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Subj: Outdoor School
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I am saddened and dismayed to find that many school districts in Multnomah County are dropping the Outdoor School program. Will our children's understanding of Oregon's great outdoors come from books, not their own personal experience?

For many city kids, Outdoor School is the only time in their childhood they will experience the wonder of a forest or the see the effects that humans have on our fragile ecosystem. In addition to teaching children the three R's, our schools should be preparing our children to become stewards of our environment. Where else will our children learn what it means to be a responsible adult in a world beset by ecological problems and issues?

I think it is up to our community to ensure our children don't miss this valuable experience. If the schools can't afford Outdoor School, then surely our communities can dig into their collective pockets and help pay for this vital experience. For \$1,100, a business can send five children to Outdoor School or individuals can contribute \$220 for one child. I would like to challenge the citizens of Multnomah County to do this one thing for a child. My check to the Multnomah County ESD Outdoor School Program is in the mail.

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