

Outdoor School Updates and Information #4

June 2017¹

Background

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, which directed Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and educational service districts to provide an Outdoor School program.

Following passage of Measure 99, OSU Extension Service began preparing to administer and implement the statewide Outdoor School program—in anticipation of the Oregon Legislature’s consideration of approving funding for the program to begin July 2017. External funding provided to the OSU Extension Service by private stakeholders, who support outdoor school programming, enabled Oregon State to employ Susan Sahnou, leader of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program. In this role, Susan is coordinating early Outdoor School program efforts among stakeholders. A website (<http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>) was created to share information, solicit feedback, and provide resources.

Wanted: Outdoor School contact person from your school district or educational service district

In preparation for launching an Outdoor School Program this fall, we are looking for a representative to contact, likely in mid-July or early August, with information on funding and the application process. (Grants to be provided are dependent on the Oregon Legislature approving funding for Outdoor School to begin July 2017.) Please send name and contact information to outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu

Legislative update

On May 22, Scott Reed, OSU Extension Service Director; Nancy Bales, Gray Family Foundation Executive Director; Paul Barnum, Oregon Forest Resources Institute Executive Director; and Bruce Rhode, Tillamook School District Administrator, provided testimony on the Measure 99 Outdoor School funding before the education subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means committee, and answered questions from legislators. A recording of the hearing is available here: http://oregon.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=23710

¹ *Outdoor School Updates and Information* announcements are published as progress is made in development of the program. To be added to the stakeholder listserv and receive these announcements directly, send your email address to outdoorschool@oregonstate.edu



Measure 99 is statutory, not constitutional, which means next steps and funding decisions regarding this measure will be made by the Oregon Legislature. Final determination of funding for the Outdoor School program for the 2017-19 biennium is part of the legislative budgeting process.

Progress to date and anticipated next steps

- OSU is recruiting two positions related to the Outdoor School Program. Hiring is contingent on approved legislative funding for Outdoor School.
 1. Oregon State University Extension Service Assistant Director: Outdoor School Program Leader (posting closed; search process under way).
 2. Oregon State University Administrative Business Center: Grants and Contracts Coordinator.
- Oregon State University Administrative Business Center: Grants and Contracts Coordinator OSU has prepared a draft intergovernmental agreement for initial review. Under the currently proposed process, funding recipients will execute this master agreement prior to the funding cycle. After submission and approval of annual funding applications, work orders will be issued under the master agreement. If you are interested in making comments on the draft master agreement, please contact Jack Breen at jack.breen@oregonstate.edu.
- OSU Extension welcomes the Outdoor School Advisory Committee and Outdoor School Work Group members, and thanks them for their service. A list of members is posted at <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>
- The first Outdoor School Advisory Committee Meeting was held May 5-6, 2017. In attendance were the 25 members of the Advisory Committee and OSU Extension representatives. The agenda and notes from this meeting are posted at <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>

Gray Family Foundation Hires Researchers to Learn about Outdoor Schools in Oregon

In support of Measure 99, Outdoor School for All, which designates that Oregon lottery funds be allocated to OSU Extension to fund schools/districts to send 5th or 6th grade students to a full week of Outdoor School, Gray Family Foundation is interested in determining the number of Oregon schools and students currently participating in Outdoor School prior to the rollout of this state funding. They 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 and Phil to help.