

April 29, 2025

Dear Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kim Silva. I am a proud parent of a student who attended Outdoor School as a high school leader in the fall of 2024.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm for and commitment to Outdoor School! I urge you to continue fully funding Outdoor School so that every Oregon 5th or 6th-grade student and their high school leaders may attend Outdoor School.

Just days before my son Hugh was to leave for his 6th-grade trip to Outdoor School, the COVID-19 quarantine closed Oregon schools and Outdoor School. I was devastated. Hugh would miss Outdoor School, his birthright as an Oregonian.

In October 2024, my dream of Outdoor School came true! Hugh went to Westwind Outdoor School as a high school leader!

Returning exhausted, dirty, smelly, and smiling, Hugh - now known as "Pinecone" - regaled me with hilarious stories about mischievous 6th graders, campy songs, and sopping-wet field studies. Although Hugh has never seen himself as a leader, the dedicated Outdoor School staff helped him discover his leadership skills and identify how to develop further. Thank you for making my dream of Outdoor School come true!

Whether a student lives in a city, a small town, or on a farm, every child in Oregon deserves this opportunity. Outdoor School increases academic performance, builds important life skills, provides the kind of hands-on learning students can't get in the classroom, engages students in the sciences, and importantly, it gives kids a break from screens. You have the opportunity, with the voters' strong direction, to continue to ensure that all Oregon fifth or sixth-grade students have the opportunity to participate in Outdoor School.

I urge you to continue to allocate the full level of funding directed by the voters so that all Oregon 5th or 6th-grade students can attend Outdoor School. Thank you.

Most Sincerely,



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Parent & Outdoor School champion  
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