

In an age where it's more common to find our young people glued to a screen than building relationships with real people, outdoor school is the most important legacy we can leave for future generations.

The average American kid can recognize over 1,000 corporate logos but can't recognize 10 plants or animals native to their hometown. Is this the legacy we want to leave? Children growing up into adults who cannot think for themselves? Cannot use teamwork or empathy?

Outdoor school has spent decades towards giving students the ability to build communities and deepen their critical thinking skills. By reducing funding you're taking away opportunities for our children to learn and grow, to get opportunities to truly be themselves and to be part of something larger. Outdoor school is Oregon's legacy to teach stewardship and to protect our natural spaces.

Kids used to play outside after school and we complain that they are on their phones too much. I have personally taught 11 and 12 year olds that never learned how to even play tag because of growing up during the pandemic. How can we blame our children for being antisocial, even aggressive sometimes, when we take away their chances of connecting with nature and each other.

Not only that but there are 1,000's of passionate people who have dedicated their lives to continuing the legacy of outdoor school. Staff who work long hours for little pay. We already don't pay our teachers enough, by reducing funding we will be giving them even fewer resources.

Funding for outdoor school must be restored if we want any hope of a future where people can work together and make the world a better place for everyone