

Call to Action:

Outdoor school has been an Oregon tradition for over 50 years. We know that engaging students in applicable, relevant and engaging experiences in the out-of-doors contributes to academic success and environmental literacy. However, there has been limited quantifiable measure of these impacts in Oregon. How do we track and compare best practices without a common measurement system? A common measurement system will enable programs to track their outcomes, looking at change within their individual programs overtime, among themselves and consider statewide trends.

Project Overview:

“Impacts of Outdoor Schools on Building Environmental Literacy” is a project of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program, which began in 2014 and supported by the Gray Family Foundation. The intent of this project is to build understanding and knowledge about current outdoor school programming and its intended outcomes. The information gathered will help guide the discussion and development of about measurements that address the impacts of outdoor school. We are particularly interested in developing evaluations and assessment that can be implemented for all types of outdoor schools programs (see project committee list)

Project Committee:

- Steven M. Braun, Ph.D., Consultant; Executive Director, Aprovecho Center for Research and Education in Sustainability
- Charlie Anderson: Director, Camp Tamarack Outdoor School;
- Norie Dimeo-Ediger, Director of K-12 Education Programs, Oregon Forests Resources Institute;
- Jen Grube: Outdoor School Director, Philomath Middle School;
- Alison Heimowitz, School and Teacher Liaison at the Oregon Zoo;
- Bill Hunt, Director, Klamath Outdoor Science School;
- Kathryn A. Lynch, Ph.D., Co-Director, Environmental Leadership Program, University of Oregon;
- Jenna Mendenhall, Project Coordinator, Oregon Environmental Literacy Program;
- Judi Peters, 4h youth, Oregon State University Extension Service; and
- Dan Prince, Coordinator, Multnomah Education Service District Outdoor School

Are you involved in Outdoor School?

Please support this project and complete [this survey](#). The survey is designed to learn from outdoor school teachers, providers, coordinators, directors, volunteers about the primary youth outcomes which result from the diverse programs statewide. Learning from you, is the first step to building a common measurement system. Support the effort.

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ImpactsOfOutdoorSchoolsonBuildingEnvironmentalLiteracy>