



OPAL CREEK ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

2016 SEASON SNAPSHOT

SPRING SCHOOLS UPDATE

NUMBER OF
SCHOOLS: **21**

STUDENT NIGHTS
1,327 (number of students X number of nights in Jawbone)

OUTDOOR SCHOOL
PARTICIPANTS:
876

13 = Amphibian species at Opal Creek

"I've never been in an ancient forest. It is so cool!" — student, Corbett Grade School

Average student improvement on knowledge tests after Opal Creek trip **25%**

Size of the Western Cascades ecoregion
4,557
SQUARE MILES
(larger than Rhode Island!)

Number of Opal Creek staff:

14

20

YEARS OF WILDERNESS PROTECTION!

Legislation creating the Opal Creek Wilderness was signed in 1996—twenty years and 20,000 students later, we're just getting started. The effects of climate change are being felt everywhere—even at Opal Creek—and the solution is future generations that respect, love, and care for the environment enough to fight for it. That's our commitment to you. We won't stop connecting students with nature until the last environmental threat is solved—by scientists, politicians, and educators who got their start hunting newts at Opal Creek.

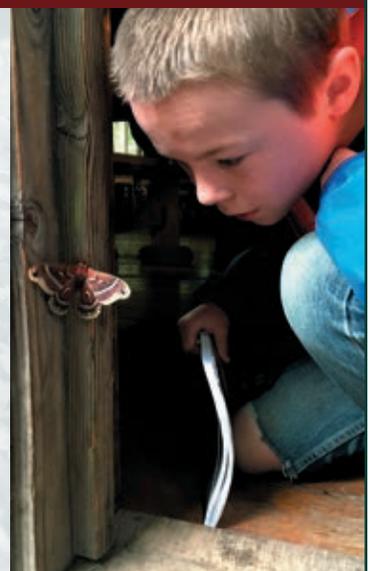
Education for Everyone

This year for the first time we provided tuition subsidies to all of our outdoor school students attending schools with over 25% Free and Reduced Lunch. We're doing this because wild lands belong to all of us, and we all carry the responsibility, now and in the future, of caring for them and learning from them. This spring 668 students received subsidies for hands-on learning in the wilderness—thanks to your support, and thanks to the support of:

the autzen foundation



Rose E. Tucker
Charitable Trust



Promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

HARD SCIENCE IN THE ANCIENT FOREST

Hands-on science at Opal Creek got a huge boost this year thanks to a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation and generous discounts from Vernier Software and Technology! Labquest II allows our students to engage in real-time data analysis, testing water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, flow rates, and pH—all giving us a clearer and deeper picture of our pristine waterways and how they change over time.



“Keep up the amazing work!!!... Mind-blowing meals, great & comfortable housing—a little paradise in the wilderness.”

— Will, Wilderness First Responder

Number of sandwiches served (thanks, Dave's Killer Bread!)

2,250

3

macroinvertebrates intolerant of water pollution = giant golden stonefly, yellow stonefly, and salmonfly—all thriving at Opal Creek!



PHOTO: JAY DAVIS

THANK YOU TO THESE AMAZING LOCAL BUSINESSES WHOSE SUPPORT MADE THIS SPRING A WILD SUCCESS!



NATURAL HISTORY SPOTLIGHT: Pacific Chorus Frog *Pseudacris regilla*

Even if you've never been to Opal Creek, you've probably heard a Pacific chorus frog—their loud ribbits are often used in movie soundtracks for nighttime background noise! One of the most common amphibians on the west coast, the chorus frog needs shallow, calm water to breed, often breeding in seasonal pools that will dry up by summertime. Adult frogs don't require a constant source of water, but you'll find them most often in moist understory vegetation, like leaf litter or decaying logs.



The chorus frog is the only frog species at Opal Creek that has toe pads, allowing them to climb trees and rocks to ambush their prey. They can also change color, shifting from green to brown, and lighter to darker, as background brightness changes. If you find a chorus frog at Opal Creek or elsewhere, remember that amphibians breathe through their skin! It's best not to pick them up, but if you're going to, make sure that there's no lotion or sunscreen on your hands.