

**Questions and Comments related to implementation of a statewide
Outdoor School Program
Questions posts as of 1/20/2018**

These questions have been collected through the outdoor school on-line form, as well as from e-mails and various meetings. They will be used to frame the discussion by the Outdoor School committees and OSU Outdoor School staff as they work on the development of the Outdoor School Program. There will be multiple opportunities for your input as this program is developed and implemented.

www.oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool or outdoorschool.edu

Advisory Council
How are the curriculum standards being developed? Is there space for our voice on the Advisory Committee?

Camp Facilities
Will camps be competitive in what they charge?
What steps do we need to take to be considered by School Districts and ESDs to have our facility be a host of Outdoor School programs?
We provide both day camps and overnight camps in the summer. Can you provide me with information about the requirements for Outdoor School programs
Will facilities need insurance and or specific permits?
How many students on average visit?
Kings Valley uses the Girl Scouts camp area for outdoor school.
Be sure to use American Camp ASSU (ACA) safety standards. ACA accredited facilities are best.
Camps provide meals or do volunteers?
Specific upgrades funded for facilities? Staggered roll-out of funds? Upgrade or build year one and fund programming year two?
How can an area become a designated camp?
Where will the camps be? What requirements will camps need to meet?
What is the difference between the amounts charged and what does it cost to host an outdoor school?
How many camps /sites are currently for ODS?
How will camps be "repaired" have maintenance needs met to bring them up to speed?
What is the difference between the amount camps charge and what it costs to host ODS?
My organization is considering building a dormitory so that it can host outdoor school on its 40 acre site – is there funding for camp development?
Do you have to attend the closest camp?
Is bussing covered?
Can the American Camping Association standards be used in ODS design and facility expectations?

What determines an “ Authorized” camp facility?
Can you use funds to staff camps?
Can any funds be used for facilities?
Do 3 day programs need to go to a week long?
Need a database of facilities and existing programs?
Applications for funding: 1st year minimal requirements, 2nd year more comprehensive, curriculum adjustments, 3rd year more comprehensive
One of our priorities is supporting camps, program providers, and schools. To do this, we are asking for input about how we can best assist you." ...In summary, funding for camp repairs and legal assistance for our land-use permits are the two priority areas where we are in need of assistance so that Circle of Children can serve the Outdoor School movement to our greatest capacity. (non-profit and camp)
What do you know about grants for facilities and program development? It was my understanding that if funds were not used up for grants to schools that there may be funding available for the development of facilities to expand capacity.
What site compliance will be required? to ACA standards met annually
We have been using Tadmor for ODS in the spring. How can I assure that I can keep our week at Tadmor for spring 2018 AND secure a staff to run ODS?
What types of supportive programs, that will provide the equivalent of Outdoor School, where it is not accessible, or those that will help support districts in getting students Outdoor School experiences, are being looked at?

Curriculum
Can we teach climate change as part of outdoor school?
What types of topics will be required?
Diversity – overnight might not be okay for some families
Resources in multiple languages will be needed.
Can we utilize the wildlife tunnel in the Eddyville Bypass, and their camera?
Is there a unifying vision for what outdoor school is trying to accomplish?
Will there be curriculum guide/standards to hit?
IAE has Oregon Native Plant curriculum available.
How will outdoor school build on and use all the current education programs and providers?
Will current curriculum be reviewed for inclusion?
Who is developing and providing input for curriculum development?
A new 4-H Junior Master Naturalist program and lessons are on the state 4-H website.
Incorporate learning about local Native American traditions around shelter, food, and technology. Native American theme is universal to the state and local focus makes it relevant to each school district.

Who decides on the curriculum?
How much flexibility will the curriculum offer?
Can we ensure place-based education? Desert vs forest vs marine habitats/landscapes
RE: the law #2 (a) A-D field study activities –all of these or some of these?
Is there you a menu of curriculum or will there be a core requirement?
What is a comparable outdoor program and can it be teacher organized?
Keep sites- creativity- safe?
Will there be a curriculum framework for OS provider’s maybe a menu of choices so they can adopt to their area?
How will positive youth development principles be integrated with curriculum?
How does outdoor school support OELP goal of creating environmental literacy?
Will there be a common curriculum and/or standard for curriculum used at ODS sites around the state?
Can we submit the program curriculum we use now for approval?
How will we have to change our curriculum?

General Questions
What is the best way to keep updated with developments? OELP website?
What are possible legislative modifications to any of this (guesses)?
What "counts" as ODS--duration, curriculum, other programmatic features, etc.
How many parameters or established guidelines beyond what is specifically called out in the Bill/Measure does the Extension Service want or need to develop? creating more expectations (beyond what is identified in statute) may inherently create more liability, compliance and monitoring challenges for E.S there are many diverse educational needs that are region specific, so while developing structures (beyond what is identified in statute) is necessary, in some cases this may create unforeseen barriers to districts and ESDs
Are there people engaged in these initial conversations that will directly (financially) benefit from the outcome of these convening’s? there could be a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest in having anyone who would make financial gains to support their educational work in the initial framing on the requirement to provide services
We run residential environmental science programming in six national parks, including Olympic National Park, but we have no programming in the state of Oregon. Our programs are aligned with state and national curriculum standards including Common Core and NGSS. And we do currently work with several Oregon schools. Will schools or ESDs be able to fully or partially fund trips to NatureBridge with the Outdoor School Grant Program, provided NatureBridge can demonstrate that our programs meet the academic requirements as outlined in the law?

Grant/Funding

Can you let me know the how/ when/ approximately how much with regards to the grant process? We have been fortunate the past 2 years and received grants from Grays Family Foundation.
I know that grants will be provided to schools and school districts. We would like to help streamline the application process for them. When do you expect that the grant process will be developed?
Will funding occur at the school district or ESD level and not to individual schools?
Likely timeline for requests for funding for districts and ESDs?
Can ESD or School District request funds and then decide how to distribute them to schools?
Is the amount per student remain the same regardless of whether they attend day camp or overnight?
Is there additional support for rural schools that have to travel a greater distance to a camp facility?
How will the money be allocated? Only for overnight programs or can it be used for field trips like Salmon Watch?
What can funding be used for? Salary? Teacher reimbursement for equipment?
Make funding available the 1st year with minimum requirements.
Once things are in place then do the assessment?
Anyone who is making a decision should see or have good knowledge of how an ODS program works as there are many GEARS to an ODS program- lots of systems can be impacted.
It is unlikely that the ODS will awarded \$22 M Will you plan for
\$5.56 and areas in between?
How can funds be distributed to schools before staffing is in place? Can we hire staff first?
Certificate of Insurance – everyone and every group needs this. Who and how will this be done.
Will an equity lens be applied to OSU Extension funding ? to ODS?
What positions will be hired at OSU for administration?
\$1.5 M for overhead 5% each year
Will there be any directives/ expectations for ODS – dovetailing it in to the regular school year.
What happens to the leftover money if there is some?
Is the money distributed through an annual grant process?
***Who and who won't qualify for funding? ie. if groups are serving grades outside of 5th and 6th?
Existing funding may be pulled from school districts - what if those districts can't tap in to the \$22M?
Does the money come with "strings attached"?
What happens to the leftover money if there is some?
Can we use some of this money to pay for regional ODS coordinators? Or ESD coordinators?
How is OSU program Leadership funded – from 22M
How will the money be divided – per child?
Will an equity lens be applied to OSU extension funding? to What are the strings?
Can we use some of the money to pay for regional ODS? ESD coordinators?

What will be the process and metrics for prioritizing the funding requests?
What are the necessary contract provisions and who will facilitate the contracting between OSU Extension and the funding recipients?
How will the funding be provided (e.g., block grants, cost reimbursement basis, etc.)?
What will be the timing of the funding cycle?
What will be the protocol for invoicing and payment of the funding commitments?
How will the qualifications/screening be conducted for instructional roles and assorted volunteers (including parents, high school and/or university students, etc.)? How can we assure that the funding mechanism work between OSU, School Districts and ESD
Based on the funding formula with the lottery source in Measure 99, it does not seem likely that the grant program will receive the full 22 million dollars. How will this funding shortfall be covered? How will grant awards be prioritized, etc
The timeline for when funds will be available to ESDs/districts is a big one
Will dollars flow through ESDs to districts (models already exist for this, such as in the Metro region with Metro funds for ODS, and also energy efficiency funding from Department of Energy). Or will funds go directly to schools, or providers, or all of the above?
The number one question I've been getting is when are the funds going to be available and will their ODS programs qualify. Programs are asking about how to build up staff and facilities without knowing when the funds will be available - MESD ODS is doing this knowing they can take a big loss, but they serve so many kids that they can't take the risk of not having enough staff and facility capacity. NWRESO ODS is considering doing the same - committing to both without being sure about the funding because they are tapped out with their current resources due to the number of kids that they serve. It's a big challenge already to secure facilities that can meet the needs of the diverse populations and the number of students MESD and NWRESO ODS programs serve. This is different for smaller programs
The law explicitly calls out school district and ESDs. Does this exclude non-profits/private run organizations from applying? If they can't directly apply is there opportunities for partnerships?
Governor Brown has recommended Outdoor School get funded at the full \$22M, but this amount can't cut into some already identified constitutional uses of lottery funds. If the legislature makes adjustment to the funding amount, this may have some implications on the roll out. If this occurs, what are the priorities of funding streams? Can these funds be rolled over (after the June 30, 2017) because they are allocated to a Treasury account? Is there a cap on administration cost for the Extension Service? How many additional full-time staff will be required to carry out and continue to administer this program?
Will we be funded for day program that we are currently running
Do we have to take the funds? (Can't believe they even said that....but we're a skeptical group)
How will we access the money?
Will we be funded extra for SPED students?
Will we be funded for transportation?
Will there be funding for including high school students as counselors?
When will the money be available?
How do home school/private schools access funds?
How will districts qualify for the monies? What happens if they don't get grants?

On-Site Providers (instructors, councilor, camp staff)
Instructors should be knowledgeable long term paid positions.
Can ODS programming stay unique to my area/ expertise/ mission?
What about ADA- reasonable accommodation?
How will camp director's voices be heard?
Does a program have to be overnight?
Can funds be used to support high school age counselors to help at ODS? Including training, selection, evaluating?
How will food service "work"? camps, caterers, students.
Integration into school programming.
Will a certified nurse be required at all ODS programs?
What is a comparable ODS program
What determines a quality ODS program?
Are camps responsible for providing curriculum – the educators? OR are the teachers or schools responsible?
As an ODS provider - is their specific data or evaluations that I should collect? Who do I give it to?
How can ongoing community activities pull together to make an outdoor experience that works for local schools?
What are barriers beyond funding that prohibit attendance?
(University) I am wondering how our University might be able to support our local school districts in providing Outdoor School for kids. Also, would the university possibly be able to be a provider or is that the responsibility of the school district?

Organizations and Agencies
How would partner sites, refuges, parks, etc. be utilized?
Can local entities be providers to meet this requirement? i.e Parks and Recreation Departments
Can a local partner work with OSU Extension staff to access funding for programming?
Ankeny Hill Nature Center at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge - Host site/facility for day use, what would this partnership look like?
Question about funding for staffing for teachers that are not associated with a particular camp i.e. watershed council education staff
We are a land trust that has hosted environmental field day camps at our sites. We have no sleep away camp facilities, could we host day camps with funding from this measure?
Would there be opportunities/funds for IAE to do some teaching at outdoor school?
Could funding be used for porta-restrooms and canopies for use at "onsite providers" at natural areas without camp facilities?
(Watershed Council) I am hoping to contact someone who can help me in the development stages of the curriculum this fall/winter so that we can be better prepared to request funding in the future.

Resources
Where can I find outdoor school activities/programs that are aligned to standards - NGSS, STEM, OELP? Do you know who I could contact for these - OMSI, Multnomah ESD, others?
Are you able to help us with contacts within districts and ESD's for marketing purposes?
Where can I find outdoor school activities/programs that are aligned to standards - NGSS, STEM, OELP?
Do you know who I could contact for these - OMSI, Multnomah ESD, others?
Where is the OARS that I can look at. I am arranging a meeting with the school district to offer some support to begin to think about frameworks, processes, and resources necessary for the S-K school district to be involved in this.

Staff Development
Long term paid staffing.
Can on-site providers be trained as “staff development” people?
Can the Master Naturalist program be utilized?
Should 5th and 6th grade teachers be required to take a curriculum i.e. Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, etc?
Will \$\$ be available to train and support high school counselors?
*Conference /training where exemplar programs can share successful aspects with others?
*Is there opportunity for ODS to bring together providers for a conference- regionally perhaps?
What are existing outdoor school directors currently providing for students? (Note by Maggie -Use reports that Steven Braun is putting together on student outcomes)
Professional Learning and Collaboration for camps/directors
Will there be pre/post programming for students who attend ODS?
How do we help prepare staff directors to be effective ODS facilitators.
5th and 6th Grade Teachers
Do schools have a choice to participate? How can teachers be encouraged to care and prepare?
How will there be equity in selection of teachers?
What educational preparation and reflection will teachers be encouraged to implement?
Will there be teacher training? Are teachers expected to take part/stay overnight?
It is currently a struggle to connect with teachers on long term programs/field trips. What is the flexibility with schools and what resources and time will be offered to teachers?
Training for teachers –is it required? Recommended? Rewarded?
Will there be any directives or expectation for integration of ODS into regular school year?
Teacher track at camp to help them take information back to classroom? (Shanna)
What are the expectations for teachers?
Curriculum and workshops for teachers pre/post camp

Have a teacher track during outdoor school – short lessons, get them into it!
What are the expectations for teachers?
How do we get ourselves on the list?
Will there be professional development and curriculum/activity development support available to sites?

Research and Evaluation
What quantitative and qualitative data will we be able to gather from outdoor schools across the state after program implementation?
Natural Resource Scientists to host learning stations?
Question about realistic availability of High School students to fill the camp counselor roles for all.
How will liability insurance coverage be handled? This piece has been a show stopper for Corvallis School District in the past.
Philomath School District offers outdoor school.
How does the funding earmarked for this program impact funding for other outdoor learning for other grades? There are concerns that this big effort and focus on 5th and 6th grade will limit districts ability to provide other environmental education opportunities.
What about private schools?
What curriculum is currently being used?
327.390 (4) a-n How will these be measured and documented (assessed by the camp)
How will communities who have a residential camp model that doesn't work identify comparable experiences?
What if a communities program does not meet the basic requirements? Prof Development? Restricted funds etc.
Will there be some kind of benchmarks or standards that must be met to qualify to be an official ODS site?
What schools already have outdoor schools and what do they look like?
What impacts are we documenting?
Who is collecting all the numbers?
Can we create consistent evaluation tools to measure youth learning across the state to demonstrate statewide impact of ODS?

Students (55,000)
Will multiple schools attend the outdoor schools at the same time?
What is the student potential vs. the current 55,000 student participation?
How will we support Special Needs kids? Disabilities, ethnicity, culture, IEP students
Will ODE still subsidize school buses?

Is there funding or alternative options for kids who do not go to ODS? Some parents will not allow overnight option
How do you reach the programs/students less likely to apply for funding and encourage them to apply?
Is are there funds to support all \$55,000 to attend?
What about students who won't or can't attend?
Addressing special needs students - accessibility issues at camp.

ESD's, School Districts and Schools
<i>Home Schools</i>
Would homeschoolers participate as part of a homeschool group or with other schools? Are there some other options?
How will home school be funded?
How will we include home school students -through community orgs or SD's?
I want to know if home-schooled children and privately schooled children will be able to benefit from these funds? If the organizations involved organize camps that meet the qualifications, would they receive funding? What is the process for non-public schools/organizations?
<i>Public Schools</i>
How will public and private schools be covered? Are private schools required to do Outdoor School?
How will bus access be organized and made available to schools and groups?
Should higher need schools be prioritized?
Do private schools go through ESD or local school district?
Should private schools pay more to attend outdoor school?
<i>School Districts (220)</i>
Each school district should choose one grade district wide.
Kings Valley Charter has out school for 6-7 graders three days!
Does the district have to match funding?
Who will help the teachers/schools/ESDs find facilities nearby or identify alternative local sites?
What's the difference between ESD's and School districts? Are all the SD's part of an ESD?
How will the schools/districts /ESD that are not currently offering outdoor school be engaged? They may not take advantage of the incentive
How will camps /school districts get support ? Regional staff throughout the state?
How will existing ODS programs who have existing funding be dealt with?
<i>ESD's (19)</i>
Who decides if the school district or ESD's receive \$ if both want to apply?
Not all ESD's service schools in the same way, how will a process be established that is fair?

Outdoor School Structure
Daytrips does not equal overnight
What kind of flexibility will there be for established programs?
We don't have enough time to run a 6 day program, can we do a program with less than 6 days?
Can we run a program that is less than 6 days?
Does ODS have to happen during the school year?

Reporting
Accountability is another big one: how to ensure compliance, how will reporting work (who is responsible-- schools? ESDs? providers?)