

New for
2020-22

K-12 FOREST EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

A guide to forestry education programs and materials available to you and your students



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute



Why teach your students about forests?

Nearly half our state is covered in forests. Forests filter our water, absorb carbon from the atmosphere and provide wildlife habitat. They supply wood and other forest products that help sustain the economies of many rural communities. Our forests also provide a unique, truly Oregon context for teaching and applying core concepts in science, social science, math and literacy.

How do you teach students about Oregon’s forests?

This booklet can help. Inside you’ll find forest-related education programs, field trip destinations and other resources. Most of these programs are free, and bus transportation reimbursements are available for field trips.

While gaining an appreciation for the natural wonders of the forest, students can learn Common Core and Next Generation standards. They’ll also become more knowledgeable about an important resource in Oregon.

Oregon’s forests have much to teach your students. It’s time to get out there and start exploring!



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How can the Oregon Forest Resources Institute help you teach about forests?

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is dedicated to assisting K-12 educators with teaching students about Oregon's forests. We provide curriculum materials as well as print, digital and video resources geared to educating different grade levels about Oregon's forests. **All are available for free, and can help your students:**

MEET NGSS AND COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS.

OFRI's curriculum resources are aligned to standards, and give teaching suggestions. They offer ways for students to investigate the core ideas of science, engage in scientific and engineering practices, and practice interpreting informational text – all while learning about the forests in their backyard.

EXPLORE OREGON-SPECIFIC CAREERS.

OFRI's print publications and videos introduce students to the many jobs – one out of every 20 in Oregon – related to the state's forests. Students get to know some of the real people working in these jobs, and examine the skills and interests required to succeed in them.

| Concept | Science (NGSS) | Common Core State Standards |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Theme 1, A.2 | K-ESS2-1 | |
| Theme 1, C.2 | K-ESS2-2 | |
| Theme 2, B.2 | K-ESS3-1 | |
| Theme 4, A.2 | K-ESS2-1 | |
| Theme 4, B.1 | 2-LS4-1 | |
| | K-ESS3-1 | |
| | K-ESS2-2 | |
| | K-ESS3-3 | |



(continued on next page)

OFRI curriculum and educational resources can help you:

IDENTIFY PRIORITIES FOR TEACHING ABOUT OREGON'S FORESTS.

Use the Oregon Forest Literacy Plan as a conceptual framework for teaching about Oregon's forests. It lists the most important forest-related concepts, and identifies connections with curriculum standards.



PROVIDE SCIENCE-BASED AND FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT OREGON'S FORESTS.

OFRI's materials are updated regularly to include the latest scientific findings. They're designed to help students understand our state's forests and their importance to Oregon, while also grappling objectively with some of the issues of the day.

FIND MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR YOUR STUDENTS' GRADE RANGE.

OFRI offers materials geared specifically for different grade-level ranges:

For grades K-2 – Materials help students understand what a forest is, while also reinforcing reading skills. For example, *Sounds of the Forest* tells the story of some of the animals that live in Oregon's forests, and *Forest Essays* provide a variety of leveled readings about forests.

For grades 3-5 – Materials emphasize what is special and unique about Oregon and its forests, supporting both science literacy and place-based learning. For example, *Explore the Forest* gives students an overview of Oregon's forests, and the companion *Explore the Forest Teacher's Guide* suggests activities for engaging students in doing science while connecting with the forests in their community.

For grades 6-8 – Materials aim to give students an understanding of the complexity of Oregon's forests, and help them dive more deeply into specific topics. For example, *Into the Forest* provides students with a grade-appropriate overview of forest ecology and forest management, while the companion *Into the Forest Teacher's Guide* suggests activities for investigating different aspects of local forests.

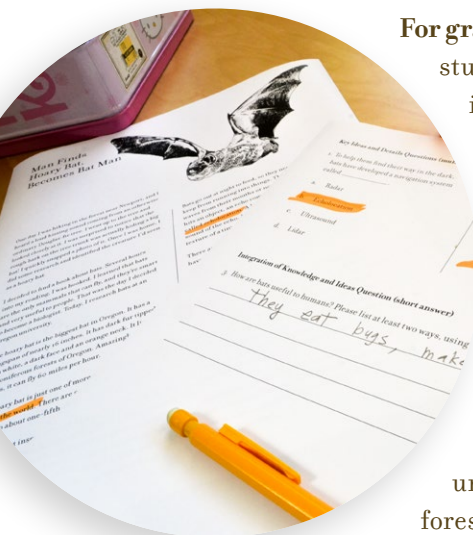
For grades 9-12 – Materials provide students with a rigorous exploration of various processes and issues related to Oregon's forests. For example, *Inside Oregon's Forests* is a comprehensive high school curriculum with 37 lessons that can be stand-alone or taught together for a semester-long course. It includes labs, hands-on activities, and links to videos and other resources to give students an in-depth understanding of Oregon's forests and forest management.

See the chart on pages 5-7 for more details.

GET YOUR STUDENTS OUTSIDE.

This booklet gives an overview of forest-related education programs and field trip destinations provided by OFRI and our partner organizations throughout Oregon.

For more information about statewide forest education organizations and field programs offered across Oregon, see pages 8-15.



| OFRI RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS | | K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon – Learn how to best plant and tend to trees in your woods, to ensure they remain healthy and productive. |   | | | | • |
| Explore the Forest – This student publication is an overview of Oregon forests for third- and fourth-grade students that includes forest ecology, tree biology, forest management and forest careers. |  | | • | | |
| Explore the Forest Teacher's Guide – A companion to <i>Explore the Forest</i> , it includes additional activities, lesson plans and background information to help teachers go deeper into the material included in the student publication. Aligned with state educational standards. |  | | • | | |
| Federal Forestland in Oregon – Details the challenges and opportunities facing the state's largest forestland owner. |   | | | | • |
| Find Your Path – An overview of the wide range of employment opportunities available in Oregon's forest sector. |  | | | • | • |
| Find Your Path Videos – A series of videos highlighting 16 people who work in the forest sector, what a day on their job is like, and what kinds of education and experience are needed. |  | | | • | • |
| Find Your Path Instruction Guide – A companion to <i>Find Your Path</i> , it includes additional activities, lesson plans and background information to help teachers go deeper into the material included in the student publication. Aligned with state educational standards. |  | | | • | • |
| Forest Activity Sheet – Simple illustrations that teach about forest products and wildlife, and are great for coloring. |  | • | | | |
| Forest Essays – An illustrated collection of essays that address topics related to Oregon's forests, including wildlife, forestry and tree biology. Each essay includes reading comprehension questions. |  | • | • | • | • |
| Forest Essays Spanish – An illustrated collection of essays written in Spanish and English that address topics related to Oregon's forests, including wildlife, forestry and tree biology. Each essay includes reading comprehension questions. |  | | • | | |
| Forest Fact Breaks – Flash animations that use graphics, movement, sound effects and narration to bring the forest-related topics to life. Each of the <i>Fact Breaks</i> is 90 seconds long. |  | | • | • | • |
| Forest Fact Sheets – Descriptive, one-page information sheets on a variety of topics. |   | | | • | • |
| Forest Team GO! – <i>Forest Team GO!</i> is a new video that shows fourth- through sixth-grade students the span of careers and the high-tech nature of the variety of jobs in the forest sector. The fast-paced, six-minute video identifies careers involved from seedling to mill, and how they work together. The careers highlighted are nursery manager, forester, wildlife biologist, fish biologist, hydrologist, engineer and logger. |  | | • | • | |

| OFRI RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS | | K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|--|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Forest Threats – Describes newer forest threats including climate change and invasive species, and traditional ones such as wildfire, insects, disease, and wind or ice storms, and how our forests benefit from forest management to stay vibrant and healthy. |   | | | | • |
| Inside Oregon's Forests – A high school curriculum that comes as a 316-page, spiral-bound book. The package includes lesson plans, labs and other activities, plus a variety of related documents and videos. |  | | | | • |
| Into the Forest – A publication especially for fifth- and sixth-grade students that provides a grade-appropriate overview of Oregon forests, including forest ecology, tree biology, forest management and forest careers. |  | | • | • | |
| Into the Forest Spanish (En el Bosque) – A publication in Spanish especially for fifth- and sixth-grade students that provides a grade-appropriate overview of Oregon forests, including forest ecology, tree biology, forest management and forest careers. |  | | • | • | |
| Into the Forest Teacher's Guide – A companion to <i>Into the Forest</i> that includes additional activities, lesson plans and background information to help teachers go deeper into the material included in the student publication. |  | | • | • | |
| K-12 Forest Education Opportunities – A directory of field sites, special events and ongoing forestry programs for Oregon educators and their students. |  | • | • | • | • |
| Life in the Forest: Get to know Oregon's forest wildlife – <i>Life in the Forest</i> is a 24-page, full-color publication designed to assist students in understanding how forests provide habitat for different wildlife species. It highlights current wildlife research and presents data for students to analyze. It is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. |  | | | • | |
| Not So Clear-Cut – This publication explains how landowners find a balance between environmental and economic values, deciding how and when to harvest trees based on their specific forest management objectives. Learn about those objectives and the differences between harvest methods. |   | | | | • |
| Oregon Forest Facts – A reference booklet loaded with charts, graphics and numbers to help Oregonians understand the magnitude and importance of our forest resources. |   | | | • | • |
| Oregon Forest Literacy Plan – This document provides educators with a conceptual framework for teaching about Oregon's forests that aligns with the latest state curriculum standards for math, science, social science and literacy. |  | • | • | • | • |
| Oregon's Forests Poster – A colorful 24-inch-by-36-inch poster that includes a map showing statewide locations where the most common conifer and hardwood tree species are found, plus descriptions of the ecological and climatic conditions in which they thrive. |  | | | • | • |
| Oregon's Forests Poster Instruction Guide – A companion to the Oregon's Forests poster, it includes additional activities, lesson plans and background information to help teachers go deeper into the material included in the student publication. Aligned with state educational standards. |  | | | • | • |



Teacher publication



Student publication



Video

OFRI RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

The Oregon Way – A look at Oregon's unique three-tiered approach to protecting aquatic habitat in our forests.



Rules to Live By – Identifies some of the most important aspects of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, to see how Oregon is sustaining the environmental, social and economic values of our forests.



Sounds of the Forest – Intended for young readers, this booklet uses text and color illustrations to tell the story of some of the animals that live in Oregon's forests.



State of Fire – An examination of the state of fire suppression, prevention and management, describing various efforts to find the way forward.



Teacher Sampler Packet – An overview of OFRI's K-12 education programs and materials that are appropriate for teachers and their students.



Understanding Eastside Forests – A publication covering the geology and ecology, major forest types, characteristics of selected trees, disturbance and change, and management of Oregon forests east of the Cascades.



Where's All the Carbon? Poster – This poster illustrates the role of forests and wood products in the carbon cycle. It shows the major contributors of carbon into the atmosphere, how forests absorb carbon through photosynthesis, and how wood products such as lumber and furniture continue to store the carbon absorbed by trees.



Where's All the Carbon? Poster Instruction Guide – A companion to the Where's All the Carbon? poster, this guide includes additional activities, lesson plans and background information to help teachers go deeper into the material included in the student publication. Aligned with state educational standards.



4-H INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMPS

Contact: Mario Magaña Álvarez – 541-737-0925
mario.magana@oregonstate.edu
<http://extention.oregonstate.edu/4h/outreach>

Program: Residential summer camps

Grade Level: 3-8

Available: Summer

Cost: \$100 for grades 3-5 and \$150 for grades 6-8

The 4-H International Summer Camps provide opportunities for students to learn about post-secondary education, financial aid and scholarships; enable youth to develop leadership skills and explore careers related to natural resources, engineering, health professions, new technologies, law, music, culture and art; and engage them in fun and challenging educational activities. The program also allows students to interact with role-model university students and professionals.

KEEP OREGON GREEN

Contact: Kristin Babbs – 503-945-7499
kristin.a.babbs@oregon.gov
<http://keeporegongreen.org>
www.kogranger.org

Program: Interactive website

Grade Level: 3-6

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

The Keep Oregon Green Ranger Program is an interactive, web-based fire prevention education program for students ages 8 to 12 that encourages parent/teacher involvement. Students discover Oregon's forests, learn about the types of human-caused wildfires that threaten forests, and explore ways they can help prevent wildfires. Individual students, classrooms or entire schools can participate. Upon completion of the program, students are rewarded with a patch and a certificate. Teacher lesson plans and printed activities are also available.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S ECO-SCHOOLS USA

Contact: Morgan Parks – 503-616-3613
parks@nwf.org
nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA
nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife
nwf.org/Trees-for-Wildlife
nwsteelheaders.org/programs/education-2/fish-eggs-to-fry
rangerrick.org

Programs: Free trees are provided through the Trees for Wildlife Program. Those who rear salmon or trout in the classroom can earn an Eco-Schools award for the Watersheds, Oceans and Wetlands (WOW) pathway. Web resources, workshops.

Grade Level: Pre K-12 educators

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA is a Pre K-12 program in partnership with Oregon Green Schools that provides a framework for effective "green" management of school grounds, facilities, curricula and student experience. One of 12 Eco-Schools sustainability pathways, Learning About Forests (LEAF), aims to increase knowledge about the key role forests play in sustaining life on our planet. LEAF promotes our forests as a natural asset to be treasured and kept safe for future generations, while also instilling a sense of ownership through student engagement in the natural world. Eco-Schools USA is a self-guided platform that provides educational resources including connections to curriculum and education standards, a public personalized school webpage and STEM learning opportunities. In addition, schools can certify their garden or restoration project as a Schoolyard Habitat. Free trees are provided through the Trees for Wildlife Program.



NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

Contact: Nate Zantzing – 541-349-5055
info@nwyouthcorps.org
<http://nwyouthcorps.org>

Programs: Residential summer camps; Youth Corps camping and community-based day programs offering paid job training and educational opportunities for youth and young adults; Twin Rivers Charter School; 2-acre organic garden and summer/fall CSA

Grade Level: 9-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Tuition costs vary (up to \$225); scholarships available

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) engages youth and young adults to improve our region's public and private lands. Through NYC's programs, participants develop critical thinking, judgment, teamwork and leadership skills in an outdoor setting. Just as important, NYC helps young people gain a better understanding of modern resource management and related careers. Participants earn a paycheck or stipend, high school credit and a solid job reference.

OREGON 4-H OUTREACH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Contact: Mario Magaña Álvarez – 541-737-0925
mario.magana@oregonstate.edu
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/outreach>

Program: Residential summer camps

Grade Level: 8-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Call or check the website for information

The Oregon 4-H Outreach Leadership Institute prepares students for college and helps them explore different career options, develop leadership skills and conduct community service. The institute provides hands-on workshops and motivational speakers for students to learn about post-secondary education and how to apply for college, FAFSA and scholarships; explore careers related to natural resources, engineering, health professions, new technologies, law, music, culture and art; and develop leadership skills while engaging in fun and challenging educational activities. The institute also allows youth to earn community service hours by serving as camp counselors during the 4-H International Summer Camps.



OREGON ENVIROTHON

- Contact:** Rikki Heath –
503-799-4792
heath@ofri.org
<http://oregonenvirothon.org>
LearnForests.org
- Programs:** One-day science/natural resources competition, field trip, teacher workshops
- Grade Level:** High school
- Available:** Year-round (competition in May)
- Cost:** Minimal

Teams of five students each participate in this hands-on environmental problem-solving competition. Teams complete training and testing in five categories – aquatic ecology, forest ecology, wildlife ecology, soils and land use – and one current environmental issue. Winning teams may advance to the North American Envirothon event and compete for recognition, scholarships and prizes. Professional development for instructors, student field trips, training sessions and study equipment are available to prepare teams for the competition.

OREGON NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Contact:** Julie Van Hoosen – 541-737-2128
onrep@oregonstate.edu
onrep.forestry.oregonstate.edu
- Program:** Educator workshops
- Grade Level:** Pre K-12 educators (courses also offered through university and college pre-service programs)
- Available:** Year-round
- Cost:** Most workshops are free of charge
- Materials:** Most curricula materials and resources are provided at no cost
- Other:** Substitute reimbursement available. Professional Development Unit certificates provided.

The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program at Oregon State University engages formal and nonformal educators in learning about Oregon's forests, wildlife and water through professional development workshops that provide strategies and resources for engaging students. The award-winning international environmental education



curricula Project Learning Tree and Project Wild, as well as BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning & Expertise Sharing) resources, are central to most workshops, and help teachers engage students in learning by providing thought-provoking, field-tested classroom activities that develop critical thinking skills. Topics include ecology, forest history, and forest wildlife and watersheds. Advanced-topic and multiday workshops, as well as summer institutes, provide more in-depth exploration of topics, plus tools and strategies for integrated learning.

TALK ABOUT TREES

- Contact:** Joan Mason Ruud
info@talkabouttrees.us
talkabouttrees.us
- Program:** In-class presentations
- Grade Level:** Pre K-8
- Available:** Year-round
- Cost:** Free

A Talk About Trees facilitator visits the classroom and uses forest artifacts, displays and hands-on activities to deliver an interactive presentation about forestry and Oregon's forests. Teacher guides and student handouts are available online to prepare for the visit and extend learning. Follow-up paper-making programs, outdoor programs and forest career programs are available. This is a good way to launch a unit on forests or prepare for a field trip.

ALDER CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST

Douglas County

Contact: 541-839-4379
info@aldercreek.org
http://aldercreek.org

Programs: Field-based STEM learning, geography education, educator workshops, service-learning

Grade Level: K-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

Located 1 mile west of Canyonville in southern Douglas County, Alder Creek Community Forest (ACCF) offers a K-12 geography education curriculum, Telling the Story of Your Place, and opportunities for teacher professional development. The curriculum teaches about forests and forestry via interrelated field-based STEM activities, digital skills and geographic concepts. ACCF's 80-acre site includes an open-air pavilion with Wi-Fi and camping opportunities, plus 3.5 miles of signed trails. ACCF has staff who work with teachers to provide professional development, pre- and post-field activities, and oversight and instruction during field-based learning.

ECOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS & OUTDOORS (ECO)

Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Douglas and Lane counties

Contact: Sarah Woods – 503-680-2389
sarah@ecologyoutdoors.org
https://ecologyoutdoors.org

Programs: Classroom lessons, field trips and service-learning

Grade Level: K-12

Available: October-May

Cost: Varies; inquire for rates

Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors (ECO) provides place-based education for elementary schools in the Portland metro area and Lane and Douglas counties. The organization's mission is to inspire students to care for nature and their local communities through hands-on science education. During its programs, pairs of ECO educators deliver a series of four to six experiential lessons to individual classrooms.

Lessons occur during the school day and are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. ECO science lessons focus on Northwest ecology while also integrating literacy, math and art. Programs generally include outdoor exploration and service-learning, so students can apply classroom content to real-world habitat restoration.

FOREST DISCOVERY TRAIL EDUCATION PROGRAM — OSU RESEARCH FOREST

Benton County

Contact: Karen DeWolfe – 541-760-5847
dewolfek@oregonstate.edu
https://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/outreach-education/self-guided-tours

Program: Field trips

Grade Level: K-5

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

The OSU Research Forests serve as a living laboratory and outdoor classroom for students, researchers and managers to learn about forest ecosystems and management. The Forest Discovery Trail program invites students to explore the Forest Discovery Trail and take a closer look at the plants and animals that live in this forest ecosystem. Students will also discover how this forest has transitioned from an oak savanna to a young Douglas-fir-dominated forest over the last 200 years. Materials available both online and on-site are designed to help teachers easily explore the Forest Discovery Trail with their students. Teachers can choose the materials that best meet the needs and learning objectives of their classroom.

FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

Lane and Linn counties

Contact: Beth Krisko – 541-767-9078
coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org
http://foreststodayandforever.org

Programs: Tours, field activities

Grade Level: 4-12

Available: Year-round, by appointment

Cost: Free

Forests Today & Forever brings students to working tree farms to educate them about forest stewardship.

Its cornerstone program, Forest Field Days, for grades 6–8, is a cross-curricular package with classroom and field-based learning designed to stimulate critical thinking and creative problem-solving through role-playing. Students make observations about wildlife, soils and water, and learn about the forest as an important resource for timber, wildlife, clean water and recreation. Students use their field observations and experiences to cooperatively develop their own forest management plans. Forests Today & Forever also coordinates the Oregon Logging Conference School Tours for 4th and 5th grades and offers career education programming for high school students. Additionally, custom programs are available to meet teachers' classroom learning objectives, and can include tours, field studies and service-learning opportunities.

HOPKINS DEMONSTRATION FOREST

Clackamas County

Contact: Peter Matzka – 503-884-6202
peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu
<http://demonstrationforest.org>

Programs: Ecological field studies, tours, service-learning; other experiences customized by arrangement

Grade Level: 1-12

Available: Year-round, by appointment

Cost: Donations appreciated

In this 140-acre family forest dedicated to education, demonstration and research, students examine how forests grow and change under different management strategies. Ongoing demonstrations include wildlife habitat enhancements, selective harvesting, intensive plantation forestry, riparian management and tree-growth research projects. Schools are invited for tours, field studies, service learning and other experiences customized to their interests and curricular needs.



KLAMATH OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

Klamath, Jackson, Josephine and Curry counties

Contact: Bill Hunt – 541-850-8218
billhuntkoss@gmail.com
or kossreservations@gmail.com
<http://klamathoutdoorschool.org>

Programs: Residential and day camps, in-class presentations, field trips, service-learning

Grade Level: K-12; primarily grades 4 and 8

Available: January to mid-November

Cost: Call for rates and scholarship availability

Klamath Outdoor Science School provides youth with a unique experience in natural settings throughout the southern Oregon region. These programs inspire learning through exploration, discovery and inquiry, while enhancing appreciation for the natural resources of the region. KOSS has a permanent site located about 45 miles north of Klamath Falls in the Sun Pass State Forest, which is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. KOSS offers programs at other sites along the coast, in the Rogue Valley and in the desert regions to the east. While at KOSS, students learn forest science and an appreciation for a forest that is well-managed for multiple uses. Curricula can be provided to educators before and after their stay at KOSS, to further enhance learning. Teachers may also borrow, at no charge, classroom education kits and request a visit from one of the school's naturalists.

MILLER WOODS

Yamhill County

Contact: Larry Ojua – 503-472-6403
yamhillswcd@frontier.com

Programs: Field trips, service-learning

Grade Level: All

Available: Year-round

Cost: Varies depending on entity type and size; call for more information

Miller Woods is a unique 130-acre property located 3 miles west of McMinnville. It is owned and operated by Yamhill Soil and Conservation District, and provides a great venue for educators to teach about forestry, wildlife and resource conservation. The property was bequeathed to the district by Frieda Miller in 2004, and is home to oak savannas, timber stands of varying ages, hay fields, two ponds and almost 6 miles of walking trails. The property offers excellent educational opportunities for all ages to experience and enjoy the vibrant wonders of nature while learning about forestry management, wildlife, soils, watershed health, native plants and the role of people in the landscape.

MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM

Lane County

Contact: Jenny Laxton – 541-741-4110
education@mountpisgaharboretum.org
http://mountpisgaharboretum.org

Programs: Field trips with self-guided tours; small-group private tours

Grade Level: K-5; all levels for self-guided tours

Available: Spring and fall

Cost: \$3.25 per student for field trips (teachers and chaperones free); \$4 for private tours

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a 209-acre site located along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, within the Howard Buford Recreation Area, 7 miles from downtown Eugene. The arboretum highlights the native ecosystems of the southern Willamette Valley. Seven miles of groomed trails meander through mixed forest, oak savanna, meadow and riparian areas. Students learn about tree identification, forest ecology, wildlife habitats and other seasonal topics. All programs address the state science standards for elementary grades. Check the website for more information, or call to schedule a tour.

OREGON GARDEN NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Marion County

Contact: Rikki Heath – 503-799-4792
heath@ofri.org
http://oregongarden.org/programs/education
LearnForests.org

Programs: Field trips, educator workshops, service learning, special events

Grade Level: 4-6

Available: Year-round

Cost: \$3 per student

The Oregon Garden Natural Resources Education Program is a collaboration between The Oregon Garden and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. The program's goal is to help students understand how natural resources contribute to our quality of life through hands-on learning in a wetland habitat and the Rediscovery Forest, a 15-acre forest managed by OFRI. Students participate in programs focused on forest health, plant and animal adaptation, the food web, wildlife habitat and much more. Visit LearnForests.org for information on a variety of interactive, grade-appropriate, science-based programs, and to register. Registration is only available online. OFRI also offers several educational events and educator workshops at the Rediscovery Forest throughout the year.

PORT BLAKELY TREE FARMS

Clackamas County

Contact: Bonny Glendenning – 503-720-9794
bglendenning@portblakely.com
http://portblakely.com

Program: In-class presentations followed by field trip

Grade Level: 4-5

Available: School year

Cost: Free

Port Blakely offers an interactive forestry experience in which students play games, complete hands-on activities and learn in a fun, fast-paced environment as they traverse an ADA-accessible trail. The tour site features forests of various ages, as well as a stream and a riparian area. Students actively participate in learning about trees, wildlife, water, sustainability, climate change and forestry.

ROCK-ED OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Douglas County

Contact: Dan Meyer – 541-496-3484
dan.h.meyer@state.or.us

Programs: Field trips, self-guided tours

Grade Level: K-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

ROCK-ED Outdoor Education Center is a natural resources education facility located 22 miles east of Roseburg at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Rock Creek Hatchery. Constructed as a cooperative nonprofit project through the Joe Mercep Umpqua River Foundation, the 1,300-square-foot, one-room schoolhouse features a large classroom, a display area, a 200-gallon fish tank and a covered deck overlooking a pond. There is also an outside gathering place with a gazebo and interpretive signs. A half-mile trail starts at the hatchery rearing ponds and takes visitors into the forest and along nearby Rock Creek. Reservations for use of the classroom and arrangements for tours should be made in advance. The hatchery facility, gathering place and trail are open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to dusk every day.

STARKER FORESTS

Benton County

Contact: Jennifer Beathe – 541-929-2477
jennifer@starkerforests.com
<http://starkerforests.com>

Program: Field trips

Grade Level: K-12

Available: Year-round, by appointment

Cost: Free

Starker Forests is a fifth-generation, family-owned business that began in 1936 when T.J. Starker purchased cut-over forestlands. Today, Starker Forests actively manages more than 89,000 acres of forestland for timber production. The company encourages forestry education and offers classroom curricula. The Starker Forestry Trail is available for half-day and all-day field trips; a forester leads school groups on these trail tours. Starker Forests encourages recreational use of their lands with a free permit, and offers custom tours by appointment.

The interpretive trail near Blodgett is open all year for self-guided tours. A brochure with directions to the trail is available at the Starker Forests office and describes stops along the trail.

TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER

Tillamook County

Contact: Oregon Department of Forestry –
503-815-6800
Register online at <http://tillamookforestcenter.org>

Programs: Field trips, educator workshops, scouting materials for boys and girls

Grade Level: K-8

Available: March-November

Cost: Fees for groups, with limited scholarships available; visit www.tillamookforestcenter.org for details

The Tillamook Forest Center, located in the heart of the Tillamook State Forest on Highway 6 about one hour west of Portland, offers educational programs, hands-on exhibits and field-trip opportunities. It's fun and fully accessible. Programs examine the natural and cultural history, as well as the stewardship, of the Tillamook State Forest. All programs include pre- and post-activity suggestions, are correlated to state education requirements and require registration. The center is open March through November. Please check the website for hours and days of operation.

TRYON CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

Multnomah County

Contact: Erin Cathcart – 503-636-4398
erin@tryonfriends.org
<http://tryonfriends.org>

Program: Field trips

Grade Level: Pre K-5

Available: Year-round

Cost: Half-day (2 hours), \$7 per student; full-day (4 hours), \$11 per student – scholarships available for Title 1 schools

The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park offers hands-on, experiential field trips designed to facilitate student-driven exploration of basic concepts in science and natural history, in a southwest Portland urban forest. Full- and half-day programs for

preschool through fifth grade are offered, focusing on topics from animal adaptations and sensory exploration to watersheds and forest succession. Students spend time outdoors (rain or shine) in small groups with a trained volunteer nature guide, making connections to key concepts through group collaboration, hands-on activities and direct observations.

All field trips are connected to state and national science standards, and are designed to promote critical thinking, develop problem-solving skills and foster positive relationships with the natural world. Preregistration for field trips is required.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Washington County

Contact: Environmental Education Coordinator –
503-625-5944
tualatinriver@fws.gov
https://fws.gov/refuge/tualatin_river

Program: Field trips

Grade Level: 4-6

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is an urban refuge located close to a metropolitan area that uses comprehensive, integrated, hands-on educational methods. Field-trip activities are designed to mesh with teachers' objectives, and trained volunteer naturalists lead many nature-themed field trips, including the Forest Ecology/Habitats of the Refuge field trip. Naturalists teach students about riparian forests, oak savannas and associated interactions with wildlife in these ecosystems. The Forest Ecology/Habitats of the Refuge field trip also explores seasonality and changes in the forest throughout the year, and the science of maintaining a healthy forest. This trip is aligned with the Oregon Forest Literacy Plan.



WOOD MAGIC

Benton County

Contact: Michelle Maller – 541-737-4259
michelle.maller@oregonstate.edu
<https://forestry.oregonstate.edu/wood-magic>

Program: Field trip

Grade Level: 3-4

Available: Fall

Cost: Free

Wood Magic is a fun and lively interactive program designed for elementary school students to learn about the wonders of wood – a material that is basic to human well-being. The three-hour experience moves students and their teachers through a series of nine stations that examine various woods and wood-products technologies. Teachers receive a series of lesson plans related to these stations for use in the classroom before and after the trip.

WORLD FORESTRY CENTER

Multnomah County

Contact: education@worldforestry.org
<http://worldforestry.org>

Programs: Self-guided tours

Grade Level: Pre K-12. Youth and family groups welcome.

Available: Year-round

Cost: For current hours and admission rates, see the World Forestry Center website "Visit" page

World Forestry Center is an Oregon nonprofit organization established in 1966 to educate and connect people to the importance of forests and to create and inspire champions of sustainable forestry.

WORLD FORESTRY CENTER DISCOVERY MUSEUM

The World Forestry Center Discovery Museum is located across from the Oregon Zoo and adjacent to the Hoyt Arboretum and Portland Children's Museum. Students of all ages can explore forests top to bottom on two floors of unique interactive exhibits. The focus is on the native trees and forests of the Pacific Northwest, and "The Four Forests" found around the world. Thoughtful, colorful exhibits are content-rich and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.



ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in 1991 to advance public understanding of how forest stewardship meets the social, environmental and economic needs of both present and future generations. OFRI works closely with the scientific, academic and educational communities at Oregon State University, the Oregon Department of Forestry and other agencies to ensure its K-12 resources are accurate and objective.



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