



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

2016 END OF SEASON SNAPSHOT

PHOTO: CHRIS GOLDEN

A LOOK BACK AT 2016



230
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS



91

EXPEDITIONS
CAMPERS

INCLUDING
SCHOLARSHIPS

35%
INCREASE OVER 2015



1463

OUTDOOR
SCHOOL
PARTICIPANTS

1083

TUITION SUBSIDIES GIVEN OUT
{OVER \$26,000!}

NUMBER OF
SCHOOLS: **39**

Leaving a Trace

Many longtime Opal Creek visitors were heartbroken to hear of the collapse of the Merten Mill shed this past September, and especially heartbroken that the damage was clearly the work of vandalizing hikers. We can't bring back the past, but we can change the future—by educating our children, and by serving as the best example of Leave No Trace that we can be. Our outdoor school students leave Opal Creek with a newfound commitment to conserve resources, explore new environments, stand up for wild places, and teach others to do the same. Leave a trace where it matters most—in the minds and hearts of today's youth.



AGE OF
MERTEN
MILL SHED
BEFORE
THIS YEAR'S
COLLAPSE
43
YEARS

NUMBER OF STARS VISIBLE AT OPAL CREEK

68000

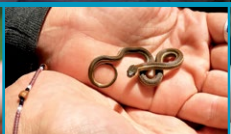
NUMBER OF
STARS VISIBLE
IN DOWNTOWN
PORTLAND

35

PHOTO: WILLIAM COIT

Hands-on learning connects students with the real world.

(L-R): rough-skinned newt, garter snake, banded woolly bear caterpillar, rough skinned newt, ensatina salamander, rough-skinned newt



Promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

The 2016 season has come to an end! Thank you for your continued support of our life changing programs deep in the ancient forest. Our wild places continue to be under threat, and we need the next generation to connect with and care about them. Your support this year provided tuition subsidies for students attending our outdoor school program, and built our first in-house scholarship fund for Opal Creek Expeditions backpackers. It's important that Opal Creek programs are available to all students—your gift gets us closer to that goal. We can't do it without you.

Katie Ryan

Katie Ryan, Executive Director

WHAT YOU CAN DO

\$50 subsidizes a 2-night outdoor school program for one student.

\$100 provides regular service on 2 microscopes for students to use in lichen, mushroom, and geology studies.

\$250 buys a year's worth of owl pellets for students to dissect.

\$500 provides a weeklong backpacking camp for a child who can't afford one.

THANKS TO YOU, AND TO



Rose E. Tucker
Charitable Trust

the autzen foundation

GRAY FAMILY FOUNDATION



The SALEM
FOUNDATION
connecting the community

the Jackson
Foundation



24%

Average improvement on knowledge tests after Opal Creek trip

Students on the waiting list for spring 2017

300

PHOTO: JAY DAVIS
(not including this red-breasted nuthatch)

12

RESIDENTS OF JAWBONE FLATS



"This is BY FAR the best outdoor education program I have experienced."

— Steve, Valley Inquiry Charter School teacher

Chicken of the woods

Students stayed dry in donated Columbia raingear
Business supporters in 2016

57

Grade school students who received tuition subsidies this year

1083

Schools that would need to cancel or decrease their Opal Creek trip without subsidies

78%

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We're moving our annual Evening for Opal Creek fundraiser to the new Lagunitas Community Room in Northeast Portland! Join us for all the fun you've come to expect—live music, silent auction, photo booth, games—and the first ever Opal Creek photo contest! Many thanks to Lagunitas for their donation of the event space and beer.

Save the date—**May 19, 2017!**

