

Case Study: Outdoor School Oregon



Overview

Oregon's [Outdoor School program](#) provides every fifth or sixth grade student with the opportunity to attend up to a week of residential outdoor school. State lottery funds were directed by the legislature to the Oregon State University Extension Service, which in turn administers a grant program to directly support school district expenses. The funding also includes establishing model curriculum consistent with statewide education requirements.

Bill: [SB 439](#) (2015); funded with Ballot Measure [99](#) (2016)

Target Audience

The program provides Outdoor School for fifth and sixth grade students.

Coalition

The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition supported the legislation and ballot initiative. They brought together committed individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations interested in outdoor education. The Gray Family Foundation played a key role. Friends of Outdoor School has a list of partners: <https://www.friendsofoutdoorschool.org/partners>

Funding

Current funding is \$24 million per biennium directed from lottery funding. Funds are distributed through the Oregon State University Extension Service to school districts to cover direct Outdoor School expenses.

Impact

The first year of the program saw participation from 30,739 students who collectively spent a total of 115,131 days outside. This included schools from every county in Oregon and 128 of the state's 197 school districts received funding. A report on the first year is available here: <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/c2k-565f7uw2b2jzfkqqls6nmk6ttl7gj>