

Updated for
2025-27

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 about forests?

Nearly half of 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 to teach 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 work toward Oregon Education Standards including science, mathematics, English language arts and social sciences. They'll also become more knowledgeable about an important Oregon resource.

Oregon's forests have much to teach your students. The resources in this guide make it easy to 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 in teaching students about Oregon's forests. We provide curriculum materials as well as print, digital and video resources geared toward educating different grade levels. **All are available for free at LearnForests.org.** These materials can help:

MEET OREGON STATE STANDARDS

OFRI's curriculum resources are aligned to standards and give teaching suggestions for use with students. 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, then examine the skills and interests required to succeed in them.

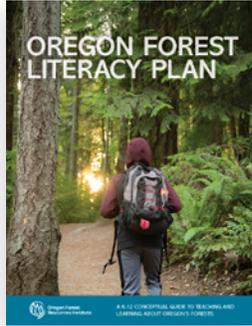
Concept	Science (NGSS)
Theme 1, A.2	K-ESS2-1
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IDENTIFY PRIORITIES FOR TEACHING ABOUT OREGON'S FORESTS

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 to state educational 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, even as they grapple 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 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, and a companion 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 stand alone or be 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, as well as LearnForests.org, for more details.

GET YOUR STUDENTS OUTSIDE

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

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



OFRI resources for teachers and students

OFRI offers the following resources to help K-12 teachers and students explore Oregon’s forests and forest-related topics. All are available for free download from our website. Educators may also order free print copies of resources marked with an asterisk (*). See LearnForests.org for more information.

RESOURCE		K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon* – Information about how to best plant and tend to trees in your woods to ensure they remain healthy and productive.					●
Explore the Forest* – A student publication and companion teacher’s guide for grades 3-4 that provide an overview of Oregon forests, forest ecology, tree biology, forest management and forest careers. Aligned with state educational standards.	 		●		
Find Your Path* – A set of materials introducing students to the wide range of employment opportunities available in Oregon’s forest sector. Includes a student publication, a companion instruction guide and a series of videos that highlight individuals working in different forest sector jobs. Aligned with state educational standards. Videos available at bit.ly/OFRI-CareerVids .	  			●	●
Fire Among Us – This illustrated microsite joins forest animal characters as they walk students through the basics of fire science and making smart choices with fire in and around a forest. fireamongus.org			●	●	
Forest Activity Sheet* – Simple, colorable illustrations that teach about forest products and wildlife.		●			
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. A Spanish version is available for grades 3-5.		●	●	●	●
Forest Fact Breaks – Flash animations that use graphics, movement, sound effects and narration to bring forest-related topics to life. Each of the <i>Fact Breaks</i> is 90 seconds long. Available at bit.ly/OFRI-FactBreaks .			●	●	●
Forest Fact Sheets* – Descriptive, one-page information sheets on a variety of forest-related topics.				●	●
Forest Team GO! – A fast-paced, six-minute video that introduces the span of careers and the high-tech nature of jobs in the forest sector. Available at bit.ly/Forest-Team-GO .			●	●	
Inside Oregon’s Forests – A 12-week high school curriculum that includes lesson plans, labs and other activities, plus links to a variety of related documents and videos. Aligned with state educational standards.					●

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RESOURCE		K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
<p><i>Into the Forest*</i> – A student publication and companion teacher's guide for grades 5-6 that provide an overview of Oregon's forests, forest ecology, tree biology, forest management and forest careers. The student publication is also available in Spanish as <i>En el Bosque</i>. Aligned with state educational standards.</p>	 		●	●	
<p><i>Investigate the Forest</i> – A set of journal pages for use before, during or after outdoor school to guide students in exploring Oregon trees and forests.</p>			●	●	
<p><i>K-12 Forest Education Opportunities*</i> – A directory of field sites, special events and ongoing forestry programs for Oregon educators and their students.</p>		●	●	●	●
<p><i>Life in the Forest: Get to know Oregon's forest wildlife*</i> – A student publication and companion instruction guide that help students understand how forests provide habitat for different wildlife species, and presents actual data for students to analyze. Aligned with state educational standards.</p>	 			●	
<p><i>Living with Fire*</i> – This report was produced in partnership with Keep Oregon Green, Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University Extension Service. It examines fire awareness, prevention and mitigation for creating fire-adapted communities and resilient landscapes.</p>					●
<p><i>Making Forest Connections*</i> – Correlation documents that identify connections between the Oregon Forest Literacy Plan concepts and NGSS Performance Expectations, OFRI materials, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD.</p>		●	●	●	●
<p><i>More Than Trees*</i> – An “early reader” that uses familiar vocabulary, a simple story and appealing illustrations to teach about forests and the wildlife that depend on them.</p>		●			
<p><i>Not So Clear-Cut*</i> – 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.</p>					●
<p><i>Oregon Forest Facts*</i> – A reference booklet loaded with charts, graphics and numbers to help Oregonians understand the magnitude and importance of our forest resources.</p>				●	●
<p><i>Oregon Forest Literacy Plan*</i> – A conceptual framework for teaching about Oregon's forests that aligns with the latest state educational standards for math, science, social science and literacy.</p>		●	●	●	●
<p><i>Oregon's Forests*</i> – A colorful 24-inch-by-36-inch poster and companion instruction guide that help students understand where conifer and hardwood tree species are found in Oregon. Aligned with state educational standards.</p>	 			●	●
<p><i>Sounds of the Forest*</i> – 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.</p>		●			



RESOURCE

K-2
3-5
6-8
9-12

Sourcing from Sustainable Forests* – With a focus on sourcing products, this special report explores current forest practices in Oregon and the tenets of forest sustainability.



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Teacher Sampler Packet* – A collection of OFRI's most popular K-12 education materials.



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Tree Carbon Tape* – A template for making a measuring tape and a companion instruction guide that help students gain a tangible sense of the amount of carbon stored by Oregon's forests. Aligned to state educational standards.



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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.



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Where's All the Carbon?* – A poster and companion instruction guide that help students understand the role of forests and wood products in the carbon cycle. Aligned with state educational standards.



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RESOURCES



4-H OUTREACH SUMMER CAMPS

Contact:	Mario Magaña Álvarez – 541-737-0925 extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/outreach
Program:	Residential summer camps
Grade level:	3-8
Available:	Summer
Cost:	\$350 for grades 3-8. Partial scholarships are available if you cannot pay the full amount.

The 4-H Outreach Summer Camps provide opportunities for students to learn about postsecondary education, financial aid, and scholarships; enable youth to develop leadership skills and explore careers related to natural resources, engineering, health professions, new technologies, math, reading, writing, 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.

ECOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS & OUTDOORS

Contact:	Sarah Woods – 503-680-2389 sarah@ecologyoutdoors.org ecologyoutdoors.org
Programs:	Classroom lessons, curriculum kits, field trips and service-learning
Grade level:	K-12
Available:	October-May
Cost:	Varies; inquire for rates

Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors (ECO) provides in-person, place-based education for students in the Portland metro area, and offers curriculum kits and virtual lessons in English and Spanish for schools across the state. The organization's mission is to inspire students to care for nature and their local communities through hands-on science education and climate action. During in-person 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.

KEEP OREGON GREEN

Contact:	Kristin Babbs – 503-945-7498 kristin.a.babbs@oregon.gov keeporegongreen.org/kids-corner
Program:	Interactive website
Grade level:	3-12
Available:	Year-round
Cost:	Free

Keep Oregon Green's Kids Corner hosts an online wildfire prevention comic book and accompanying videos, as well as games, activity sheets and coloring pages for youth. Students can learn about the types of human-caused wildfires that threaten forests and communities and explore ways they can help prevent them. Materials can be downloaded from the website for individuals or classrooms.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S ECOSCHOOLS U.S.

Contact:	Morgan Parks – 503-616-3613 nwf.org/eco-schools-us nwf.org/trees-for-wildlife nwf.org/schoolyard nwsteelheaders.org/programs/education-2 rangerrick.org
Programs:	EcoSchools U.S., Trees for Wildlife program, Schoolyard Habitats and Salmon Stewards
Grade level:	Pre K-12 educators
Available:	Year-round
Cost:	Free

The National Wildlife Federation's EcoSchools U.S. offers a certification program for elementary through secondary schools that nurtures environmental learning and climate action. The curriculum-linked framework supports school communities as they assess, track, benchmark and celebrate environmental excellence through certification by completing action cards connected to themes of Climate Change, Wildlife and Biodiversity, and Healthy and Resilient Communities. One of many EcoSchools action cards, Learning About Forests, involves gaining knowledge, understanding, and hands-on field experiences of various aspects related to forests, including their ecology, biodiversity, importance, functions, services to ecosystems and humans, and conservation. The Grow a Schoolyard Forest action card invites students to install and maintain a tiny forest on school grounds



inspired by the Miyawaki method. Those who foster salmon or trout in classroom aquariums can earn EcoSchools certification through the Fish Stewards action card. In addition, schools can certify their garden or restoration project as a Schoolyard Habitat. Free trees are provided through the Trees for Wildlife program.

our planet. NYC also provides insights into modern resource management and conservation careers. Participants earn a living stipend, AmeriCorps Education Award, high school credit and a strong professional reference.

NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

- Contact: Khalil Caffrey – 541-349-5055
info@nwyouthcorps.org
nwyouthcorps.org
- Programs: Residential conservation service programs; camping and community-based day programs offering paid job training and educational opportunities for youth and young adults; paraprofessional internships; Twin Rivers Charter School; two-acre organic garden and summer/fall CSA
- Grade level: 8-12
- Available: Year-round
- Cost: Tuition costs vary; scholarships available; all programs pay a stipend

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) engages youth and young adults in programs that foster personal growth and environmental stewardship. Through NYC’s programs, participants build critical thinking, teamwork and leadership skills in an outdoor setting while contributing to the health of

OREGON ENVIROTHON

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

Teams of five students participate in this hands-on environmental problem-solving competition. Teams complete training and testing in four categories – aquatic ecology, forest ecology, wildlife ecology and 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
- 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 (ONREP) at Oregon State University’s College of Forestry has supported educators for 50 years by providing professional development opportunities and environmental education resources. ONREP helps educators integrate nature-based learning experiences into their classrooms and outdoor activities, fostering connections with the natural world while keeping Oregon state education standards in mind.

As the state sponsor for three national environmental education programs — Project Learning Tree, Project WET (Water Education Today) and Project WILD — ONREP offers valuable tools to engage students in hands-on learning. ONREP is committed to supporting diversity and inclusion, striving towards equitable access to resources for teaching about Oregon’s unique natural environment.

Professional development events are offered on a

variety of topics, including ecology, forests, wildlife, watersheds, climate change, fire ecology, and Indigenous ecological knowledge. Workshops offer strategies to help educators create inclusive learning environments that support student well-being.

OSU EXTENSION 4-H DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Contact: Find your local program at extension.oregonstate.edu/program/all/4h/local-programs
- Program: Camps, clubs and community events
- Grade level: K-12
- Available: Year-round
- Cost: Free

4-H is a place where Oregon kids can meet friends, experience belonging, explore new passions and interests, and gain valuable life skills for a thriving future! Backed by research-based experiential learning, 4-H focuses on lifelong learning (Head), positive relationships (Heart), community service (Hands) and healthy living (Health). In addition to agriculture and animal science, community clubs teach about rocketry, robotics, entomology, forestry, art, conservation and more.

Statewide 4-H camps offer iconic camp experiences such as canoeing, archery, horseback riding, and arts and crafts. These residential camps are welcoming to all, regardless of 4-H affiliation, beliefs, religion, gender or gender expression. Visit the website to learn about other 4-H camps offered by counties across the state.

TALK ABOUT TREES

- Contact: Joanie 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 Oregon’s trees and forests. Follow-up papermaking programs, outdoor programs and forest career programs are available. Virtual programs may be an option. 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
 aldercreek.org/

Programs: Field-based STEM learning, geography education and service-learning

Grade level: K-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

Located one mile west of Canyonville in southern Douglas County, Alder Creek Community Forest offers an 80-acre forested site with 3.5 miles of signed trails, plus an open-air pavilion with Wi-Fi and camping opportunities.

FOREST DISCOVERY TRAIL EDUCATION PROGRAM — OSU RESEARCH FOREST

Benton County

Contact: Jenna Baker – 541-737-6702
 jenna.baker@oregonstate.edu
 cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/outreach-education/forest-discovery-trail

Program: Field trips

Grade level: K-8

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

The Oregon State University Research Forests serve as living laboratories and outdoor classrooms where students, researchers and managers can learn about ecosystems and management. The Forest Discovery Trail program invites students to take a closer look at the plants and animals that live in this forest ecosystem. Students will 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 classrooms.

FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER

Lane, Linn and Douglas counties

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

Programs: Field-based and classroom programs

Grade level: 4-12

Available: Year-round, by appointment

Cost: Free

Forests Today & Forever promotes forest stewardship through education. Forest Field Days, its cornerstone program 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 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 forest experiences for elementary students, leads the school tours at the Oregon Logging Conference, and offers career education and forest fire 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
 demonstrationforest.org

Programs: Ecological field studies, tours and service-learning

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. Forestry and natural resources education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest is designed, delivered and evaluated by Oregon State University Extension Service, Clackamas County.

KLAMATH OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Douglas and Lake counties

Contact: Natalie DiNenno – 541-850-8218
 natalie.dinenno@klamathoutdoorschool.org

Mikaela Lea
 mikaela.lea@klamathoutdoorschool.org

info@klamathoutdoorschool.org
 klamathoutdoorschool.org

Programs: Resident outdoor school, overnight field trips, day trips and summer camps

Grade level: K-12; primarily grades 3-6

Available: April-October

Cost: Contact for rates. Outdoor school programs are eligible for Measure 99 funding. Grant funding supports grades 3-6 day programs.

Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire a deep appreciation for natural resources, community and the arts through hands-on outdoor education. KOSS has a residential camp facility for resident outdoor school and summer camps located about 45 miles north of Klamath Falls in the Sun Pass State Forest, which

is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. KOSS also offers programs at other sites in Klamath County and Tulelake, California, and can accommodate a limited number of programs in the Rogue Valley. Through hands-on investigations, nature journaling, games and team-building activities, KOSS staff teach students about topics including forest ecology, forest management, wetlands and aquatic ecology, geology and more.

MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM

Lane County

Contact: Sara Spoden – 541-741-4110
 education@mountpisgaharboretum.org
 mountpisgaharboretum.org

Programs: Guided field trips led by expert volunteers; self-guided tours (for self-guided tour groups larger than 20, please contact arboretum to schedule)

Grade level: K-5

Available: Monday-Friday, September-November and April-June

Cost: \$4 per student for field trips (no charge for teachers and accompanying adults); scholarships for program fees available for Title 1 schools on first-come, first-served basis

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 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: Jenna Mendenhall – 503-880-5411
 mendenhall@ofri.org
 oregongarden.org/programs/education
 LearnForests.org

Programs: Field trips, educator workshops, service-learning and 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 (OFRI). 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 FORESTRY

Clackamas County

Contact: Bonny Glendenning – 503-720-9794
 bglendenning@portblakely.com
 portblakely.com/us-forestry/educators

Program: In-class presentations followed by field trip

Grade level: 4-5

Available: School year

Cost: Free

Port Blakely offers experiential learning through an interactive forestry field trip. 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.

STARKER FORESTS

Benton County

Contact: Corinne Walters – 541-929-2477
 corinne@starkerforests.com
 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 95,000 acres of forestland for timber production. The company encourages forestry education and offers engaging forest learning opportunities through professional forester-led field trips to the Starker Forestry Trail near Blodgett, Oregon. 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, available at the Starker Forests office, provides directions and describes stops along the trail.



TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER

Tillamook County

- Contact:** Oregon Department of Forestry –
503-815-6800
Register online at tillamookforestcenter.org
- Programs:** Field trips, educator workshops and scouting materials for boys and girls
- Grade level:** K-8
- Available:** March-November
- Cost:** Fees for groups, with limited scholarships available; visit 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:** Betty Bryant – 503-636-4398, Ext. 121
betty@tryonfriends.org
tryonfriends.org
- Program:** Field trips
- Grade level:** Pre K-12
- Available:** Fall and spring, Monday-Thursday
- Cost:** \$150 for up to 15 students, \$300 for up to 30 students, \$400 for up to 40 students, \$500 for up to 50 students, etc. Scholarships available for Title 1 schools

The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park offer 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. Programs for preschool through high school are offered, focusing on topics from animal adaptations and sensory exploration to watersheds and tree and plant identification. Students spend time outdoors (rain or shine) in small groups with a trained nature guide, making connections to key concepts through group collaboration, hands-on activities and direct observations.



All field trips are connected to state 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:** 503-625-5944
tualatinriver@fws.gov
fws.gov/refuge/tualatin-river/visit-us/activities/education-programs
- Program:** Field trips
- Grade level:** 3-6
- Available:** Self-guided offered year-round; Discovery Days offered seasonally (see website for availability)
- Cost:** Free

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is an urban refuge located close to a metropolitan area. It uses comprehensive, integrated, hands-on educational methods and provides self-guided curriculum and supplies to educators, including step-by-step instructions, supplemental materials (if applicable), a detailed site map, and a welcome video. Additionally, the refuge hosts Discovery Days. These are designed to enhance school visits to the refuge by providing volunteers at strategic stations on our year-round trail. Students, teachers and chaperones will engage with volunteers as they navigate their way through the refuge and learn about various animals that call the refuge — and our local community — home. Discovery Days are held seasonally on specifically selected days.



YAKONA NATURE PRESERVE & LEARNING CENTER

Lincoln County

Contact: Dr. Natalie Schaefer
natalie@yakonaoregon.org
yakonaoregon.org

Programs: Field-based hikes integrating community science; interactive games teaching ecological concepts, history and the arts; nature journaling

Grade level: 3-12

Available: Year-round

Cost: Free

Located just south of Newport, the Yakona Nature Preserve & Learning Center works to promote and facilitate formal and informal educational opportunities that allow people of all ages and abilities to observe, discover and research local cultural history and natural ecosystems. We work in partnership with several school districts, the local community college, universities and local tribes to link curricular objectives to the land, with student activities in science, art and history reinforcing concepts and knowledge attainment at each grade level. The overarching goal is to restore and preserve native forests and wildlife while educating youth and the community about the importance of the Sitka spruce mixed-species forest ecosystem and its role in mitigating the climate crisis.

WORLD FORESTRY CENTER DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Multnomah County

Contact: info@worldforestry.org
worldforestry.org

Programs: Self-guided tours

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

Available: Year-round. For current hours, visit worldforestry.org.

Cost: \$5, free for children 2 and under

Located in Portland's Washington Park near Oregon Zoo and Hoyt Arboretum, World Forestry Center's Discovery Museum invites visitors of all ages to examine forests and consider how they impact our lives. Visitors get a bird's-eye view of a Northwest forest, explore how people around the world connect to and depend on their local forests, and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing this critical natural resource. Thoughtful, colorful displays are content-rich and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.





ABOUT THE OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute supports the forest sector and the stewardship of natural resources by advancing Oregonians' understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of our forests.



**Oregon Forest
Resources Institute**

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