

April 1, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

I want to thank the committee for taking the time to hear from members of the public on the importance of Outdoor School. My name is Tammy Adams. I live in Gresham. I am a longtime proponent and product of the program.

Outdoor School is a legacy program in our state. It is a program that impacts 5th and 6th grade students. It encompasses many aspects of their science curriculum. It affects high school students in that they go as student leaders where they learn valuable life skills: time management, motivation of themselves and a cabin of 8-10 6th grade students. They learn teaching skills when they are leading field study. It is a scholarship opportunity for them as well. It also creates jobs.

My life is an example of the positive impact on our community. In 6th grade I learned how to be away from my parents and the other people can take care of me. I learned how to make friends with students from other schools. In high school Outdoor School was the only thing that kept me in school. Later in my life I went back to Outdoor School as a staff member. This is where I found my career as a Sign Language Interpreter. As a parent I saw the difference in my children as my daughter did not gain the independence that my son did from his experience at Outdoor School. Gresham schools couldn't afford it the year she went. They both went as student leaders in high school. Both learned skills they used to get through college. My daughter received a scholarship.

The funding was voted on and approved in 2016. Without the funding from lottery dollars we have students from rich districts going to Outdoor School and the students from poor districts not going. Please address the inequity of access by fully funding what the voters overwhelmingly approved and are waiting to receive so every 5th and 6th grader in the state can go.

Thank you,

Tammy Adams