

Outdoor School Updates & Information #2 February 15, 2017¹

On November 8, 2016 Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 99, which designated funding for outdoor school programming for every 5th or 6th grade student in Oregon. This measure followed the adoption of Senate Bill 439 by the 2015 Oregon Legislature, and which directed Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and educational service districts to provide an Outdoor School Program.

In preparation for launching this statewide Outdoor School Program, OSU Extension Service Director Scott Reed convened a scoping group of stakeholders in Salem on January 4, 2017 and February 2, 2017 to begin a conversation on the administration and implementation of the program.

In addition to this communication update, information is being shared and collected via the outdoor school website, <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>, and through a stakeholder email listserv. If you would like to be added to the stakeholder list serve, please submit your name and e-mail information through the on-line comment form or by e-mailing outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu

Highlights

Legislative Update

- Measure 99 is statutory, not constitutional, which means the next steps and funding decisions regarding this measure will be made by the legislature.
- The [Co-chairs budget](#), released on January 19, anticipates an 8% deficit (\$1.8 billion). Outdoor School is referenced on page 5 of the budget under “program and/or service reduction to be considered” ... “assumes implementation will occur by second year of biennium (July 2018).”
- Friends of Outdoor School and the Gray Family Foundation have engaged Dan Bates of Thorn Run Partners to lobby the legislature for outdoor school funding. The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition and Friends of Outdoor School are reaching out to supporters to attend town halls and legislative field hearings. You can find more information about their work at <https://www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/>, <https://www.oregonoutdoored.org/>, and <http://www.outdoorschoolforall.org/>. You can find talking points for supporting funding for Measure 99 here: <http://grayff.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/talkingpointsforODS.pdf>
- Regional town hall meetings have been scheduled and provide an opportunity for public input into the 2017-2019 biennial state budget. The schedule for those meeting can be found here: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/courtney/Documents/PR-roadshowschedule_LO.pdf

Tentative Timeline January 2017 – October 2017

- January: Public comment period for ODS Advisory and Working Committee documents.
- The Feb. 2nd scoping conversation with stakeholders focused primarily on reviewing the public feedback on the Advisory and Working Committee Documents, Application, and the Timeline for convening the Advisory

¹ *Outdoor School Updates and Information* will be produced approximately monthly or as progress is made in development of the program. To receive such email directly, send your email address to outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu

committee. Based on public comment and review by the scoping group a new timeline for the selection and convening of the ODS Advisory Committee has been established as follows:

- February 21: Solicitation of Advisory and Working Group Committee members opens.
- March 15: Deadline for submission of applications to committees.
- April 3-5: Notification to individuals on status of application.
- May 5 & 6: First Advisory Committee Meeting. Working Group Committee Meeting TBD
- April and May: Develop OSU Outdoor School Director position description; develop year 1 application process funding to school districts and ESD's for fall Outdoor Schools (dependent on July 1 funding).
- June/July: ODS Director interviewed and selected; funding available for fall Outdoor School is identified and communicated to stakeholders and grant applicants. (*Assuming* ODS funding is provided in July 2017)
- September – October: Students attend Outdoor School through funding from OSU. (*Assuming* ODS funding is provided in July 2017)