



**Friends of Outdoor School**  
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FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org  
IRS TAX ID# 27-4657069

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December 11, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Since 1957, Outdoor School has been a vital component of Oregon's education system. Families count on Outdoor School to introduce their children to Oregon's ecology and natural sciences while keeping them safe, healthy, and inspired. Outdoor School helps students develop critical thinking skills, identify as competent and engaged learners, and apply science lessons in the field. This intensive experience also helps students develop a connection to each other and the world around them.

Friends of Outdoor School envisions a day when every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School. Dedicated to increasing student access to Outdoor School programs that contribute to educational development, inspire youth, and promote personal growth, we accomplish our mission through fundraising, network-building, and community engagement.

During the 2015 legislative session, Friends Outdoor School worked with partners to successfully pass Senate Bill 439 (SB439). SB439 established a structure for the first-ever American statewide Outdoor School program, created a state outdoor education fund, and assigned Oregon State University Extension Service the responsibility to manage the funding program working directly with school and education service districts.

In November 2016, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 99 (M99): Outdoor School for All to fund SB 439. As of the date of this letter, approximately 85% of eligible students in Oregon are attending an Outdoor School program. An outdoor education program at this scale and scope – statewide for every 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student - is completely new in the United States. Education leaders throughout the country are seeking to learn from Oregon's model to see how it might be applied in other states.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the outstanding Outdoor School programs in Oregon.

Most sincerely,

Kim Silva  
Executive Director  
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**Our Vision: Every Oregon student attends a week of Outdoor School.**