

OUTDOOR SCHOOL FOR ALL

OREGON GROWN. NATURALLY SMART.



Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition

Providing Invaluable Experiences for Our Children

Oregon outdoor school programs take place at a pivotal stage in a child's development, creating meaningful memories that last a lifetime. They also help children develop an appreciation of nature and a sense of personal responsibility toward Oregon. A few of the remarkable benefits of outdoor school programs that researchers have discovered include:



BUILDING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

For many students, Outdoor School is the first time they've ever been immersed in natural settings. For others, it is their first time spending the night away from their families. The skills and experiences gained through outdoor school programs instill self-confidence, help youth realize their leadership potential and make them more self-sufficient. Outdoor school programs also provide high school students with volunteer teaching opportunities, helping them become stronger leaders and more college and career ready.



TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO COLLABORATE, WORK TOGETHER AND BUILD COMMUNITY

Studies show that across cultural and economic differences, students participating in outdoor education programs demonstrated less aggression, better moods, impulse control, and better cognitive functioning and social skills. Researchers have found that two months after an outdoor school experience, children who attended the program showed gains in cooperation and conflict resolution that were significantly higher than those who didn't attend outdoor school programs.



COMMON CORE STANDARDS AND FIELDS

related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Outdoor school programs make science more relevant and fun through hands-on activities that show children how their lessons in school apply to the world around them. One study found that children who attended an outdoor school program significantly raised their science scores by 27 percent as measured by a pre- and post-survey administered upon their return to school.



CREATING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND WHO KNOW HOW TO USE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY

To appreciate the true value of Oregon's natural resources, young people need to spend time in natural settings and understand the relationships between humans, plants, animals, water, land and air. Outdoor school programs foster a lifelong appreciation for Oregon's unique heritage, and teaches our youth about the role and responsibility of every Oregonian to be a steward.



ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

Outdoor School is equally accessible to all students. Through small group learning, all students—whether or not they have disabilities, are English language learners, or are talented and gifted—receive outdoor education that is tailored to their needs and learning styles.

The Outdoor School for All campaign is working to secure significant and lasting funding at the legislature or at the ballot for every Oregon fifth- or sixth-grader to experience a full week of Outdoor School or similar programming.

OutdoorSchoolforAll.org

Inequitable access to Outdoor School contributes to the "Achievement Gap" in Oregon schools.

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTICIPATION PERCENTAGES BY COUNTY:

8 Counties: >80%

8 Counties: <20%

8 Counties: 41-80%

4 Counties: 0%

8 Counties: 21-40%