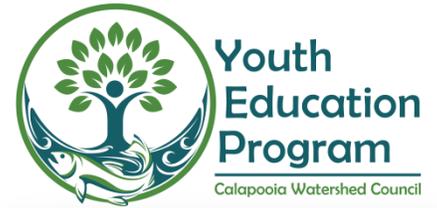


Create your own Outdoor School

With Calapooia Watershed Council's Youth Education Program



The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) believes outdoor school is best when it's crafted to provide students with a holistic program linked to the local watershed. The CWC works closely with teachers to plan all aspects of outdoor school (see the new CWC Outdoor School Guide at <http://www.calapooia.org/what-we-do/youth-watershed-education/>) that links classroom learning with outdoor education while meeting the needs of teachers, students and administration. CWC staff meet regularly with teachers to strategize and plan, and offers guidance and support throughout the entire process. Occasionally we have funding available to support ODS implementation and can provide matching funds to grants. With CWC staff time provided for free, ODS costs approximately \$10,000 per 60 students.



The process begins with an introduction to our program model, followed by formulation of the ODS activity schedule and budget discussions. Support is then sought from the school district. Working in conjunction with principals and teachers, counselors are recruited from local high schools and trained by CWC staff. Parent volunteers are recruited to assist with the program. This sort of recruitment helps keep staff costs down and reinforces the local focus of ODS. Budget needs can be met through tiered family contributions and community fundraising events. CWC staff and teachers discover the best options for fundraising efforts, and students and families are encouraged to participate. At ODS, CWC staff and partners deliver educational field sessions. Teachers, parents and counselors facilitate other ODS experiences, including skit presentation, campfire activities, games and recreational time.



To fully integrate ODS into the sixth grade learning progression, CWC staff delivers four classroom lessons during the school year and hosts free field trips in the fall and spring. These experiences form a solid foundation of ecosystem knowledge and experiential learning skills that will carry over into ODS and beyond. The lessons cover a variety of watershed topics including the water cycle, stormwater pollution and environmental stewardship. At the field trips, students evaluate the health of watersheds in terms of salmon habitat suitability.



CWC has created a detailed guide to serve as a tool to assist with partnering with us to host an ODS. The guide has instructional materials, sample forms and documents, and tips to aid in planning and implementing a successful ODS. We are constantly working to improve our program through the feedback and insight of teachers and administrators. To discuss the formulation of a locally focused, place-based outdoor school program for your students, [contact us](#). We look forward to working with teachers to develop a program that will enrich the lives of students through rewarding outdoor education experiences.

For more information contact the Calapooia Watershed Council: (541) 466 3493, bjoyce@calapooia.org, www.calapooia.org