



MAINE
OUTDOOR
SCHOOL
FOR ALL



“Less than a quarter of Maine middle school students have the opportunity to connect with our natural heritage through an Outdoor School Program.”

Maine is a beautiful state, with an abundance of natural resources and a rich outdoor heritage, but less than a quarter of Maine middle school students are currently able to access an Outdoor School program, with rural and lower-income districts being particularly affected. All Maine students should have a chance to connect with their outdoor heritage.

Outdoor School programs provide students with hands-on, holistic, interdisciplinary learning focused on science and nature, and the connection among environmental stewardship, natural resource management, and Maine’s economy. Schools participating in Outdoor School programs report improvements in attendance and retention rates.

Outdoor School programs build self-sufficiency and leadership skills through the healthy challenges that come with an outdoor living experience. Shared goals and experiences outside the traditional classroom allow students and teachers to see each other in a new light, building trust and strong relationships.



What is an Outdoor School Program?

An Outdoor School Program is a multi-day, hands-on field trip for 4th-8th grade students that combines team building, environmental science, and nature-based education. These programs work with the home school to meet curriculum goals and state education standards.

Support the Movement!



Please join us! We are eager to connect with legislators, educators, school administrators, civic leaders, funders, parents- and above all kids!- to make this goal a reality. Let’s get all Maine kids outside!

What is the “Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students?”

LD 895-- An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program-- was introduced by Maine State Senator Rick Bennett from District 18. The legislation provides three years of state funding to ensure every student in Maine can experience an Outdoor School Program at some point between grades 4-8.



How Much Funding is Needed to Provide Outdoor School for All Maine Students?


The bill would establish a one-year fund that provides \$3M for the Maine Outdoor School Pilot Project for 7,000 students from 2025-2026.

How does the Funding Mechanism Work?

Schools select a qualified Outdoor School Program provider and establish a date for their experience, typically in the late spring or early fall. The cost of the program is reimbursed to the provider through grants administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

What Schools Are Eligible to Participate?

All Maine public schools serving grades 4-8 are eligible to provide at least one funded experience for every student.



How Can I Help?
Contact us and learn how you can help support this effort:
Email: coordinator@mosfa.org
Web: <http://mosfa.org>
Tel: (207) 664-9374



What is Maine Outdoor School For All?

Maine Outdoor School for All is a network of outdoor education organizations that provide Outdoor School Programming. The network collaborates on expanding access to Outdoor School Programming, industry safety and standards, and fundraising to support outdoor education through public and private partnerships.

Our Core Education Model:

- Use systems thinking, ecology, and sustainability integrated into our program models
- Provide three-day or longer residential environmental learning programs
- Couple outdoor and in-school experiences over multiple years
- Foster teacher-driven professional development through ongoing collaboration
- Have a robust leadership development curriculum
- Have a foundation in strong science and community-based/civics curriculum