

February 9, 2026

Dear Chair Hudson, Co-chairs Dobson & McIntire, and members of the Committee,

I am a proud parent of a student who attends Outdoor School as a high school leader.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm for and commitment to Outdoor School! Please support HB4112 to restore funding so that every Oregon 5th or 6th-grade student and their high school leaders may attend Outdoor School next school year.

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. He was flying high with the adoration of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders who looked up to him. Hugh didn’t see himself as a leader. The dedicated Outdoor School staff helped him discover his leadership skills and identify how to develop further. Thank you for helping my son see himself in a new light.

Whether a student lives in a city or a small town, 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, and engages students in the sciences.

The current 20% budget cut is threatening the opportunity of Outdoor School for my son and tens of thousands of other students, 5<sup>th</sup>-grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-grade, and high school. Voters were clear by overwhelmingly voting for Measure 99 – 4% of Lottery funds for Outdoor School. Please restore full funding for Outdoor School so that all Oregon 5th or 6th-grade students can attend Outdoor School. Thank you.

Most Sincerely,



Kim Silva  
Parent & Outdoor School champion  
Portland, OR  
[kssilva@gmail.com](mailto:kssilva@gmail.com)