foundation recently supported research in partnership with PSU and MESD, studying a few important outcomes of students attending Outdoor School programs. This unique study looked at statistically significant quantitative data from 17,032 students in four different school districts, all of whom participate in Outdoor School programming through the Multnomah Educational Service District. The research found that residential, field-based science programs have a unique opportunity to support students by creating experiences where they can participate in learning in vastly different ways from what they may engage with in the traditional 4-walled classroom, while concurrently developing a relationship with the natural world. [Find out more >>](#)



National Public Lands Day

The 22nd Annual National Environmental Education Foundation's [National Public Lands Day](#) is September 26th! Public land is your land, keep it beautiful! Find or register

a [NPLD](#) event or site [here](#).

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

All grant cycles for 2015 are now closed.

Deadlines for 2016 will be announced this Fall.



The Gray Family Foundation is founded on the belief that fostering an understanding and 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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