

Times Afield

*News and Events from the
Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation*



Above: Sappington Elementary (St. Louis, MO) Outdoor Adventures student.

The Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation developed and implements the Outdoor Adventures curriculum which is **now in more than 1,060** K-12 public and private schools across **47 states**, annually teaching about 100,000 students a comprehensive range of outdoor skills they will use and enjoy for a lifetime.

Schools of all sizes in diverse locations are adding Outdoor Adventures, and we are just three states away--Hawaii, Delaware, Connecticut--from having at least one school in all 50 states. In the next few weeks, Hawaii will become the 48th OA state. OTF's education staff are working closely with the Anchorage, Alaska school district to bring the entire district into Outdoor Adventures, and on the opposite side of the country, OA is growing rapidly in New York--see the short story below about a recent event there!

4th Annual OTF Benefit Concert a Huge Success in Support of Outdoor Adventures

The 5th Annual OTF Benefit Concert on April 20 at Gilley's in Dallas was truly an unforgettable night! The event was a tremendous fundraising success, despite a neighborhood transformer blowing out, leaving attendees in candlelight. *(Photos from the event are available on the OTF Facebook page @outdoorstomorrowfoundation.)*

Ricky Fairchild, the event chairman, stated, "Thank you to everyone who came out to support OTF at our 4th Annual Benefit Concert--it was certainly a night to remember! On behalf of the Benefit



Concert Committee as well as the Board of Trustees, we're so very appreciative of the enthusiasm and passion to support our mission to positively impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of kids nationwide through our Outdoor Adventures class. In spite of a two-hour power outage, we were still able to set a 4th consecutive fundraising record which will allow the Foundation to continue our momentum and fuel the growth for this coming year! It's an honor and a privilege to volunteer and support the foundation and its mission alongside so many wonderful and generous people. Thank you again and see you in the Fall for our sporting clays event!"

We would like to thank and recognize our Platinum, Gold, and Silver event sponsors:

Medicalistics--Cynthia Patterson and Chris Russell
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 Wilson and Susan Stout
 Wimberley Arms

2023 Outdoor Adventures Educator of the Year-- Mary Driemeyer

The highlight of the Benefit Concert (other than the power going out!) was the presentation of the annual Outdoor Adventures Educator of the Year award. For the first time, an elementary school teacher was the recipient--Mary Driemeyer. Mary

teaches at Sappington Elementary School in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mary has been teaching physical education for nearly 30 years, including archery through the Missouri Department of Conservation. Three years ago, she discovered Outdoor Adventures and now includes paddle sports, camping, survival skills, angling, orienteering, wildlife conservation, and more in her classes.

Outdoor Adventures has been a hit at Sappington Elementary with numerous families thanking Driemeyer for teaching the unique class. Mary explains why she values OA, "When I teach OA it engages EVERYONE. It is rare to find subject matter that engages 100% of the students. They love the outdoor elements, novel subject matter, tie-in with nature and wildlife, the unique challenges, the deeper discussions and real life application. The special connection is with students who are not as interested in traditional sports and PE subject matter. It is very rewarding to see them find a passion that can keep them active and outdoors."

Teamwork and responsibility are two important values that students learn through the OA lesson, Driemeyer elaborated. "In the conservation lessons students learn that everyone plays a role in taking care of our wildlife."

While Mary played outside a lot as a child, she had never learned to hunt, fish, camp or enjoy paddle sports until she started teaching Outdoor Adventures. Now she spends many weekends enjoying the beauty of Missouri's state parks while kayaking, paddleboarding, or hiking. "Not only has teaching OA had an impact on my students, it has had a HUGE impact on my lifestyle," Driemeyer commented.

Even though she is now an OA Educator of the Year, Mary says she still has a lot to learn, particularly about fishing and Dutch oven cooking. No doubt this dedication to and enthusiasm for learning is passed on to her students.

[Click here to watch the fantastic Educator of the Year video!](#)



SAVE the DATE!

October 6, 2023 is the annual Outdoor Adventures Cup Benefit Sporting Clays Shoot presented by Park Cities Quail Coalition! More details coming soon!



Outdoor Adventures Growing in New York City



Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation conducted a professional development training at Brooklyn College in New York City for 80 teachers from School District 20 on March 23rd. The teachers explored the benefits of teaching Outdoor Adventures and participated in a variety of adventure skill activities including fishing, survival skills, orienteering, paddling, and wildlife conservation. It was an amazing day of learning and teachers are looking forward to implementing new outdoor skills in physical education and to getting more students outside!

Special thanks to our recent grantors who are facilitating the dynamic growth of Outdoor Adventures and getting more kids outside!



Support Outdoor Education

Make a gift to support outdoor education

There are many ways to help support OTF:

- Cash gifts (one-time or recurring)

- Appreciated stock
- Donor advised funds
- Qualified charitable distributions from retirement accounts
- Non-cash gifts (real estate, etc.)
- Life membership

If you have any questions about your contribution please reach out to Sean McLelland, Executive Director, at Sean@GoOTF.com or call (817) 410-5054.

Please follow and share OTF on social media.

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Spring 2023 Issue*